



Office of the Chief
Records Officer for the
U.S. Government

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

May 21, 2021

Ms. Andrea R. Jenkins
United States Department of Agriculture
Enterprise Services Division, Rural Development
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250-0742
andrea.jenkins@usda.gov

Dear Ms. Jenkins,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) was made aware of an allegation of unauthorized disposition of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) records. The allegation stated that on January 19 and 20, 2021, USDA Acting State Director, Luis Boria, unlawfully destroyed Federal Government records in the form of tweets from the Rural Development Puerto Rico Twitter account, https://www.twitter.com/RD_PuertoRico.

NARA requests that USDA investigate this matter to determine whether or not tweets from the Rural Development Puerto Rico Twitter account were deleted and provide a report of your findings in accordance with 36 CFR 1230.14. In addition to the report, we request copies of any USDA policies, procedures and NARA-approved disposition authorities for USDA social media records.

Please ensure that your report describes the volume and dates of the deleted records, as well as the exact circumstances surrounding the deletion, including the name of the office responsible for maintaining the deleted records. Finally, please include a statement regarding safeguards to prevent further losses, and details of any actions taken to salvage, retrieve, or reconstruct the records.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at laurence.brewer@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence N. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'B'.

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government

Cc: Beatriz Collazo
USDA Department Records Officer
Beatriz.Collazo@usda.gov



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March 29, 2022

Andrea R. Jenkins
United States Department of Agriculture
Enterprise Services Division, Rural Development
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250-0742
andrea.jenkins@usda.gov

Dear Andrea Jenkins,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) received your report dated March 15, 2022, regarding the unauthorized disposition of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development (RD) social media records.

The report stated that an undetermined number of social media records were not appropriately captured and preserved, and that RD made various unsuccessful attempts to salvage the lost records. NARA understands that RD has established new protocols to restrict access to social media accounts, is ensuring that all staff are made aware of the recordkeeping procedures for social media records, and is also exploring third-party applications for archiving social media records to prevent future losses.

Based on the information provided in your report, the reporting requirements of 36 CFR 1230.14(a) have been met and this matter is now closed. Thank you for your commitment to improving your records management practices.

Sincerely,

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government

Cc: Beatriz Collazo
Department Records
Officer
Beatriz.Collazo@usda.gov