

BMS:RBP

AIR MAIL

February 5, 1954

Dr. James F. Midwell, Chairman  
 Department of Animal Husbandry  
 College of Agriculture  
 University of Nevada  
 Reno, Nevada

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Dear Dr. Midwell:

Recently we were asked by the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, to comment on the proposed Press Release on the project we are now supporting with you and Dr. V. R. Bohman.

We were somewhat concerned with the proposed release as it gives the impression that the losses of livestock in southeastern Nevada this past year could have been due to radioactive fallout material. Perhaps you have not had access to my recent report on the sheep losses and other conclusions that have been reached. I am enclosing a copy of the sheep report for your information. From the standpoint of good public relations, as well as success of your project with the cattlemen, it seems to me it would be desirable to avoid giving the impression that either the SEC or the group responsible for this project at the University of Nevada have the idea that radiation was a contributing factor to the abnormal mortality this past year.

I trust that you are getting a good start with the project and obtaining from a number of cattlemen information regarding feed conditions, percentage of calf crop and other livestock production factors in herds adjacent to the test site. If you have gathered information on these factors that might be of interest to you, we would appreciate having a letter from you.

Sincerely yours,

Paul S. Pearson  
 Chief, Biology Branch  
 Division of Biology and Medicine

Enclosure: Report

OFFICE ▶	BMS: Mr. J. R. Bohman				
SURNAME ▶	Pearson: vks	Mr. Charter Heslep		WILSON, HEALTH & SAFETY	
DATE ▶	2-5-54				