USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C.
20250

Zachary B. Corrigan
Food & Water Watch
1616 P Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20036

APR 27 2018

RE: FOIA-2018-00213
*Hog HIMP*

Dear Mr. Corrigan:

This is the second interim response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated February 23, 2018, to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). You requested access to a copy of records regarding Hog HIMP, from 2006 to 2017. We received your request in our Office on February 23, 2018.

The FSIS FOIA staff works with subject matter experts across the Agency to locate responsive documents. For this request, we conducted a records search in the Office of Data Integration and Food Protection, the Office of Public Health Science, and the Office of Policy and Program Development. FSIS' search began on February 26, 2018. Our search includes responsive records in FSIS' control on that date.

We have processed an additional 823 pages and 10 Excel spreadsheets that are responsive to your request. After a thorough review, we have determined that portions of the pages fall within the exemptions to the FOIA's mandatory disclosure requirements, as explained below. In particular, we have determined that portions of these documents are exempt from disclosure under (b)(4) and (b)(6) of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended. Accordingly, this request is granted in part.

Some responsive records constitute confidential commercial or financial information, which is exempt from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 4, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). Disclosure of this information may cause substantial competitive harm to the person from which this information was obtained. Further, disclosure of this information would impair the government's ability to obtain necessary information in the future.

Portions of the responsive records are exempt from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). Exemption 6 protects information that would constitute an unwarranted invasion of an individual's personal privacy. The types of information withheld under Exemption 6 include the names,

addresses, or cell phone numbers of employees of Establishments and third parties, including, but not limited to interviewees or customers.

Please be advised that your FOIA request, including your identity and the information made available, is releasable to the public under any subsequent FOIA requests. However, FSIS does not release your personal privacy information, such as home addresses, telephone numbers, or Social Security Numbers, all of which are protected from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 6.

FSIS will continue to process records responsive to your request, and will forward them promptly upon completion of review. As this is not a final response to your FOIA request, we request that you reserve your right to appeal. We will include your appeal rights in our final release.

If you have any questions about the way this request is being handled, or about the USDA's FOIA regulations, please contact Mark Brook at (202) 690-1787 or via email at Mark.Brook@fsis.usda.gov

Thank you for your interest in FSIS programs and policies.

Sincerely,

Arianne M. Perkins
Director, Freedom of Information Act Staff
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education
Food Safety and Inspection Service

Enclosure