

Fighting for the U.S. Cattle Producer!



R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America
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September 20, 2012

USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service
Valerie L. Emmer-Scott
FOIA/PA Officer
Rm 3521-S
Ag Stop 0202
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-0273

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Mr. Craig Shackelford
Agricultural Marketing Specialist
Marketing Programs Division
Livestock and Seed Program, AMS
USDA, Room 2628-S, STOP 0251
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C.

Sent via e-mail and U.S. Mail; Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to FOIA/PA Officer Emmer-Scott

Re: Freedom of Information Act and/or Privacy Act Request

Dear FOIA/PA Officer Emmer-Scott, Secretary Vilsack and Mr. Shackelford:

I hereby request under the Freedom of Information Act and/or Privacy Act all records, materials, memoranda, e-mails, phone logs, notes of telephone conversations, notes of personal conversations, meeting logs, and any other document or record, whether in electronic or hard-copy format, pertaining to any written or verbal communication or contact between Mr. Craig Shackelford, Agricultural Marketing Specialist, Marketing Programs Division, Livestock and Seed Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, any other employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service, the Office of the U.S. Agriculture Secretary and any member, officer, director, committee chair or staff of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, U.S. Cattlemen's Association, Meat Importers Council of America, American National CattleWomen, American Farm Bureau Federation, Livestock Marketing Association, National Livestock Producers, and National Farmers Union, collectively the "Beef Checkoff Industry Input Group," during the period August 9, 2012 through September 20, 2012.

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The purpose of this Freedom of Information Act and/or Privacy Act request is to ascertain the U.S. Department of Agriculture's role or involvement, if any, in the scheduling of or planning for the meeting to be held on September 24, 2012, in Denver, Colorado, between Mr. Craig Shackelford and the eight organizations listed above and collectively referred to as the Beef Checkoff Industry Input Group. This request is necessary because a decision was made by the Beef Checkoff Industry Input Group and/or the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ban R-CALF USA from participating, in any way, at the meeting.

This request is inclusive of all communications and contacts between USDA officials and the aforementioned organizations regardless of whether such communications or contacts are directly or indirectly related to the upcoming, September 24, 2012 meeting between the Beef Checkoff Industry Input Group and Mr. Craig Shackelford because the organizers of the September 24, 2012 meeting (*i.e.*, the eight organizations listed above) asserted that the basis for excluding R-CALF USA from the meeting included a lawsuit that was filed against the USDA on August 10, 2012.

Please send the requested information to:

Bill Bullard, CEO
R-CALF USA
P.O. Box 30715
Billings, MT 59107
r-calfusa@r-calfusa.com
406-252-2516 (Phone)
406-252-3176 (Fax)

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Bullard", written in a cursive style.

Bill Bullard, CEO

Cc: The Honorable Edward Avalos