



United States
Department of
Agriculture

August 16, 2011

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

T. Paul Bunnell
Private Investigator

Legislative and
Public Affairs

Freedom of
Information

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

4700 River Road
Unit 50
Riverdale, MD
20737-1232

This is in response to your July 25, 2011, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. You sought information that related to the owner of animal (cattle) ear tag #3589 that was recorded on an auto accident crash report that involved an automobile and a cow on SR 236 in Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida, on September 25, 2010. Your request was received in this office on July 29, 2011, and assigned case number FOIA 11-692.

Agency employees conducted a thorough search of their files, but were not able to locate any records responsive to your request. The program office has advised that the ear tag #3589 is not an USDA official ear tag, nor is it an indicator of ownership. These types of ear tags may be purchased by cattle producers directly from various tag manufacturing companies and are used for owner record keeping purposes. The numbers placed on these tags are used over and over again, and the same ear tag number would be duplicated multiple times in multiple cattle herds in Florida (and across the U.S.) at any point in time. We did search our database records on the specific cattle producers in Alachua County mentioned in this request and ear tag #3589 was not identified in those records.

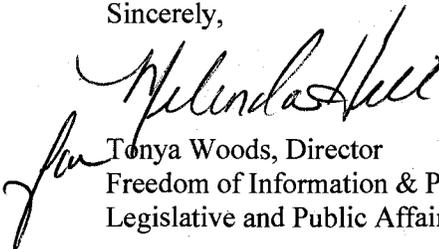
You may appeal the adequacy of our search. If you choose to appeal, your appeal must be in writing and received within 45 days of the date of this letter to the following address:

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

If you choose to appeal, please refer to FOIA 11-692 in your appeal letter and add the words "FOIA Appeal" to the front of the envelope. To assist the Administrator in reviewing your appeal, please provide specific reasons why you believe modification of the determination is warranted.

If you have any questions, please contact Sophie Lau-Lopez of my staff at (301) 734-5360.

Sincerely,



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