



United States
Department of
Agriculture

July 7, 2011

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Terry Torrance

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Legislative and
Public Affairs

Dear Ms. Torrance:

Freedom of
Information

4700 River Road
Unit 50
Riverdale, MD
20737-1232

This is in response to your April 19, 2011, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for copies of all owner/shipper papers, VS 10-13, and copies of all VS 17-145, for horses shipped to slaughter by or for Dennis Chavez/Southwest Livestock of New Mexico. Your request was received in this office on April 19, 2011, and assigned case number FOIA 11-424. We apologize for the delay in processing this request.

Agency employees conducted a thorough search of their files and located 845 pages of responsive records to your request. However, portions of information has been withheld under Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). Exemption 6 permits the Government to protect from disclosure information that would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The release of this information will not shed any light on Government operations. Specifically, we have withheld the names of consignees, drivers and vehicle license numbers.

You may appeal our partial denial of records. If you choose to appeal, your appeal must be in writing and must be received within 45 days of the date of this letter to:

Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Ag Box 3401
Washington, DC 20250-3401

Please refer to FOIA 11-424 in your appeal letter and add the words "FOIA Appeal" to the front of the envelope. To assist the Administrator in reviewing your appeal, provide specific reasons why you believe modification of the determination is warranted.

The fees have been waived. If you have any questions, please contact my staff at (301) 734-8296.

Sincerely,

Tonya Woods

Tonya Woods
Director
Freedom of Information & Privacy Act
Legislative and Public Affairs

Enclosure



Safeguarding American Agriculture
APHIS is an agency of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer