



OFFICE *of* GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

May 15, 2015— Sent via email

[REDACTED]

Re: Case No.: 201500396  
NG: CM

NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES  
*and* RECORDS  
ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD  
OGIS  
COLLEGE PARK, MD  
20740-6001

web: [www.ogis.archives.gov](http://www.ogis.archives.gov)  
e-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
phone: 202-741-5770  
toll-free: 1-877-684-6448  
fax: 202-741-5769

Dear [REDACTED]:

This responds to your February 11, 2015 request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received via email. Your request for assistance pertains to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the California office of the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Congress created OGIS to complement existing FOIA practice and procedure; we strive to work in conjunction with the existing request and appeal process. The goal is for OGIS to allow, whenever practical, the requester to exhaust his or her remedies within the agency, including the appeal process. OGIS has no investigatory or enforcement power, nor can we compel an agency to release documents. OGIS serves as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and our jurisdiction is limited to assisting with the FOIA process.

I understand that you made a request to California's FSA for copies of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] that occurred in [REDACTED] FSA responded to your request, informing you that according to FSA's records management schedule, [REDACTED] are destroyed [REDACTED] years after [REDACTED]. You appealed that response, and on [REDACTED], FSA responded to your appeal, affirming the agency's response to your request. You contacted OGIS for assistance with this matter.

OGIS staff contacted FSA to discuss your request. The agency confirmed that the records you seek were not found, and were likely destroyed according to FSA's records retention schedule, which states that such records are destroyed [REDACTED] after their creation. I understand that you are concerned about this action. According to 44 U.S.C. §§ 3302-3303, agency heads work with the Archivist of the United States to create lists of records that no longer have "sufficient administrative, legal, research, or other value to warrant their further preservation by the Government."

In discussing your case with OGIS Facilitator Carrie McGuire, you asked whether the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) retained the records you seek. If you believe



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that NRCS might have the records you seek, you should file a request directly with that agency. Please know that NRCS's records may be governed by a schedule similar to that of FSA. NRCS FOIA requests may be sent to:

Deryl L. Richardson, Jr.  
National FOIA/PA Officer  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Room 4242-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250

I hope that this information about your request is useful to you. Thank you for contacting OGIS; we will now consider this matter closed.

Sincerely,

/s/

Nikki Gramian, Acting Director  
Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)

cc: Barbara McLean, FSA