Foreign Agricultural Service Freedom of Information 2008 Annual Report

## IV. EXEMPTION 3 STATUTES

| Statute   | Type of Information<br>Withheld | Case Citation                                   | Number of Times<br>Relied upon |
|---|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997 | Shipping bids                   | Hornbostel v. U.S.<br>Department of<br>Interior | 1                              |
|   |                                 |   |                                |

#### V. FOIA REQUESTS

#### A. Received, Processed, and Pending FOIA Requests

| Number of<br>Requests Pending<br>as of Start of Fiscal<br>Year | Number of<br>Requests Received<br>in Fiscal Year | Number of<br>Requests<br>Processed in<br>Fiscal Year | Number of<br>Requests Pending<br>as of End of<br>Fiscal Year |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| 6  | 50   | 50   | 6  |  |

B. (1) Disposition of FOIA Requests – All Processed Requests

| Number<br>of Full<br>Grants | Number<br>of Partial<br>Grants/<br>Partial<br>Denials | Number of<br>Full Denials<br>Based on<br>Exemptions | No<br>Records | All Records<br>Referred to<br>Another<br>Component<br>or Agency | Request<br>Withdrawn | Fee-<br>Related<br>Reason | Records not<br>Reasonably<br>Described | Improper<br>FOIA<br>Request<br>for Other<br>Reason | Not<br>Agency<br>Record | Duplicate<br>Request | Other<br>*Explain<br>in chart<br>below |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 15                          | 18  | 0   | 8             | 0   | 1                    | 3                         | 1                                      | 0  | 4                       | 0                    | 0                                      |

TOTAL \_\_50\_

B (2) Disposition of FOIA Requests – "Other" Reasons for Full Denials

| Description of "Other" Reasons for Denials from Chart B (1) & Number of Times Those Reasons Were Relied upon | TOTAL |
|--|-------|
| 0  | 0     |
|  |       |

#### B. (3) Disposition of FOIA Requests – Number of Times Exemptions Applied

| Ex.<br>1 | Ex. | Ex. 3 | Ex. 4 | Ex. 5 | Ex. 6 | Ex. 7(A) | Ex. 7(B) | Ex. 7(C) | Ex. 7(D) | Ex. 7(E) | Ex. 7(F) | Ex. 8 | Ex. 9 |
|----------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------|-------|
| 0        | 0   | 1     | 10    | 5     | 3     | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0     | 0     |
|          |     |       |       |       |       |          |          |          |          |          |          |       |       |

# VI. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF INITIAL DETERMINATIONS OF FOIA REQUESTS

#### A. Received, Processed, and Pending Administrative Appeals

| Appeals Pending as<br>of Start of Fiscal<br>Year | Number of Appeals<br>Received in Fiscal<br>Year | Number of<br>Appeals<br>Processed in<br>Fiscal Year | Number of<br>Appeals Pending<br>as of End of<br>Fiscal Year |
|--|---|---|---|
| 4  | 1   | 4   | 1   |

#### **B.** Disposition of Administrative Appeals – All Processed Appeals

| Number<br>Affirmed on<br>Appeal | Number Partially Affirmed & Partially Reversed/Remanded on Appeal | Number Completely<br>Reversed/Remanded<br>on Appeal | Number of<br>Appeals Closed<br>for Other<br>Reasons | TOTAL |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|-------|
| 0                               | 0   | 0   | 4   | 4     |

#### C. (1) Reasons for Denial on Appeal – Number of Times Exemptions Applied

| Ex. |   | Ex. 3 | Ex. 4 | Ex. 5 | Ex. 6 | Ex. 7(A) | Ex. 7(B) | Ex. 7(C) | Ex. 7(D) | Ex. 7(E) | Ex. 7(F) | Ex.<br>8 | Ex. 9 |
|-----|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| 0   | 0 | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0     |
|     |   |       |       |       |       |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |       |

## C.~(2)~ Reasons for Denial on Appeal - Reasons Other than Exemptions

| No<br>Records | Records<br>Referred<br>at Initial<br>Request<br>Level | Request<br>Withdrawn | Fee-<br>Related<br>Reason | Records not<br>Reasonably<br>Described | Improper<br>Request<br>for Other<br>Reasons | Not<br>Agency<br>Record | Duplicate<br>Request<br>or Appeal | Request<br>in<br>Litigation | Appeal Based Solely on Denial of Request for Expedited Processing | Other<br>*Explain<br>in chart<br>below |
|---------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 0             | 0   | 4                    | 0                         | 0                                      | 0   | 0                       | 0                                 | 0                           | 0   | 0                                      |

#### C. (3) Reasons for denial on Appeal – "Other" Reasons from Section VI, C(2) Chart

| Description of "Other" Reasons for<br>Denial on Appeal from Chart C (2) &<br>Number of Times Those Reasons Were<br>Relied upon | TOTAL |
|--|-------|
|  |       |
|  |       |

#### C. (4) Response time for Administrative Appeals

| *Median Number of Days | #Average Number of Days | Lowest Number of Days | Highest Number of Days |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 0                      | 0                       | 0                     | 0                      |
|                        | 0                       |                       |                        |

## C. (5) Ten Oldest Pending Administrative Appeals

|                              | 10 <sup>th</sup><br>Oldest | 9th | 8th | 7 <sup>th</sup> | 6 <sup>th</sup> | 5 <sup>th</sup> | 4 <sup>th</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Oldest |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| Date                         | Oldest                     |     |     |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | 8/7/08 |
| Number<br>of Days<br>Pending |                            |     |     |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | 37     |

# VII. FOIA REQUESTS: RESPONSE TIME FOR PROCESSED AND PENDING REQUESTS

#### A. Processed Requests – Response Time for All Processed Perfected Requests

|                              | SIMPLE                        |                             |                              | COMPLEX                      |                               |                             |                              | EXPEDITED PROCESSING         |                               |                             |                              |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| *Median<br>Number<br>of Days | #Average<br>Number<br>of Days | Lowest<br>Number<br>of Days | Highest<br>Number<br>of Days | *Median<br>Number<br>of Days | #Average<br>Number<br>of Days | Lowest<br>Number<br>of Days | Highest<br>Number<br>of Days | *Median<br>Number<br>of Days | #Average<br>Number<br>of Days | Lowest<br>Number<br>of Days | Highest<br>Number<br>of Days |
|                              | 27/1,350                      |                             |                              | 0                            |                               |                             |                              |                              | 0                             |                             |                              |
| 12                           |                               | 1                           | 128                          |                              | 0                             | 0                           | 0                            | 0                            |                               | 0                           | 0                            |

B. Processed Requests - Response Time for Perfected Requests in Which Information Was Granted

|                              | SIMPLE                        |                             |                              | COMPLEX                      |                               |                             |                              | EXPEDITED PROCESSING         |                               |                             |                              |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| *Median<br>Number<br>of Days | #Average<br>Number<br>of Days | Lowest<br>Number<br>of Days | Highest<br>Number<br>of Days | *Median<br>Number<br>of Days | #Average<br>Number<br>of Days | Lowest<br>Number<br>of Days | Highest<br>Number<br>of Days | *Median<br>Number<br>of Days | #Average<br>Number<br>of Days | Lowest<br>Number<br>of Days | Highest<br>Number<br>of Days |
|                              | 27/1,350                      |                             |                              |                              | 0                             |                             |                              |                              | 0                             |                             |                              |
| 12                           |                               | 1                           | 128                          | 0                            |                               | 0                           | 0                            | 0                            |                               | 0                           | 0                            |

#### **C.** Processed Requests – Response Time in Day Increments

Simple Requests

|           |        |       |       |        |         | 2111    | TPTO TEOGRA | -500    |         |         |         |      |       |
|-----------|--------|-------|-------|--------|---------|---------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|-------|
| 1-20 Days | 21- 40 | 41-60 | 61-80 | 81-100 | 101-120 | 121-140 | 141-160     | 161-180 | 181-200 | 201-300 | 301-400 | 401+ | TOTAL |
|           | Days   | Days  | Days  | Days   | Days    | Days    | Days        | Days    | Days    | Days    | Days    | Days |       |
| 32        | 5      | 4     | 1     | 3      | 3       | 1       | 0           | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0    | 50    |
|           |        |       |       |        |         |         |             |         |         |         |         |      |       |

Complex Requests

| 1-20 Days | 21- 40<br>Days | 41-60<br>Days |   |   | 101-120<br>Days | 121-140<br>Days | 141-160<br>Days | 161-180<br>Days | 181-200<br>Days | 201-300<br>Days | 301-400<br>Days | 401+<br>Days | TOTAL |
|-----------|----------------|---------------|---|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|-------|
| 0         | 0              | 0             | 0 | 0 | 0               | 0               | 0               | 0               | 0               | 0               | 0               | 0            | 0     |
|           |                |               |   |   |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |              |       |

**Requests Granted Expedited Service** 

| 1-20 Days | 21- 40 | 41-60 | 61-80 | 81-100 | 101-120 | 121-140 | 141-160 | 161-180 | 181-200 | 201-300 | 301-400 | 401+ | TOTAL |
|-----------|--------|-------|-------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|-------|
|           | Days   | Days  | Days  | Days   | Days    | Days    | Days    | Days    | Days    | Days    | Days    | Days |       |
| 0         | 0      | 0     | 0     | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0    | 0     |

D. Pending Requests – All Pending Perfected Requests

|         | SIMPLE  |          |         | COMPLI  | EX       |            | EXPEDI' | TED      |  |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|------------|---------|----------|--|
|         |         |          |         |         |          | PROCESSING |         |          |  |
| Number  | *Median | #Average | Number  | *Median | #Average | Number     | *Median | #Average |  |
| Pending | Number  | Number   | Pending | Number  | Number   | Pending    | Number  | Number   |  |
|         | of Days | of Days  |         | of Days | of Days  |            | of Days | of Days  |  |
| 6       | 105     | 122/732  | 0       | 0       | 0        | 0          | 0       | 0        |  |
|         |         |          |         |         |          |            |         |          |  |

#### E. Pending requests – Ten Oldest Pending Perfected Requests

|                              | 10 <sup>th</sup><br>Oldest | 9th | 8th | 7 <sup>th</sup> | 6 <sup>th</sup> | 5 <sup>th</sup> | 4 <sup>th</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Oldest  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|
| Date                         |                            |     |     |                 | 9/25/08         | 9/19/08         | 8/25/08         | 1/7/08          | 12/26/07        | 5/23/07 |
| Number<br>of Days<br>Pending |                            |     |     |                 | 3               | 7               | 25              | 185             | 193             | 320     |

## VIII. REQUESTS FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING AND REQUESTS FOR FEE WAIVER

A. Requests for Expedited Processing

| Number<br>Granted | Number<br>Denied | *Median<br>Number of<br>Days to<br>Adjudicate | #Average<br>Number of<br>Days to<br>Adjudicate | Number<br>Adjudicated<br>Within Ten<br>Calendar Days |
|-------------------|------------------|---|--|--|
| 0                 | 0                | 0   | 0  | 0  |

#### **B.** Requests for Fee Waiver

| Number<br>Granted | Number<br>Denied | *Median<br>Number of<br>Days to<br>Adjudicate | #Average<br>Number of<br>Days to<br>Adjudicate |
|-------------------|------------------|---|--|
| 0                 | 0                | 0   | 0  |

#### IX. FOIA PERSONNEL AND COSTS

|                  | PERSONNEL         |                    |                         | COSTS              |                    |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Number of "Full- | Number of         | Total Number of    | <b>Processing Costs</b> | Litigation-Related | <b>Total Costs</b> |
| Time FOIA        | "Equivalent Full- | "Full-Time FOIA    | (At initial request and | Costs              |                    |
| Employees"       | Time FOIA         | Staff" (The sum of | appeal levels)          |                    |                    |
|                  | Employees"        | Columns 1 & 2)     |                         |                    |                    |
| 0                | 2                 | 2                  | \$198,000               | 0                  | \$198,000          |
|                  |                   |                    |                         |                    |                    |

#### X. FEES COLLECTED FOR PROCESSING

| Total Amount of Fees | Percentage of Total |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Collected            | Costs               |
| \$72.02              | .04                 |

#### XI – Nothing Here

#### XII. BACKLOGS, CONSULTATIONS, AND COMPARISONS

#### A. Backlogs of FOIA Requests and Administrative Appeals

| Number of Backlogged  | Number of Backlogged |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Requests as of End of | Appeals as of End of |
| Fiscal Year           | Fiscal Year          |
| 4                     | 1                    |

## $\pmb{B.\ Consultations\ on\ FOIA\ Requests-Received,\ Processed,\ and\ Pending\ Consultations}\\$

| Number of Consultations<br>Received from Other Agencies<br>that Were <u>Pending</u> at Your<br>Agency as of Start of the Fiscal<br>Year | Number of Consultations  Received from Other Agencies  During the Fiscal Year | Number of Consultations<br>Received from Other Agencies<br>that Were <u>Processed</u> by Your<br>Agency During the Fiscal Year | Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that Were Pending at Your Agency as of End of the Fiscal Year |
|---|---|--|--|
| 0   | 8   | 8  | 0  |

#### C. Consultations on FOIA Requests – Ten Oldest Consultations Received from Other Agencies

|                              | 10 <sup>th</sup><br>Oldest | 9th | 8th | 7 <sup>th</sup> | 6 <sup>th</sup> | 5 <sup>th</sup> | 4 <sup>th</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Oldest |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| Date                         |                            |     |     |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | 0      |
| Number<br>of Days<br>Pending |                            |     |     |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | 0      |

# D. Comparison of Number of Requests from Previous and Current Annual Report – Requests Received, Processed, and Backlogged

| NUMBER OF REQUES   | TS <u>RECEIVED</u>  | NUMBER OF REQUESTS PROCESSED  |  |  |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| Number Received<br>During Fiscal Year<br>from Last Year's<br>Annual Report | Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report | Number Processed<br>During Fiscal Year<br>from Last Year's<br>Annual Report | Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report |  |
| 42   | 50  | 39  | 50   |  |

| Number of Backlogged Requests     | Number of Backlogged Requests     |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| as of End of the Fiscal Year from | as of End of the Fiscal Year from |
| Previous Annual Report            | Current Annual Report             |
| N/A                               | 4                                 |

# E. Comparison of Numbers of Administrative Appeals from Previous and Current Annual Report – Appeals Received, Processed, and Backlogged

| NUMBER OF API             | PEALS <u>RECEIVED</u>     | NUMBER OF APPEALS <u>PROCESSED</u> |                           |  |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Number Received           | Number Received           | Number Processed                   | Number Processed          |  |
| <b>During Fiscal Year</b> | <b>During Fiscal Year</b> | During Fiscal Year                 | <b>During Fiscal Year</b> |  |
| from Last Year's          | from                      | from Last Year's                   | from Current              |  |
| <b>Annual Report</b>      | Current                   | Annual Report                      | Annual Report             |  |
| •                         | Annual Report             | _                                  | •                         |  |
| 0                         | 1                         | 0                                  | 0                         |  |
|                           |                           |                                    |                           |  |

| Number of Backlogged Appeals as | Number of Backlogged Appeals as of  |  |  |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| of End of the Fiscal Year from  | End of the Fiscal Year from Current |  |  |
| Previous Annual Report          | Annual Report                       |  |  |
| N/A                             | 1                                   |  |  |

#### F. Discussion of Other FOIA Activities (Optional)

- \* = 1) enter the median number; 2) provide a separate electronic spreadsheet with the relevant numbers entered and the median calculated electronically
- #=1) provide the average in the top portion of the box; 2) multiply the average days by the number of requests and enter the result in the bottom portion of the box.