



APR 13 2006

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm Service
Agency

1400 Independence
Ave, SW
Stop 0501
Washington, DC
20250-0501

Mr. Joshua H. Stein
Senior Deputy Attorney General
State of North Carolina
Department of Justice
9001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001

Dear Mr. Stein:

Thank you for your letter dated March 7, 2006, regarding the inadvertent release of information by the Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the telephone inquiries your office has received.

The name and address of the company under contract with FSA to perform Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) database work in Kansas City is:

Ciber, Inc.
5251 DTC Parkway, Suite 1400
Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111

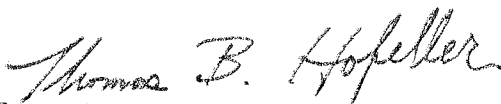
Also, I am enclosing the list of FOIA requesters of Tobacco Buyout information who received files that included tax identification numbers. Initially, we stated that there were eight recipients of the data files; however, further investigation of all FOIA requests received since the first Tobacco Buyout payments were issued in August of 2005 indicate that nine entities received files containing the social security numbers.

FSA's overriding goal in dealing with this issue has been to contain the potential danger of these social security numbers being compromised by inclusion in data files held by the FOIA requesters. All these entities have confirmed that they have not retained this information. Furthermore, these entities all appear to be legitimate organizations that want no involvement with a compromise of this information.

Our records indicate that there were 78,662 individual participants in the Tobacco Buyout program in North Carolina who were potentially affected by this mistake. A total of 79,057 copies of my February 17, 2006, letter were mailed into North Carolina providing information of this unfortunate situation.

Again, thank you for your letter. We appreciate the opportunity to address your concerns.

Sincerely,


Teresa C. Lasseter
Administrator

Enclosure

FOIA Requesters Who Received a Disc Containing Social Security Numbers

Susan Melchiori
Peachtree Settlement Funding
6501 Park of Commerce Boulevard, Suite 140-B
Boca Raton, Florida 33487

Colby Blair
Financial Services Officer
Farm Credit Services of Mid-America
P.O. Box 699
Shelbyville, Kentucky 40066

Sean Driscoll
Madison MediaWorks
3536 Navigator Pointe
Knoxville, Tennessee 37922

Chris Campbell
Environmental Working Group
1436 U Street, N.W., Suite 100
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dan Jolly
MetLife
12910 Shelbyville Road, Suite 115
Louisville, Kentucky 40243

Donna Smith
Horack, Talley, Pharr & Lowndes, P.A.
301 South College Street, Suite 2600
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202-6038

Mike Latta
Nations Consultants, Inc.
1536 Shadowood Lane
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612

John Burness
Petrotech Resources Corporation
P.O. Box 1980
Glasgow, Kentucky 42142-1980

Lester Fant III
Tobacco Quota Guaranty
1063 Thomas Jefferson, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007