



animal wellness action

INVESTIGATIVE SPECIAL REPORT

VERSION 1.1 DECEMBER 15, 2020

SOUTH CAROLINA

THE NORTH CAROLINA COCKFIGHTING INDUSTRY

AN INVESTIGATION OF NORTH CAROLINA'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE COCKFIGHTING INDUSTRY

SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW

North Carolina is the number two pork-producing state in the nation and also the second largest grower of turkeys. It is also one of the nation's top states for producing fighting birds, despite unambiguous state and federal laws that bar possessing and selling animals for fights in the state and beyond. Link to the law: <u>Click here</u>.

There are occasional arrests of fighting enthusiasts, including two individuals arrested recently in Catham County at a cockfight in progress, and 70 individuals with North Carolina addresses apprehended at a fight over the border in Virginia. (<u>Article 1</u>)(<u>Article 2</u>) But most cockfighters continue to operate without consequence. The biggest part of their business involves the illegal trafficking of fighting animals for export.

This investigative report reveals illegal shipments of fighting animals from North Carolina to Guam and to other nations, including the Philippines and Vietnam. An Animal Wellness Action (AWA) and Animal Wellness Foundation (AWF) review of shipping records of fighting animals to Guam found that North Carolina cockfighters were collectively among the biggest "growers" of fighting birds moved to the tiny U.S. territory of Guam, which has for decades been a Pacific Island hub for cockfighting.

We determined that birds were shipped from North Carolina to Guam without food or water on a multi-day journey of 9,000 miles, illegally transported through the U.S. mail. Animals are fraudulently described as "brood fowl," when in fact they are destined for fighting pits. The masquerade that the North Carolina cockfighters are shipping "brood fowl" – rather than birds for fighting – does not withstand scrutiny. Guam has no broiler bird or laying hen industry, and it has no show fowl circuit. Our report also documents that the people shipping the fighting animals are unmistakably involved in illegal fighting, and that the Guam shipment of animals nearly 9,000 miles could only be justified because other cockfighters are willing to pay as much as \$2,000 for a bird with a good bloodline. The offspring of birds who win major derbies are the ones coveted by other cockfighters, who can win cash prizes and trophies if their birds prevail in derbies, such as the World Slasher Cup in the Philippines.

A review of avian shipping records to Guam from U.S states found more than 500 probable illegal shipments of fighting birds during a four-year period ending in September 2020. There were 137 Guamanians who imported nearly 9,000 fighting birds onto Guam, and 60 "exporters" who sent birds from U.S. states to Guam. North Carolina cockfighting farms rank fourth in the

number of birds shipped to Guam, only behind Oklahoma, California, and Hawaii and just ahead of Alabama. These five states accounted for 52 percent of all cockfighting roosters sent to Guam during the period we examined.

Since 2002, it has been illegal to transport birds from any state to any other jurisdiction in the U.S. or abroad.

Under federal law, it is a crime to:

• Knowingly sponsoring or exhibiting in an animal fighting venture;

• Knowingly attending an animal fighting venture, or knowingly causing an individual who has not attained the age of 16 to attend an animal fighting venture;

• Knowingly buying, selling, possessing, training, transporting, delivering or receiving any animal for the purposes of having the animal participate in an animal fighting venture;

• Knowingly using the mail service of the U.S. Postal Service, or any "written, wire, radio televisions or other form of communications in, or using a facility of, interstate commerce," to advertise an animal for use in an animal fighting venture, or to advertise a knife, gaff, or other sharp instrument designed to be attached to the leg of a bird for use in an animal fighting venture, or to promote or in any other manner further an animal fighting venture except as performed outside the U.S.;

• Knowingly selling, buying, transporting, or delivering in interstate or foreign commerce "a knife, a gaff, or any other sharp instrument" designed or intended to be attached to the leg of a bird for use in an animal fighting venture.

Penalties for each violation of any one of these provisions allows for a maximum of 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for perpetrators, except for an adult attending an animal fighting venture. Penalties for adult attendance are 1 year in prison and a \$5,000 fine. An "animal fighting venture" involves "a fight conducted or to be conducted between at least 2 animals for purposes of sport, wagering, or entertainment, except that the term animal fighting venture shall not be deemed to include any activity the primary purpose of which involves the use or one or more animals in hunting another animal."

North Carolina's Congressional delegation has been consistently supportive of the enactment of federal anti-animal fighting policies. A House amendment to fortify the federal law to ban cockfighting and dogfighting everywhere in the U.S., including in the U.S. territories, attracted the support of 12 of 14 members of the North Carolina delegation, with only Virginia Fox, R-5th, and Rep. Butterworth, D-1st, opposing the provision.

Based on our multi-faceted investigation, we have reason to believe that the individuals named in this report are engaged in prohibited activities. We examined satellite images of their gamefarms, captured social media posts and images, mined cockfighting magazines and other primary industry sources, and reviewed videos from cockfighting YouTube pages providing tours of their farms and marketing their birds to the Philippines. In addition, we have received tips from local citizens of North Carolina, concerned about animal abuse, and illegal activity in their communities.

The following table lists exporters found to have shipped birds from their gamefarms in North Carolina to Guam. In addition, we also list additional gamefarms in NC found to advertise shipping to other states and other cockfighting hubs of the world like the Philippines,

Last	First	Address	City	State	Zip	# Shipped to Guam
Reece	Kevin	237 Traphill Ridge Rd	Traphill	NC	28685	654
Edwards	James	245 Tidline Road & 215 Tidline Rd	Traphill	NC	28685	297
Hudspeth	Jeff	121 Meadowlark Lane	Ronda	NC	28670	152
Morton	Anthony	277 Bettys Trail	Parkton	NC	28371	
Brower	Noah	5364 Old Edgar Rd*	Sophia	NC	27350	
Ramirez	Jose	579 Pace Rd	Hendersonville	NC	28792	
Yates	Jamey	182 Watson St	Boone	NC	28607	
Marida	Jesus	Could not locate	Hendersonville	NC		
Kearns	Walton	3154 Bethel Lucas Rd	Asheboro	NC	27205	
Wayne Carolina Gamefarm	Samanovich	2618 Emmanuel Church Rd.	Conover	NC	28613	
Covington	William	1216 Turtle Dove Rd	Conover	NC	28613	
Malone	Roney	6464 Beale Rd	Snow Camp	NC	27349	

*indicates possible address





KEVIN REECE

Widowcreek Gamefarm 237 Traphill Ridge Road, Traphill, NC 28685 (Wilkes County) Phone: 336-466-8509

Kevin Reece's Facebook Page: Click here

Satellite picture of his property



Featured in cockfighting publications and advertisements for winning derbies:



Reece admitted under oath to cockfighting, breeding and exporting roosters to the Philippines and Guam while he was a town Commissioner of Ronda, NC in 2014.

Reece was fined 25K in a lawsuit filed by the Mayor against him in a case of blackmail after Reece acted illegally when he didn't like an ordinance the Mayor tried to pass to limit rooster ownership. (<u>Article Here</u>)

Video of Reece telling cockfighters to not email reporters if they are angry about coverage. It will only draw more attention to them: <u>Video here</u>

Reece shares on social media multiple trophies and derby wins, his bloodlines are proven to win and are in demand:



Prices of his roosters for export reflect the bloodlines ability to win fights:

Widowcreek Farm March 5, 2019

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Updated Price list

EXPORT ONLY on Roundhead broodfowl. No exceptions.

Pure Bruner and Brownred trios 2000 US dollars plus shipping.

Pure Bruner or Brownred Stag or Cock 1000 US dollars plus shipping.

Pure Bruner or Brownred hen or pullet 500 US dollars each plus shipping.

Pure Sweater Kelso Grey Albany

1500 US Dollars plus shipping

Pure Sweater Kelso Grey Albany Stag or Cock 750 US dollars plus shipping

Pure Sweater Kelso Grey Albany hen or pullet 375 US dollars plus shipping

.....

Cross Cock 300 US dollars plus shipping

Cross Stag October 1-February 1 200 US Dollars each plus shipping

Cross Stag February 2-April 1 230 US Dollars each plus shipping

Cross Stag April 2-June 15 260 US Dollars each plus shipping

Cross Pullet 100 US Dollars each plus shipping

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These prices DO NOT APPLY for our personal brood fowl.

008 179

66 Comments 4 Shares

Shipping roosters to Mexico:



Shipping roosters using USPS:





Most Relevant is selected, so some comments may have been filtered out.

PROFILES

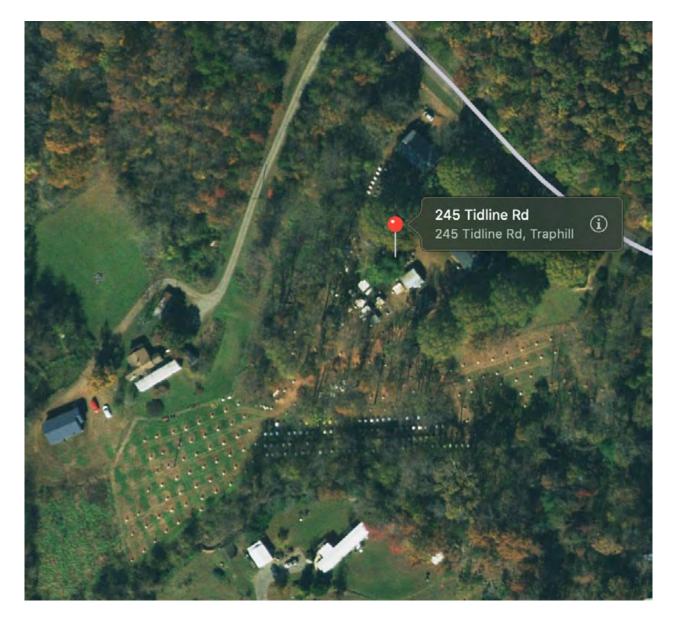
NO PHOTO

AVAILABLE

JAMES EDWARDS

245 Tidline Road, Traphill, NC 28685 (Wilkes County) 215 Tidline Road, Traphill NC 28685 Phone: 336-244-0088

Satellite picture of his property



PROFILES

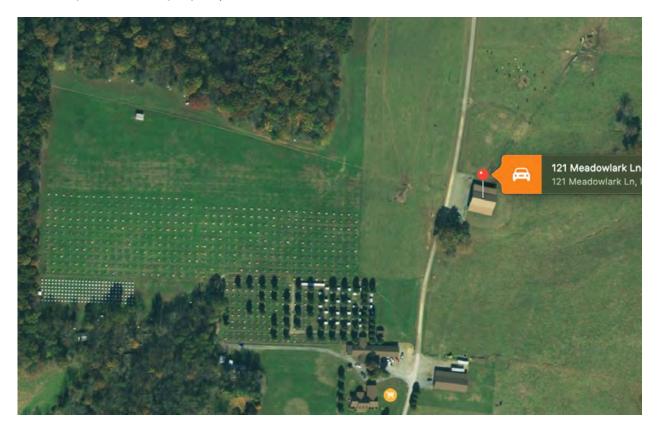
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JEFF HUDSPETH

121 Meadowlark Lane, Ronda, NC 28670 (Wilkes County) Cedar Creek Farm, LLC 336-984-2724 and 336.469.3710

Satellite picture of his property



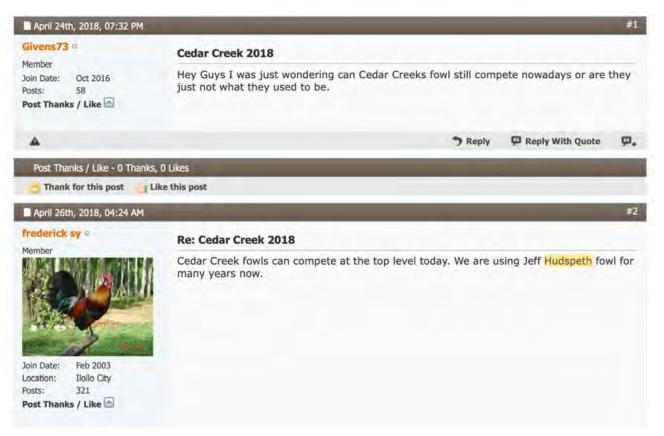
Also owns C&J Supplies:



animal wellness action INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

JEFF HUDSPETH (Continued)

This 'sabong' (means 'cockfight' in Filipino) forum describes his participation in cockfighting and his roosters are being used by those he sells them to for the purpose of cockfighting:



Note that "LK" in the following post means "long knife" and "SK" means "short knife":



Join Date: Jul 2003 Location: CaliforniaXCebu Posts: 398 Post Thanks / Like

Re: Cedar Creek Greys -- Jeff Hudspeth

Lurena,

thanks for the connection.

I am having best results with his Leipers; pure and straight (properly aged), Leiper X Kelso or Kelso X Leiper, and Leiper X Banogon (my White Kelso concoction). Jeff's Leipers and its crosses have won me 4 and 5 cock Derbies.

My observation, Jeff's Leipers have the CUT and smart which are best for LK.

Lately, I am bringing out Leiper X Roundhead, and Greys X Banogon Grey pullets.

Regretfully, I am not doing good with the Leiper X Sweater or Sweater X Leiper crosses; and I tried with different Sweater lines. Must be the too much Hatch in the blood or other factors. Tremendous power but not much cut. Perhaps these can be good with SK.

Just please, I am sharing these statements in honor of Jeff's lines, not for personal reasons. Jeff's lines can improve the %s. But no matter what, its what we do ourselves to his fowls that determines our own results and having said that, other breeders lines as well.

Thanks. . .

Rickc





ANTHONY MORTON AKA BUG

LumbeeBoy Gamefarm 277 Bettys Trail Parkton, NC 28371

Facebook Page: Click here





ANTHONY MORTON AKA BUG (Continued)

An interview he did on "Journey to the Pit" where he describes his breeding program (<u>Interview</u> <u>Here</u>)



An interview he did for Purebred Warrior (<u>Interview Here</u>) Quotes from this interview include:

• "My BlueFace bloodline is a hard-hitting fowl, they're known to be gentle birds with a huge breast and big legs. My yellow-leg-hatch is very smart and accurate cutters. I have a few other lines that I love and they all bring something different to the table."

• "I have sold fowl all over the US, here lately I've had a lot of interest out of Mexico, the great Philippines has always been a popular area and I've been getting some great feedback from Vietnam."

PROFILES

JAMEY AKA JAMES YATES

Jamey Carolina Yates Fowls 182 Watson St Boone, NC 28607

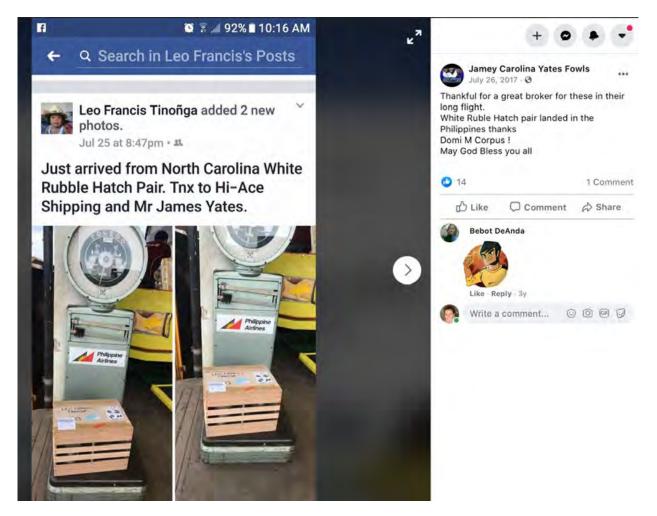
Facebook Page: Click here

Shipping using the USPS:



JAMEY AKA JAMES YATES (Continued)

Using Domi Corpus, the largest broker in the cockfighting industry located in CA, to ship birds to the Philippines:



JAMEY AKA JAMES YATES (Continued)

Shipping to the largest cockfighting areas of the world:



Jamey Carolina Yates Fowls October 15, 2018 · 🕄

...

Superb fowl he's a super nice stag, no doubt Born in 2017 in May 17- months old White Devil Kelso stag Available if interested private message me thank's Shipping available to Manila Philippines Province Philippines all of USA Mexico, Vietnam, Guam Shipping rates differ Note:

Stag stil in molt but almost finished he's a awesome stage

Fill free to share on your time line with this link:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php? story_fbid=2198581070425175&id=100008199105544





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NOAH BROWER

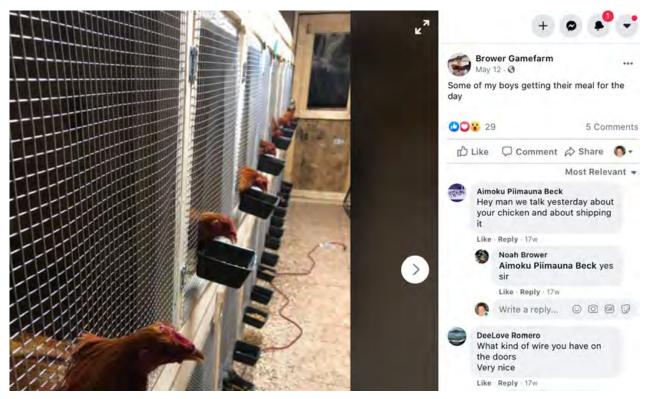
Brower Gamefarm Possible address: 5364 Old Edgar Rd Sophia, NC 27350 (Randolph County) (336) 858-6498

He states on Facebook that he's hatched about 400 this year so far, his farm is growing with new stag houses being built.

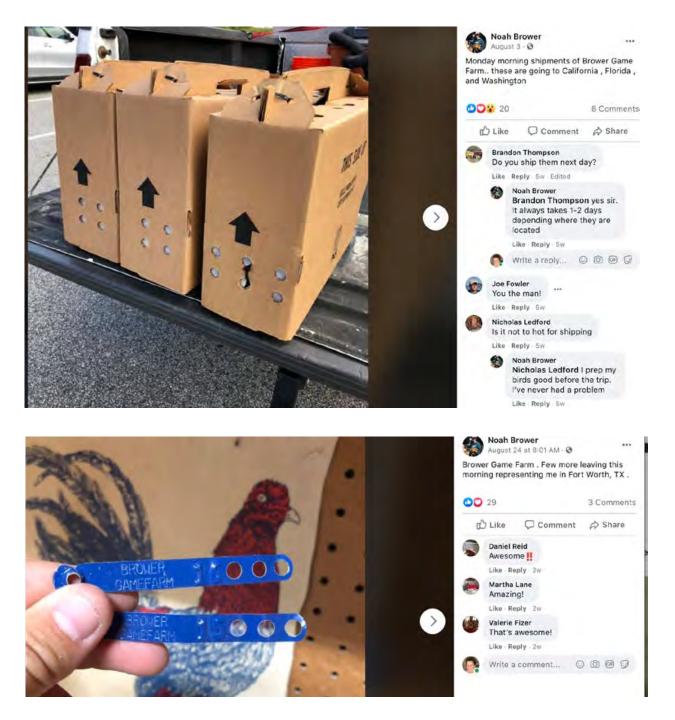
Facebook pages: Click Here, Click Here, and Click Here

Video of his roosters and property on Kingras YouTube channel, they advertise for gamefarms across the world: <u>Video Here</u>

Shipping roosters:



NOAH BROWER (Continued)





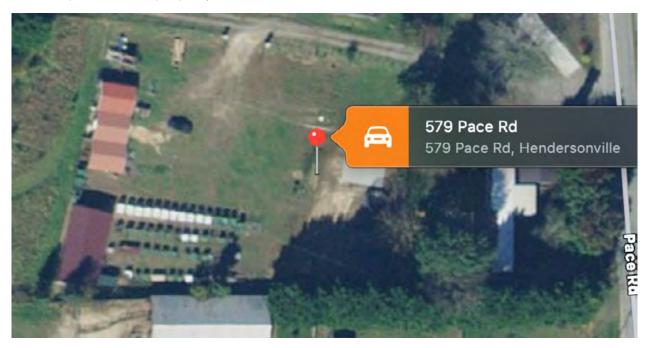


JOSE RAMIREZ FIGUEROA AKA JOSE RAMIREZ

579 Pace Rd, Hendersonville, NC 28792 (Henderson County)

Facebook Page: Click Here

Satellite photo of the property



JOSE RAMIREZ FIGUEROA AKA JOSE RAMIREZ (Continued)

Other pictures of the property



Shipping to Mexico





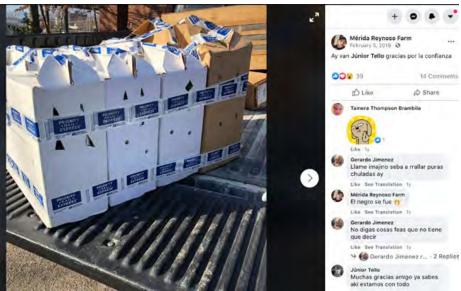
JESUS MERIDA

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE Mérida Reynoso Farm Cannot locate property address Hendersonville, NC per Facebook page (Henderson County)

Note: Jesus Merida is an employee of Jose Ramirez's stucco business

Facebook page: Click Here

Shipping birds through the USPS:



Sparring videos on his Facebook page: Click Here







WALTON KEARNS

Outback GameFarm 3154 Bethel Lucas Rd Asheboro, NC 27205 910-549-9410

Facebook page: Click Here

His website states there are over 300 for sale and export: Website Here



CAROLINA STI

Centrins

wned and operated

PROFILES

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

WAYNE SMANOVICH

Carolina Gamefarm 2618 Emmanuel Church Rd Conover, NC 28613 Email: info@carolinagamefowl.com Phone: 828.615.4160

Website: Click Here



RUBLE TRIOS FOR SALE

Few Hatch gamefowl have the rich history of the Ruble with show successes worldwide. The original Ruble pen comes from a family with over 30yrs of show successes. The young Ruble stag above is from the original pen. We have Ruble gamefowl for sale from three different pens. Select Ruble Trios for Sale.

Stags \$500

Pullets \$300

Select Brood Cocks \$1000



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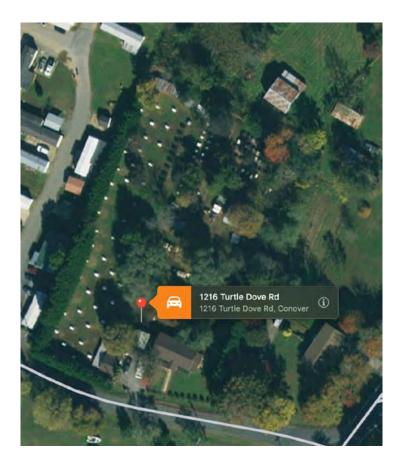
WILLIAM COVINGTON

William Covington Rambler Farm 1216 Turtle Dove Rd. Conover N.C.28613 828.612.4571 ramblerfarm@ramblerfarm.com

Website advertising birds for export: <u>Click Here</u> Covington's advice to buyers (sk = short knife):



Satellite view of the property:



PROFILES

RONEY MALONE

Malones Gamefarm 6464 Beale Rd, Snow Camp NC 27349

Facebook page: Click Here

Property photos:

NO PHOTO

AVAILABLE

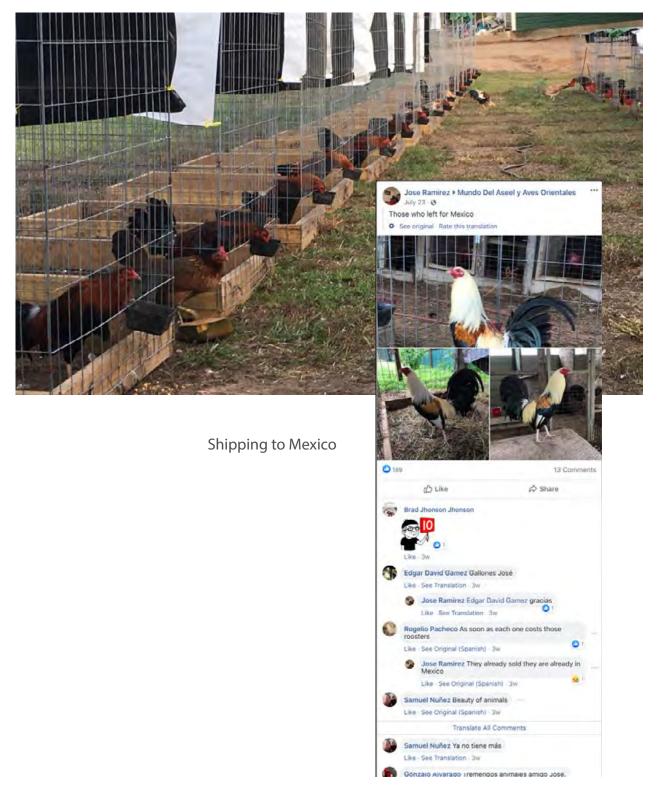




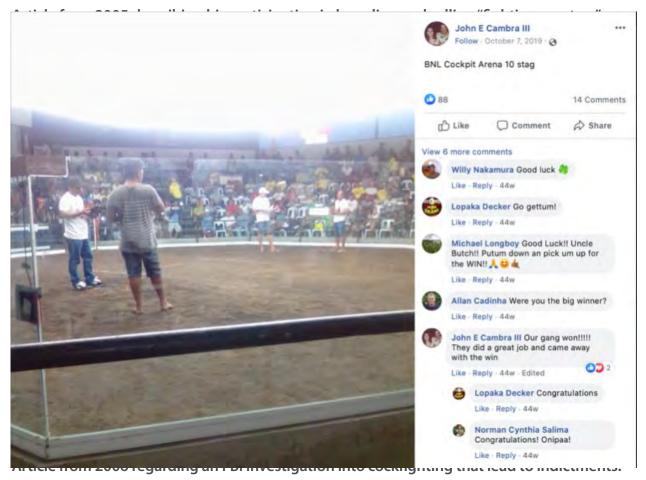
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JOSE RAMIREZ FIGUEROA AKA JOSE RAMIREZ (Continued)

Other pictures of the property



JOHN CAMBRA (Continued)



<u>Click here</u>.

• The second indictment alleges officer John Edwin Cambra IV and his father, John Edwin Cambra III, tried to prevent the FBI on June 21, 2005, from recovering cockfight gaffs from the family's farm during a search.

Participation in cockfighting in 2017 at the World Slasher Cup in Manila: Click here

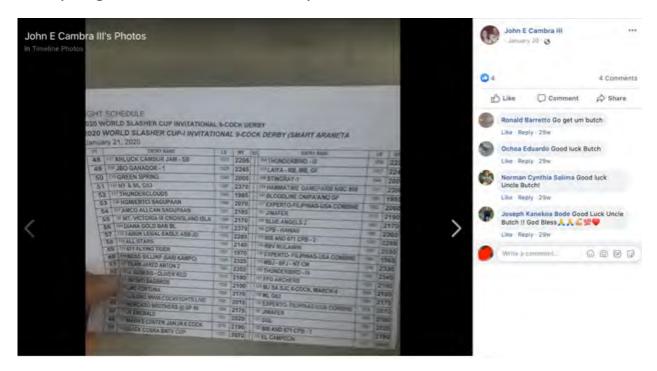
• "The World Slasher Cup 2017 is actually a 9-cock invitational derby featuring the best breeders and cockers and the finest winged warriors."

• "Among the Americans vying in the event are Titing Ariosa and Erik Rosales of California, Tim Fritzgerald of Utah, Butch Cambra of Hawaii, Larry Whitehead of Tennessee, Dr. Bel Almojera of Chicago, Roger Roberts of Georgia, and Matthew Dunne, Cornelio Amby, Lester Chow, Ken

JOHN CAMBRA (Continued)

At the 2019 World Slaher Cup in the Philippines

Participating in the 2020 World Slashers Cup.



In addition to the gamefarms listed previously in this report, the following breeders were identified as major players in the industry.





Red Raiders Gamefarm Phone: 808-600-1344

"Butch" John Cambra (included in this report) is his uncle. In this interview from 2018, it sounds like they are openly fighting in derbies in Hawaii.

Interview he did on BNTV in 2018. BNTV is a cockfighting broadcaster in the Philippines whose hosts toured the U.S showcasing what they consider to be the best gamefowl farms. This footage has since been deleted by the source but was saved prior to deletion:

Click here to view the interview

- Host says, "So you been winning a lot on this side of town?" Au responds, "yes".
- "I spar everyday."
- "I band all the chickens that are sparring good."
- "If I pick one on entry, I go spar them all the way until the day I fight...no rest."
- "I'm more of an aggressive fighter."
- "5 derbies this year so far."

• Host says, "...you still have a regular job?" – Au responds, "Not right now. No, because I'm winning."

• "My kids walk with me in the pit."

• Host states, "taking about Hawaii and the Philippines. I heard that, number one, you have a five-minute limit...in the Philippines it's ten minutes, draw. Here, only five minutes, it's a draw." Au responds, "Yes".

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BRYSON AU (Continued)

• Host states, "...and then if you send gamecocks from Hawaii to the Philippines it's going to cost you a lot of money...so you send them by post office to California and then send it through Willy Dunca, or Henry Navarro, or Dom Corpus to the Philippines, it's a lot cheaper." – Au responds, "Yes". (Note – Com Corpus is included in our CA investigative report)

• Host says, "How long have you been showing." Au responds, "I been fighting since I was a little kid, but I really got into it in 2003."





CHRIS IBANEZ

Phone: 808-479-3398

Listed on Pit Games list of breeders: IBANEZ GAMEFARM Country: United States Address: Waianae, Hawaii Owner: Mike And Chris Ibanez Email: mikeibanez1976@gmail.com

Facebook page is private: Click here

Interview he did on BNTV in 2018. BNTV is a cockfighting broadcaster in the Philippines whose hosts toured the U.S showcasing what they consider to be the best gamefowl farms. This footage has since been deleted by the source but was saved prior to deletion: <u>Click here</u> to see interview

• Host says, "...they like off season, off colored gamecocks...the blacks, the gold, the greys and of course a sprinkling of red." Ibanez says, "Just get different colors to spar the chickens to everything. Use it to fight in all different colors I guess."

• Host asks, "And which are good for the long knife?" Chris says, "I like the buliks and the greys...".

• Host asks, "Do you mean to say other than derbies you have hack fights here?" Chris says, "Yeah, we got hack fights here."

• Host asks, "But for the hack fights, is there any special prize?" Chris explains, "Just whatever you bet."

CHRIS IBANEZ (Continued)



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Interview he did on BNTV. BNTV is a cockfighting broadcaster in the Philippines whose hosts toured the U.S showcasing what they consider to be the best gamefowl farms. This footage has since been deleted by the source but was saved prior to deletion: <u>Click here to view the interview</u>

• Host says, "So you've been fighting gamefowl for a long time already?" Gino responds, "We call it elementary school, 9-10 years old."

• Host says, "So you breed them cousin to cousin mating?" Gino says, "I guess you could say that."

• "You know, there are some people here with really good roosters. There's a lot of people here, that are really good rooster men. What holds us down is the fact that we not supposed to be doing it here."

• "There is a lot of animal species that will fight but injured badly and maybe go off and die, you know, in an hour or two hours or what it may be so, it is a cycle of a lot of animals not just roosters, you know."



• Host asks, "You have a lot of neighbors that are in it small time." He says, "Yes, small time."

PROFILES



STONEY POCOCK

Stoney & Sons Gamefarm Waimanalo, HI Phone: 808-479-3149

Facebook page is private: Click here

Interview he did on BNTV in 2018. BNTV is a cockfighting broadcaster in the Philippines whose hosts toured the U.S showcasing what they consider to be the best gamefowl farms. This footage has since been deleted by the source but was saved prior to deletion: <u>Click here</u> to view the interview

Hosts describe this as the largest farm they've been to in Hawaii

• "They do well here for as long as I can remember in the long knife." (talking about the pumpkin bloodline he has)

• Host asks, "What is your market?" He says, "Mostly local and Guam."

Stoney also calls John Cambra an uncle. (John Cambra is included in this report and is seen in this video) and he states that, "My brother he also breeds and fights also too...if he needs something then I give hm or vice versa. Just to help keep the birds just how we like them, you know, winning."





VERNON LOWRY

Phone: 808-258-8946 85-1256 D Waianae Valley Rd, Waianae, HI

Facebook page is private: <u>Click here</u>

2017 – sued by Dept of Labor for not paying laborers at his construction business: Click here



VERNON LOWRY (Continued)

Interview he did on BNTV in 2018. BNTV is a cockfighting broadcaster in the Philippines whose hosts toured the U.S showcasing what they consider to be the best gamefowl farms. This footage has since been deleted by the source but was saved prior to deletion: <u>Click here</u> to view the interview

• "Far as their ability...high flying good cutting roosters, very game."

• "Very good for long knife."

• "Depends if I'm training roosters, then it takes longer." (discussing time spent on raising roosters)



animal animal wellness wellness action foundation

Marty Irby Executive Director, Animal Wellness Action

Email: Marty@AnimalWellnessAction.org Phone: (202) 821-5686

Featured in cockfighting publications and advertisements for winning derbies:







JOSE RAMIREZ FIGUEROA AKA JOSE RAMIREZ

579 Pace Rd, Hendersonville, NC 28792 (Henderson County)

Facebook Page: Click Here

Satellite photo of the property

