

From: [John Kraft](#)
To: ["shcboardchair@shelbycounty-il.gov"](mailto:shcboardchair@shelbycounty-il.gov)
Cc: [Kirk Allen](#)
Subject: RE: FOIA Request (Shelby County) - 4-29-2025
Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 9:37:00 PM

Any feedback on this issue yet?

Thanks,
John Kraft

From: John Kraft
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 7:51 AM
To: Shelby County Clerk - Jessica Fox <shcoclerk@shelbycounty-il.gov>; 'shcboardchair@shelbycounty-il.gov' <shcboardchair@shelbycounty-il.gov>; 'Shelby County States Attorney - Ruth Woolery' <statesattorney@shelbycounty-il.gov>
Cc: Kirk Allen <Kirk@illinoisleaks.com>
Subject: RE: FOIA Request (Shelby County) - 4-29-2025

Mr. Mayhall,

While I appreciate the county's attempt at complying with Section 3.1 of the Public Officer Prohibited Activities Act by signing the statement attached to my FOIA response, the person or persons who should have signed the disclosure is the one actually leasing and farming the ground (those benefiting from the transaction with the government):

"This Section shall be liberally construed to accomplish the purpose of requiring the identification of the actual parties benefiting from any transaction with a governmental unit or agency involving the procurement of the ownership or use of real property thereby."

The public has a right to know the names of each and every person or persons benefitting from the use of this public property, in this case the farmer and anyone else who has a financial interest in his farming activities.

Please consider asking the leaseholder (farmer) to complete the disclosure.

Thanks,
John Kraft

From: Shelby County Clerk - Jessica Fox <shcoclerk@shelbycounty-il.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 3:20 PM
To: John Kraft <john@illinoisleaks.com>; 'shcboardchair@shelbycounty-il.gov' <shcboardchair@shelbycounty-il.gov>; 'Shelby County States Attorney - Ruth Woolery'

<statesattorney@shelbycounty-il.gov>

Cc: Kirk Allen <Kirk@illinoisleaks.com>

Subject: RE: FOIA Request (Shelby County) - 4-29-2025

This document was filed in this office shortly after I replied. Document pursuant to your FOIA attached.

Jessica Fox

Shelby County Clerk/Recorder
301 E. Main St. PO Box 230
Shelbyville, IL 62565
217-774-4421

shcoclerk@shelbycounty-il.gov

From: Shelby County Clerk - Jessica Fox

Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:46 PM

To: 'John Kraft' <john@illinoisleaks.com>; shcboardchair@shelbycounty-il.gov; 'Shelby County States Attorney - Ruth Woolery' <statesattorney@shelbycounty-il.gov>

Cc: Kirk Allen <Kirk@illinoisleaks.com>

Subject: RE: FOIA Request (Shelby County) - 4-29-2025

This office has no documents responsive to your request.

You have the right to have the denial of any portion of your request reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the office of the Attorney General pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your request for Review with the PAC by writing to: Public Access Counselor, Office of the Attorney General, 500 South 2nd Street, Springfield, IL 62706, FAX: 217-782-1396: email: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us. If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC you must do so within 60 calendar days of the date of the denial letter. (5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this denial letter when filing a Request to review with the PAC. You also have the right to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in the State Circuit Court pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/11.

Jessica Fox

Shelby County Clerk/Recorder
301 E. Main St. PO Box 230
Shelbyville, IL 62565
217-774-4421

shcoclerk@shelbycounty-il.gov

From: John Kraft <john@illinoisleaks.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 1:19 PM

To: shcoclerk@shelbycounty-il.gov; shcboardchair@shelbycounty-il.gov

Cc: Kirk Allen <Kirk@illinoisleaks.com>

Subject: FOIA Request (Shelby County) - 4-29-2025

On behalf of the Edgar County Watchdogs, Inc., and in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting the following.

If you are not the FOIA officer, please forward to the FOIA officer as required by statute.

Electronic copies requested.

- **Copy of the written disclosure, subscribed and under oath, by the person(s) farming the Shelby County farm properties.** See 50 ILCS 105/3.1

Electronic copies are requested.

This is not a commercial request.

This is also a request for fee waiver, should any fees be imposed, as this information bears on the public business of the local and state governments in Illinois and will be used to inform citizens of the actions of their public officials, of their rights and responsibilities, of news and current or passing events, and for articles of opinion or features of interest to the public. The principal purpose of this request is to access and disseminate information regarding the health, safety, and welfare or the legal rights of the general public and is not for the principal purpose of gaining a personal or commercial benefit

I, and the organizations I represent, qualify as both media and non-profit under the definitions in Section 2 (c-10) ("Commercial purpose"), Section 2 (f) ("News media"), Section 2 (g) ("Recurrent requester"), and Section 2 (h) ("Voluminous request") of the Freedom of Information Act, for the purposes of being exempt to the provisions of Section 3.1 (Requests for commercial purposes), Section 3.2 (Recurrent requesters), Section 3.6 (Voluminous requests), and Section 6 (Authority to charge fees). Additionally, I, and the organizations I represent, qualify as "news media" under the Illinois Vehicle Code, Section 1-148.5.

Thanks,
John Kraft
Edgar County Watchdogs, Inc.
Box 124
Paris, Illinois 61944
john@illinoisleaks.com
217-808-2527