

OPERATION GRAY'S & DANNY'S SLAUGHTERHOUSE

AN ANIMAL RECOVERY MISSION UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION



Presented By: Animal Recovery Mission
(ARM)



Contact Information:

Address: P.O Box 403344, Miami Beach,
Florida 33140

Email: kudo@arminvestigations.org

Phone: 305 494 2225

URL: www.animalrecoverymission.org

OPERATION GRAY'S & DANNY'S SLAUGHTERHOUSE



On December 23rd, 2021, and January 14th, 2022, Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) investigators entered a USDA-certified animal slaughterhouse in Moore Haven, Florida, and obtained evidence of animals being inhumanely handled and slaughtered in gross violation of the Humane Slaughter Act of the United States.

Animals observed and documented onsite include cattle, horses, sheep, goats, pigs, ducks, and chickens, all contained on the property to be butchered and sold for human consumption.

Business Details:

Operation address: 29513 US Highway 27th, Moore Haven, Florida 33471.

Miami-Dade Incorporated address: 300 S.W 136th Ave. Miami, Florida, 33184.

Business contact number: (786) 367-1877.

The property and business are owned and operated by a husband and wife team, Daniel Alberto Garcia and Rosalba Garcia.

This operation is managed under two separate business titles. They are as follows:

1. **Gray's and Danny's Slaughterhouse (Sunbiz # P064069901)**– sells 'live' animals for human consumption.
2. **Okeechobee Farms** – 'contracted' by Gray's and Danny's slaughterhouse to butcher and clean the meat of live animals for their customers.

Okeechobee Farms has a website that sells meat and products promoted as animals raised and grass-fed. www.okeechobeebeefarms.com. Products are bought and sold throughout the United States. Okeechobee Farms is **not** a registered business with any government department in Florida or the United States.

Both businesses are not only operating in gross violation of USDA guidelines and the Humane Slaughter Act but they are also engaged in an extensive list of criminal activity, false advertising, environmental violations, and animal cruelty crimes.

These include, but are not limited to:

- Animals are not stunned by an appropriate device or rendered unconscious and insensible to pain, prior to the slaughter process, per the Humane Slaughter Act.
- Animals are inhumanely handled, dragged, and butchered in front of other animals.
- Instead, animals are conscious and aware as they are hoisted, skinned, and butchered.
- Goats and Sheep are stabbed repeatedly in the throat with knives, tendons are slashed, and their skin is peeled back while they are screaming and thrusting showing obvious signs of life.
- Animals live in deplorable conditions.
- Animals are in poor health and suffering from untreated injuries, wounds, and infectious illnesses.
- Animal carcasses are dumped at the back of the property as vultures feed and possibly spread infectious diseases to surrounding areas.
- Sale of unadulterated meat, butchered in unsanitary, open-air conditions allowing the meat to be exposed to flies and other insects.
- False advertising/misleading to the public.
- Inhumane transport of animals.
- Inhumane restraint and shackling of animals.
- Meats sold without a known destination.

Many of the crimes documented above were executed in the presence of minors.

In addition to the above violations, ARM observed dairy calves and cows being procured from local dairy farms to be sold and butchered for human consumption. These animals were treated with antibiotics and are not free-range humanely raised grass-fed cattle, as stated by Okeechobee Farms.

During ARM's investigation, on January 14th, 2022, a USDA agent (FSIS Division - Food Safety Inspection Services) was documented conducting an on-site inspection. In the agent's presence animals were skinned and butchered alive during this visit. No action was taken nor did the FSIS agent interject on animals being inhumanely dismembered.

The USDA Inspector told the ARM Operative that the slaughterhouse “*does a real good job...a REAL good job*” caring for the animals and the slaughter process. This is a contradiction of Gray’s and Danny’s Slaughterhouse history with their operations being suspended for multiple violations since 2015.

ARM also obtained information that these businesses are tied into the Miami-Dade slaughter farm networks and are engaging in the illegal slaughtering of horses for human consumption.

Meat from this business is marketed to Miami, Palm Beach, Fort Meyers, and throughout the state of Florida for human consumption.

During this investigation, ARM witnessed and documented untrained butchers employed at Gray’s and Danny’s Slaughterhouse and Okeechobee Farms. They expressed no care towards the animals and are more concerned with catching and processing animals as quickly as possible to get to the next customer. This is resulting in inhumane handling, excessive force, and inexperienced slaughter techniques that are causing unconscionable pain and suffering to the animals being butchered.

This is a gross violation of the USDA guidelines of the Humane Slaughter ACT of the United States.

On several occasions, ARM operatives were offered employment to butcher animals on the spot, without any requirement of experience from the management of both businesses.

The owner, Daniel Alberto Garcia, was present during all killings of the animals during ARM’s visits. All employee actions towards the animals were ordered and overseen by the owner. The owner himself tied and shackled animals illegally for transport.

ARM witnessed and documented 18 felony acts of animal cruelty resulting in death and 17 counts of selling unadulterated meat to consumers.

Complaints have been reported for years of the inhuman nature of this slaughterhouse. Only minor suspensions of daily operations have been taken by government agencies on this business.

ARM is requesting that the owners be arrested, the slaughterhouse closed down, and all licenses pulled by county, state, and federal agencies. Under the state of Florida statutes, any and all animals living in such conditions must be rescued and brought to safety.



The Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) is a vanguard investigative animal welfare organization founded in 2010 by Richard Couto shortly after he was exposed to one of Miami's darkest, most brutal and often unknown sources of animal cruelty: illegal animal slaughter farms and the black-market horse meat trade.

Couto, also known as 'Kudo,' turned his vision of exposing and implementing solutions for extreme criminal acts towards animals into reality.

ARM Investigations has been carefully constructed as a direct-action organization and conducts undercover investigative tactics to gather evidence of crimes against animals. Then ARM collaborates with local law enforcement, state attorneys, and regulatory agencies to bring justice to innocent animals tortured at the hands of violent abusers.

Since its inception, ARM has become the foremost expert organization in the black-market horse meat trade and specializes in condemning illegal animal slaughter farms in the United States. In addition, ARM investigates factory farming, underground animal fighting, and wildlife exploitation.

Succeeding in our investigations, exposing the truth, and eradicating illegal practices have produced life-changing results and permanent solutions including: shutting down businesses illegally profiting off of cruelty toward animals, sending abusers to jail, supporting new protection laws, and educating the public.

ARM prides itself on taking up the challenges that no one else will.



Mr. Richard Couto
President
Animal Recovery Mission
P.O Box 403344
Miami Beach, Florida 33140

February 15th, 2022

USDA FSIS
Att: Regional Director Mr. Larry Hortert
100 Alabama Street SW
1924 Building, Suite 3R95
Atlanta, GA 30303-3104

Dear Mr. Larry Hortert,

This letter and the following information serve as an official complaint.

Between December 2021 and February of 2022, I and the Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) entered into the business of Gray's & Danny's Investment, Inc posing as a customer. All violations were witnessed, documented, and recorded legally in the State of Florida.

During ARM's investigation, our operatives observed extreme animal cruelty crimes and gross violations against USDA's Humane Slaughter ACT and the United States law, including, but not limited to;

- Animals are not stunned by an appropriate device or rendered unconscious and insensible to pain, prior to the slaughter process, per the Humane Slaughter Act. Instead, animals are conscious and aware as they are hoisted, skinned, and butchered.
- Animals are inhumanely handled, dragged, and butchered in front of other animals.
- Goats and Sheep are stabbed repeatedly in the throat with knives, tendons are slashed, and their skin is peeled back while they are screaming and thrusting showing obvious signs of life.
- Animals live in deplorable conditions.
- Animals are in poor health and suffering from untreated injuries, wounds, and infectious illnesses.
- Animal carcasses are dumped at the back of the property as vultures feed and possibly spread infectious diseases to surrounding areas.
- Selling of unadulterated meat, butchered in unsanitary, open-air conditions allowing the meat to be exposed to flies and other insects.
- Inhumane transport of animals.
- Inhumane restraint and shackling of animals.
- False advertising/misleading to the public.
- Meat sold without a known destination.

The crimes included in this investigation report were conducted in the presence of an FSIS agent on January 14th, 2022, who failed to report or interject farm animals being inhumanely dismembered.

These violations are provided to you with the in-depth report enclosed, including photographs and visual maps to assist in your investigation. We are also attaching a sample of video evidence.

ARM is requesting an immediate response to the information provided to you.

We expect swift action to be taken against both businesses. This business has had a lengthy track record of violations with your department prior to our visits. Gray's and Danny's Investment, Inc, a USDA humane-certified slaughterhouse, is not only a danger to the animals it sells but also to the people with the State of Florida and beyond. This includes minors who are being subjected to violent crimes being committed in their presence.

Therefore we are requesting the businesses be closed down and all licensing be permanently revoked. We are also requesting the case and its evidence be forwarded to federal prosecutors for enforcement against the owners, Daniel Alberto Garcia and Rosalba Garcia for 18 felony counts of animal cruelty and 17 counts of selling unadulterated meat. All actions of the untrained employees were ordered and overseen by the owner (documented).

Similar animal cruelty allegations have been made in past years (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019) and recorded with your department. However, it appears no enforcement or actions were taken other than minor and temporary suspensions of their operations.

Statements for ARM's investigation on Gray's and Danny's slaughterhouse have been written and notarized and will be made available to you by my office upon your request.

To note, I was personally contacted in 2010 by your department, FSIS, to assist your agents, and be assisted, in undercover efforts to enforce laws in slaughterhouses in the State of Florida. Together over the years the FSIS and ARM have co-investigated multiple slaughterhouses that have led to permanent closure and arrests of owners and workers. Charges were primarily related to felony animal cruelty crimes and the sale of unadulterated meat (among other charges and enforcement).

ARM's full cooperation and any further information can be provided by reaching me directly at 305-494-2225 or by email at kudo@arminvestigations.org.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Couto', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Couto
President
Animal Recovery Mission



Mr. Richard Couto
President
Animal Recovery Mission
P.O Box 403344
Miami Beach, Florida 33140

February 16th, 2022

Dear Sheriff Hardin,

Let this letter and the following information serve as an official complaint on Gray's and Danny's Investment, Inc, located at 29513 US Hwy. 27, Moore Haven, Florida, 33471.

Between December 2021 and February of 2022, I and the Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) entered into the slaughter operation posing as a customer. During this timeframe, ARM has witnessed, documented, and legally recorded 18 felony counts of animal cruelty. All actions were ordered, overseen, and executed by the owners, Daniel Alberto Garcia and Rosialba Garcia.

During ARM's investigation, our operatives observed extreme animal cruelty crimes and gross violations against Florida Statute Chapter 828.12 which are laid out in detail in the attached report, including photographs and visual maps to assist in your investigation. We are also attaching a sample of video evidence.

This business has had a lengthy track record of violations with your office, Glades County State Attorney, and the USDA.

ARM is requesting an immediate response to the information provided to you and expects swift action to be taken against Gary's and Danny's Investment, Inc.

I am requesting that your department initiates an investigation and the evidence documented by ARM be forwarded to federal prosecutors for enforcement against the Garcia's for 18 felony counts of animal cruelty and 17 counts of selling unadulterated meat.

Statements for ARM's investigation on Gray's and Danny's Investment Inc slaughterhouse have been written and notarized and will be made available to you by my office upon your request. Per Amira Fox's office, these statements from the witness will be suitable for any arrests and legal action from the State.

ARM's full cooperation and any further information can be provided by reaching me directly at kudo@arminvestigations.org.

Thank you,

Richard Couto
President
Animal Recovery Mission

ARM EXPOSES EXTREME ANIMAL CRUELTY AT USDA-HUMANE CERTIFIED SLAUGHTERHOUSE



MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA, February 18, 2022. Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) releases a breaking new animal cruelty investigation, Operation Gray's and Danny's Slaughterhouse, a USDA-certified animal slaughterhouse, owned and operated by Daniel Alberto Garcia and Rosalba Garcia.

Located at 29513 US Highway 27th, Moore Haven, Florida 33471, Gray's and Danny's Investment, Inc's slaughterhouse sells live animals to customers who then contract their secondary business, Okeechobee Farm Inc, to butcher and clean the animals for human consumption.

ARM's investigation unveiled 18 gruesome felony violations of extreme animal cruelty and torture, inhumane handling, inhumane selling of unadulterated meat, false advertising, and more;

- **PROLONGED TORTURE:** untrained employees inhumanely handle, catch, and kill animals using improper techniques, causing drawn-out deaths and suffering. Animals are stabbed repeatedly in the chest, throats slashed, skin peeled off while still sensible to pain.
- **BUTCHERED ALIVE:** animals are not being stunned prior to slaughter, per USDA's Humane Slaughter Act. Instead, animals are fully conscious and aware as they are hoisted, skinned, and butchered alive.
- **SHOCKING GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT:** USDA FSIS (Food Safety Inspection Services) inspectors documented in presence of animals being tortured with prolonged deaths and illegal practices. No action was taken or enforced, only praised that the business "does a good job...a real good job", despite multiple violations and operation suspensions executed since 2015. Animal cruelty continues to be overlooked by governing agencies.

These crimes are also taking place in front of minors.

ARM also obtained information connecting Gray's and Danny's Slaughterhouse operations into Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and Fort Myers animal slaughter industries and are suspected of engaging in the illegal slaughtering of horses for human consumption.

ARM has submitted its evidence to USDA FSIS and Glades County Sheriff's department with ARM's request that Gray's and Danny's Investment, Inc animal slaughter operations be shut down, all licenses revoked, and arrests to be made on owners and operators Daniel Alberto Garcia and Rosalba Garcia.

Detailed report link: <https://animalrecoverymission.org/operation-grays-dannys-slaughterhouse/> Evidence video: <https://vimeo.com/678428508>

"The gross violations, pain, and suffering of the animals at Gray's and Danny's is ghastly and shocking. What's as disturbing is the brutal actions towards animals was done during USDA onsite inspections. As someone that has worked side by side with FSIS agents, I'm sickened. I am demanding justice be served."

Richard "Kudo" Couto - ARM Founder

Media inquiries should be directed to Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) Founder, Richard 'Kudo' Couto at (305) 494 2225 or kudo@arminvestigations.org or Margarita Hart (786) XXX XXXX hart@arminvestigations.org.

LOCATION

Sale on organic pastured chicken - Select cuts [Visit Product Page](#)



[Home](#)

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[My account](#)

Green Grass Year Round!!

WINTER-NO GRASS

WINTER-NO GRASS

WINTER-NO GRASS

WINTER-NO GRASS

WINTER-NO GRASS

WINTER-NO GRASS

NO WINTER!

YEAR-ROUND GRASS

**100% Grass Fed Meat
"Farm-to-Table"
is Under 150 Miles for
14 Million Floridians**



Farm



Fishermen



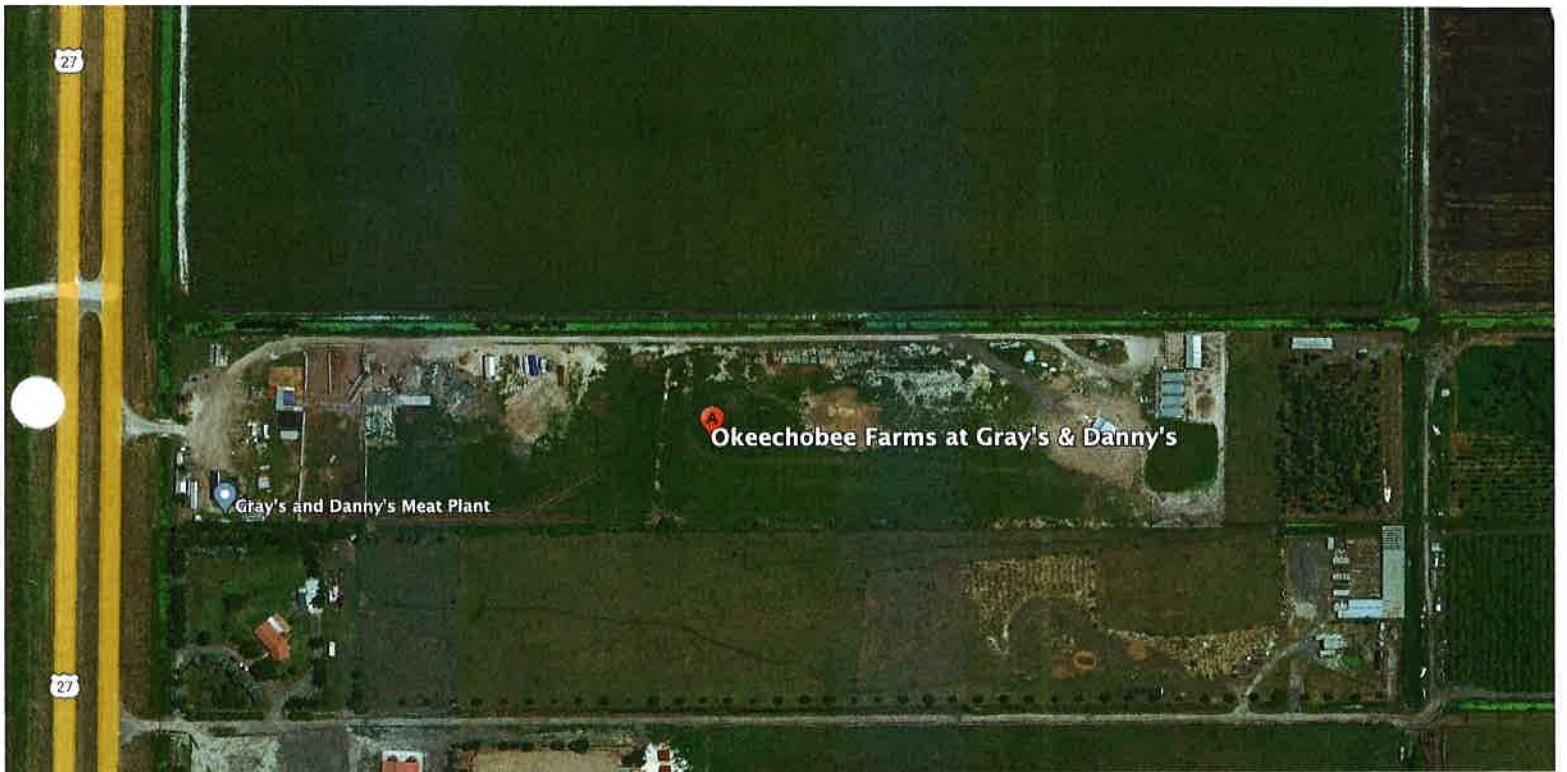
***Miles : Our Farms/Your Table**

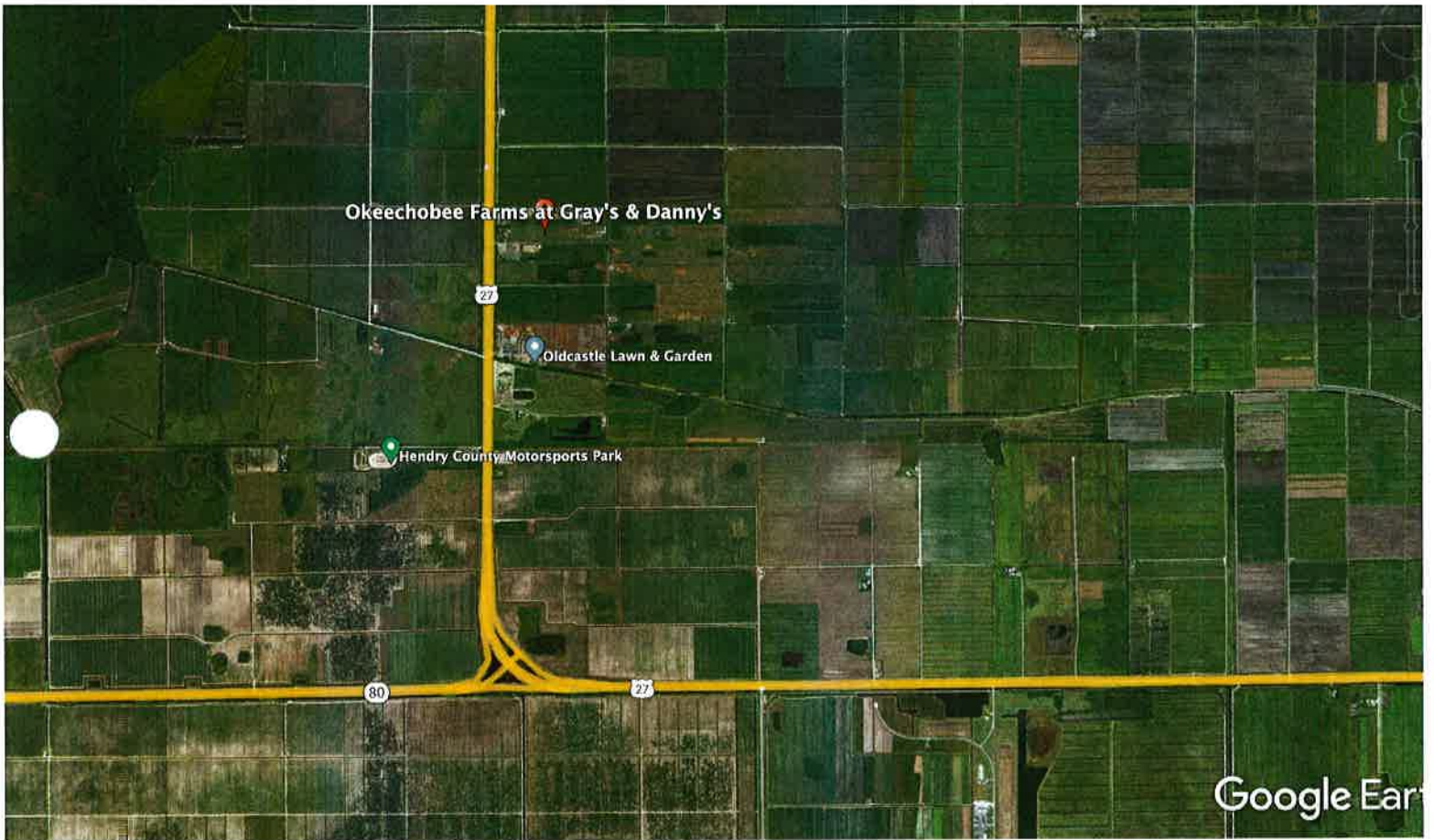
- * 30 Miles - Palm Beach
- * 100 Miles - Miami
- * 135 Miles - Orlando
- * 145 Miles - Tampa
- * Average distance

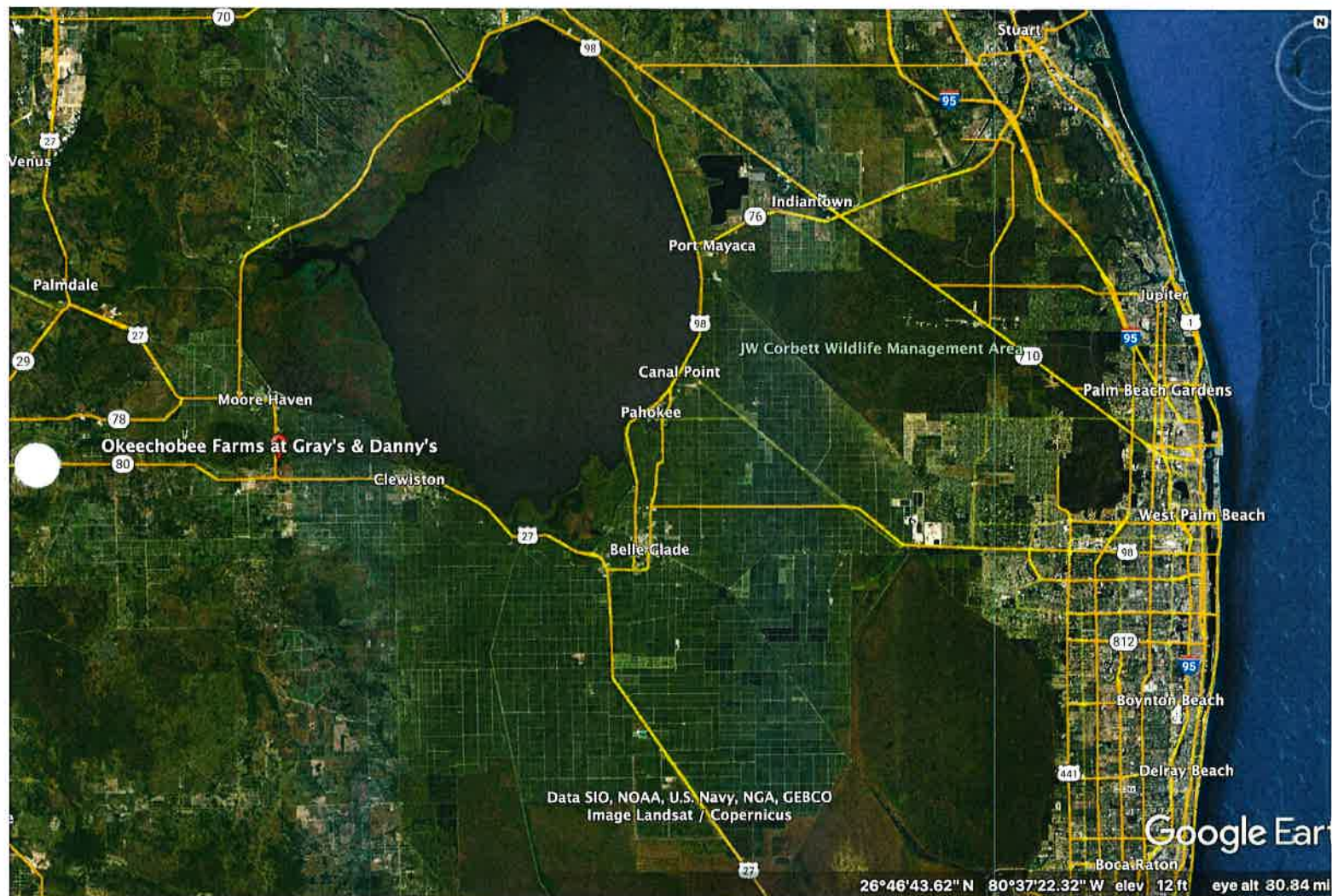


Wild Harvested Seafood













REFERENCES



[Department of State](#) / [Division of Corporations](#) / [Search Records](#) / [Search by Entity Name](#) /

Detail by Entity Name

Florida Profit Corporation

GRAY'S AND DANNY'S INVESTMENT INC

Filing Information

Document Number P06000069901

FEI/EIN Number 20-4902083

Date Filed 05/17/2006

State FL

Status ACTIVE

Principal Address

29513 US HWY 27TH
MOORE HAVEN, FL 33471

Changed: 01/10/2014

Mailing Address

29513 US Highway 27th
Moore Haven, FL 33471

Changed: 04/30/2016

Registered Agent Name & Address

GARCIA, ROSIALBA
29513 US Highway 27th
Moore Haven, FL 33471

Name Changed: 05/01/2011

Address Changed: 04/30/2016

Officer/Director Detail

Name & Address

Title P

**Electronic Articles of Incorporation
For**

P06000069901
FILED
May 17, 2006
Sec. Of State
jshivers

GRAY'S AND DANNY'S INVESTMENT INC

The undersigned incorporator, for the purpose of forming a Florida profit corporation, hereby adopts the following Articles of Incorporation:

Article I

The name of the corporation is:

GRAY'S AND DANNY'S INVESTMENT INC

Article II

The principal place of business address:

300 SW 136 AVENUE
MIAMI, FL. 33184

The mailing address of the corporation is:

300 SW 136 AVENUE
MIAMI, FL. 33184

Article III

The purpose for which this corporation is organized is:

ANY AND ALL LAWFUL BUSINESS.

Article IV

The number of shares the corporation is authorized to issue is:

1

Article V

The name and Florida street address of the registered agent is:

DANIEL A GARCIA
300 SW 136 AVENUE
MIAMI, FL. 33184

I certify that I am familiar with and accept the responsibilities of registered agent.

P06000069901
FILED
May 17, 2006
Sec. Of State
jshivers

Registered Agent Signature: DANIEL ALBERTO GARCIA

Article VI

The name and address of the incorporator is:

DANIEL ALBERTO GARCIA
300 SW 136 AVENUE

MIAMI, FL 33184

Incorporator Signature: DANIEL ALBERTO GARCIA

Article VII

The initial officer(s) and/or director(s) of the corporation is/are:

Title: P
DANIEL A GARCIA
300 SW 136 AVENUE
MIAMI, FL. 33184

2021 FLORIDA PROFIT CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT

DOCUMENT# P06000069901

Entity Name: GRAY'S AND DANNY'S INVESTMENT INC**Current Principal Place of Business:**29513 US HWY 27TH
MOORE HAVEN, FL 33471**Current Mailing Address:**29513 US HIGHWAY 27TH
MOORE HAVEN, FL 33471 US**FEI Number:** 20-4902083**Certificate of Status Desired:** Yes**Name and Address of Current Registered Agent:**GARCIA, ROSIALBA
29513 US HIGHWAY 27TH
MOORE HAVEN, FL 33471 US*The above named entity submits this statement for the purpose of changing its registered office or registered agent, or both, in the State of Florida.***SIGNATURE:**

Electronic Signature of Registered Agent

Date

Officer/Director Detail :

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Title | P |
| Name | GARCIA, ALBERTO |
| Address | 29513 US HIGHWAY 27TH |
| City-State-Zip: | MOORE HAVEN FL 33471 |

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Title | VP |
| Name | GARCIA, ROSIALBA |
| Address | 29513 US HIGHWAY 27TH |
| City-State-Zip: | MOORE HAVEN FL 33471 |

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Title | SECRETARY |
| Name | GARCIA, MAILYN |
| Address | 16923 SW 215 TERR. |
| City-State-Zip: | MIAMI FL 33187 |

I hereby certify that the information indicated on this report or supplemental report is true and accurate and that my electronic signature shall have the same legal effect as if made under oath; that I am an officer or director of the corporation or the receiver or trustee empowered to execute this report as required by Chapter 607, Florida Statutes; and that my name appears above, or on an attachment with all other like empowered.

SIGNATURE: ALBERTO GARCIA**PRESIDENT****05/03/2021**

Electronic Signature of Signing Officer/Director Detail

Date

violations

HUMANE SLAUGHTER PLANT SUSPENSION LIST (1/2008 - 2/2020)

| Plant Name | Plant USDA # | Plant Location | Plant Size* | Date of Suspension(s) | # Days Suspended** |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Gold Medal Packing (cont.) | | | | 3/2/2018 | **** |
| Graham's Organic Meat | 27435M | Rosebush, MI | Very Small | 9/6/2013 | <1 |
| | | | | 9/24/2015 | 1 |
| Grand Isle Meat Packing | *** | Grand Isle, VT | Very Small | 5/5/2016 | 7 |
| | | | | 8/24/2016 | 2 |
| Gray's & Danny's Investments | M40244 | Moore Haven, FL | Very Small | 1/9/2015 | 5 |
| | | | | 4/28/2016 | 5 |
| | | | | 8/14/2017 | **** |
| | | | | 3/13/2018 | 1 |
| | | | | 1/29/2019 | 3 |
| Greater Omaha Packing | 00960M | Omaha, NE | Large | 3/19/2008 | <1 |
| | | | | 4/1/2010 | <1 |
| | | | | 3/24/2011 | <1 |
| | | | | 5/21/2018 | 1 |
| Great Lakes Poultry | 34078M | LaPorte, IN | Very Small | 4/23/2008 | 14 |
| Green Bay Dressed Beef | 00410M | Green Bay, WI | Large | 11/24/2009 | <1 |
| | | | | 9/20/2016 | 1 |
| Grizzly's Custom Cutting | M21554 | Hunt, NY | Very Small | 6/6/2014 | 5 |
| | | | | 8/6/2015 | 4 |
| | | | | 6/20/2016 | 4 |
| | | | | 9/19/2016 | |

past violations



Okeechobee Farms at Gray's & Danny's

[Website](#)

[Directions](#)

[Save](#)

2.0 ★★

[4 Google reviews](#)

Slaughterhouse

Address: 29513 US-27, Moore Haven, FL 33471

Hours: [Open now](#) · [Add full hours](#)

Phone: (561) 225-3073

Okeechobee Farms at Gray's & Danny's

29513 US-27, Moore Haven, FL

[Write a review](#)

2.0 ★★

[4 reviews](#)



CC

9 reviews



2 years ago

Horrible place. Doesn't follow USDA slaughter requirements. Animals not treated well ..disgusting operation.



Like

▼ Search

ys and dannys slaughter house Search

ex: 37.407229, -122.107162

Get Directions History

◀ Back to Google Earth



A Okeechobee Farms at Gray's & Danny's

29513 US-27, Moore Haven, FL 33471
(561) 225-3073 ·
okeechobeefarms.com
★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ 4 reviews



Okeechobee Farms at Gray's & Danny's - Slaughterhouse

29513 US-27
Moore Haven, FL 33471

(561) 225-3073
okeechobeefarms.com

▼ Places

My Places

Day of USDA inspection

740176

| Statement | | DATE | TERMS |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| TO | | 1-14-22 | |
| Robert Perez | | | |
| 2948 84 St. | | | |
| N Moore Haven FL. | | | |
| IN ACCOUNT WITH | | | |
| GRAY'S & DANNY'S | | | |
| INVESTMENT, INC. | | | |
| MEAT SLAUGHTER & PROCESSING PLANT | | | |
| (USDA INSP. EST. # M 40244) | | | |
| 29513 US HWY 27 | | | |
| MOORE HAVEN, FL 33471 | | | |
| 1 CK Goat | | | \$ 420.00 |
| PAID. | | | |
| CURRENT | OVER 30 DAYS | OVER 60 DAYS | TOTAL AMOUNT |
| | | | \$ 420.00 |

GRAY'S AND DANNY'S

(/)

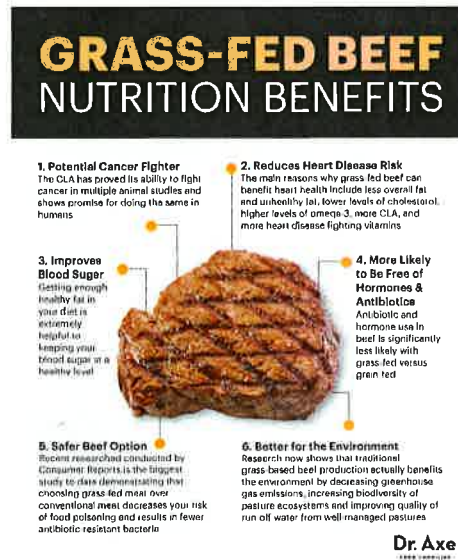
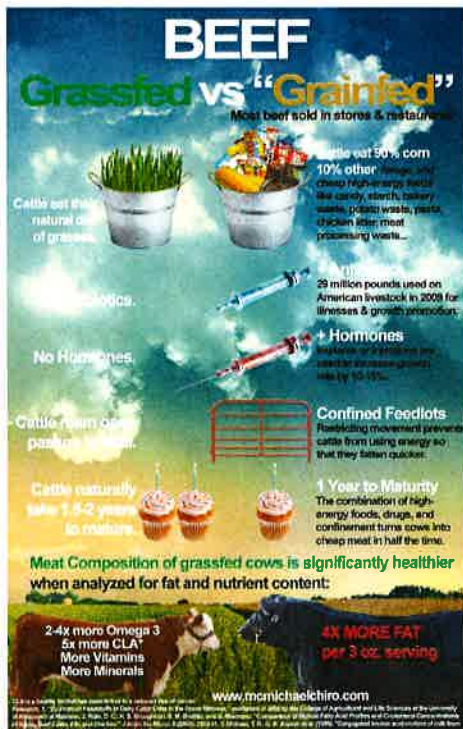
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MENU (/#MENU-SECTION) ORDER (/#RESERVATIONS-SECTION)

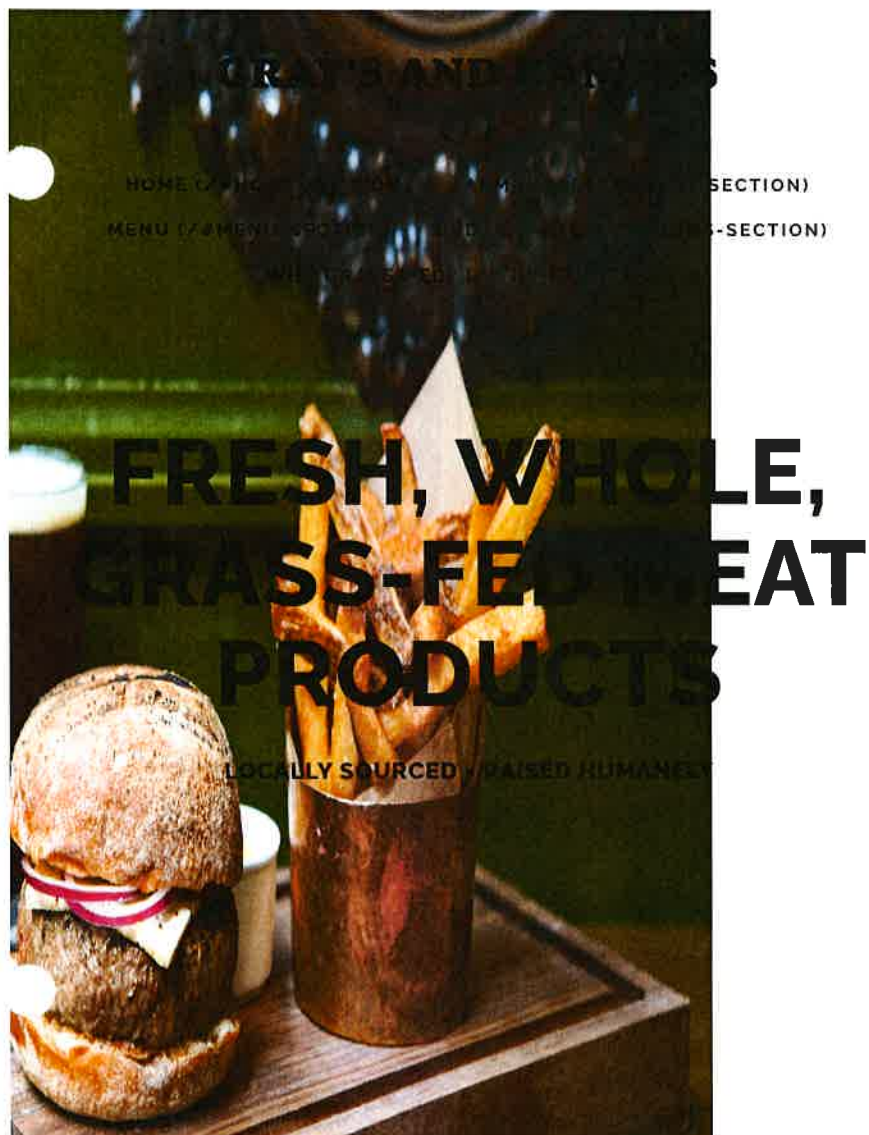
WHY GRASS-FED? (/WHY-GRASSFED)

13 GRASS-FED BEEF NUTRITION HEALTH BENEFITS

There are many benefits to choosing **Grass-Fed Beef over Grain-Fed** and it all starts with making a conscious choice to take your health into your own hands. Check out these top 13 Grass-Fed Beef Nutritional Health Benefits to learn more:



Source: <https://draxe.com/grass-fed-beef-nutrition/> (<https://draxe.com/grass-fed-beef-nutrition/>)



Located in Moore Haven, FL, Gray's and Danny's is a leader in grass-fed, and humanely raised meat products.

PHONE

Cell: (786) 367-1877

Cell: (305)-219-1280

Office: (863)-946-0936

LOCATION

29513 US Highway
27th
Moore Haven, FL
33471

HOURS

Since June 2011, Gray's and Danny's prides themselves on the belief and mission to bring fresh, grass fed, humanely raised, local farm to table, products to the state of Florida. People deserve to know how their products are being raised and deserve to eat food that is created in their best interest. Gray's and Danny's is a USDA inspected meat processing plant owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Garcia, two people who truly care about others and strive

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Title | Chapter 828 | View Entire |
| XLVI | ANIMALS: CRUELTY; SALES; ANIMAL ENTERPRISE | Chapter |
| CRIMES | PROTECTION | |

828.24 Prohibited acts; exemption.—

- (1) No person shall kill an animal in any way except by an approved humane method.
- (2) No person shall shackle or hoist with intent to kill any animal prior to rendering the animal insensitive to pain.
- (3) Nothing in this section precludes the enforcement of s. [828.12](#) relating to cruelty to animals.

History.—s. 1, ch. 61-254; ss. 14, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 241, ch. 77-104; s. 39, ch. 2001-279; s. 2, ch. 2002-51.

The 2017 Florida Statutes

Title
XLVI
CRIMES

Chapter 828
ANIMALS: CRUELTY; SALES; ANIMAL ENTERPRISE
PROTECTION

View Entire
Chapter

828.12 Cruelty to animals.—

(1) A person who unnecessarily overloads, overdrives, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance or shelter, or unnecessarily mutilates, or kills any animal, or causes the same to be done, or carries in or upon any vehicle, or otherwise, any animal in a cruel or inhumane manner, commits animal cruelty, a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both.

(2) A person who intentionally commits an act to any animal, or a person who owns or has the custody or control of any animal and fails to act, which results in the cruel death, or excessive or repeated infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering, or causes the same to be done, commits aggravated animal cruelty, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) or by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

(a) A person convicted of a violation of this subsection, where the finder of fact determines that the violation includes the knowing and intentional torture or torment of an animal that injures, mutilates, or kills the animal, shall be ordered to pay a minimum mandatory fine of \$2,500 and undergo psychological counseling or complete an anger management treatment program.

(b) A person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of this subsection shall be required to pay a minimum mandatory fine of \$5,000 and serve a minimum mandatory period of incarceration of 6 months. In addition, the person shall be released only upon expiration of sentence, is not eligible for parole, control release, or any form of early release, and must serve 100 percent of the court-imposed sentence. Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for purposes of this subsection.

(3) A person who commits multiple acts of animal cruelty or aggravated animal cruelty against an animal may be charged with a separate offense for each such act. A person who commits animal cruelty or aggravated animal cruelty against more than one animal may be charged with a separate offense for each animal such cruelty was committed upon.

(4) A veterinarian licensed to practice in the state shall be held harmless from either criminal or civil liability for any decisions made or services rendered under the provisions of this section. Such a veterinarian is, therefore, under this subsection, immune from a lawsuit for his or her part in an investigation of cruelty to animals.

(5) A person who intentionally trips, fells, ropes, or lassos the legs of a horse by any means for the purpose of entertainment or sport shall be guilty of a third degree felony, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#). As used in this subsection, “trip” means any act that consists of the use of any wire, pole, stick, rope, or other apparatus to cause a horse to fall or lose its balance, and “horse” means any animal of any registered breed of the genus *Equus*, or any recognized hybrid thereof. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply when tripping is used:

828.125 Killing or aggravated abuse of horses or cattle; offenses; penalties.—Any other provisions of this chapter to the contrary notwithstanding:

(1) Any person who willfully and unlawfully, by any means whatsoever, kills, maims, mutilates or causes great bodily harm or permanent breeding disability to any animal of the genus *Equus* (horse) or any animal of any registered breed or recognized registered hybrid of the genus *Bos* (cattle) commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, except that any person who commits a violation of this subsection shall be sentenced to a minimum mandatory fine of \$3,500 and a minimum mandatory period of incarceration of 1 year.

(2) Any person who individually attempts or solicits, or jointly agrees, conspires, combines, or confederates with another person to commit, any act prohibited by subsection (1) and does an act in furtherance of said attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy shall be guilty of a felony of the second degree and is punishable as if the person or persons had actually committed such prohibited act as enumerated in subsection (1), notwithstanding any provisions found in s. 777.04. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit separate convictions and sentences for a violation of this subsection and any violation of subsection (1).

(3) Any person who verbally or in writing threatens to commit any act prohibited by subsection (1), and has the apparent ability to carry out such threat and places the owner or custodian of said animal in fear that such an act as described in subsection (1) is about to take place shall be guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082, s. 775.083 or s. 775.084.

(4) In addition to any other fines or penalties authorized by law, a person found guilty of violating any provision of subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (3) may be ordered by the court to make restitution to the aggrieved party in an amount not to exceed twice the gross fair market value of the said *Equus* or *Bos* killed or abused in an aggravated manner, or up to twice the gross loss caused, whichever is greater, plus attorney's fees and any and all related costs. Upon notice the court shall hold a hearing to determine the amount of fines, restitution, or costs to be imposed under this section, if not agreed upon by the parties.

(5) This section shall not be construed to abridge, impede, prohibit, or otherwise interfere in any way with the application, implementation, or conduct of recognized livestock husbandry practices or techniques by or at the direction of the owner of the livestock so husbanded; nor shall any person be held culpable for any act prohibited by this chapter which results from weather conditions or other acts of God, providing that the person is in compliance with recognized livestock husbandry practices.

History.—s. 1, ch. 86-14; s. 42, ch. 91-110; s. 28, ch. 99-391; s. 5, ch. 2010-87.

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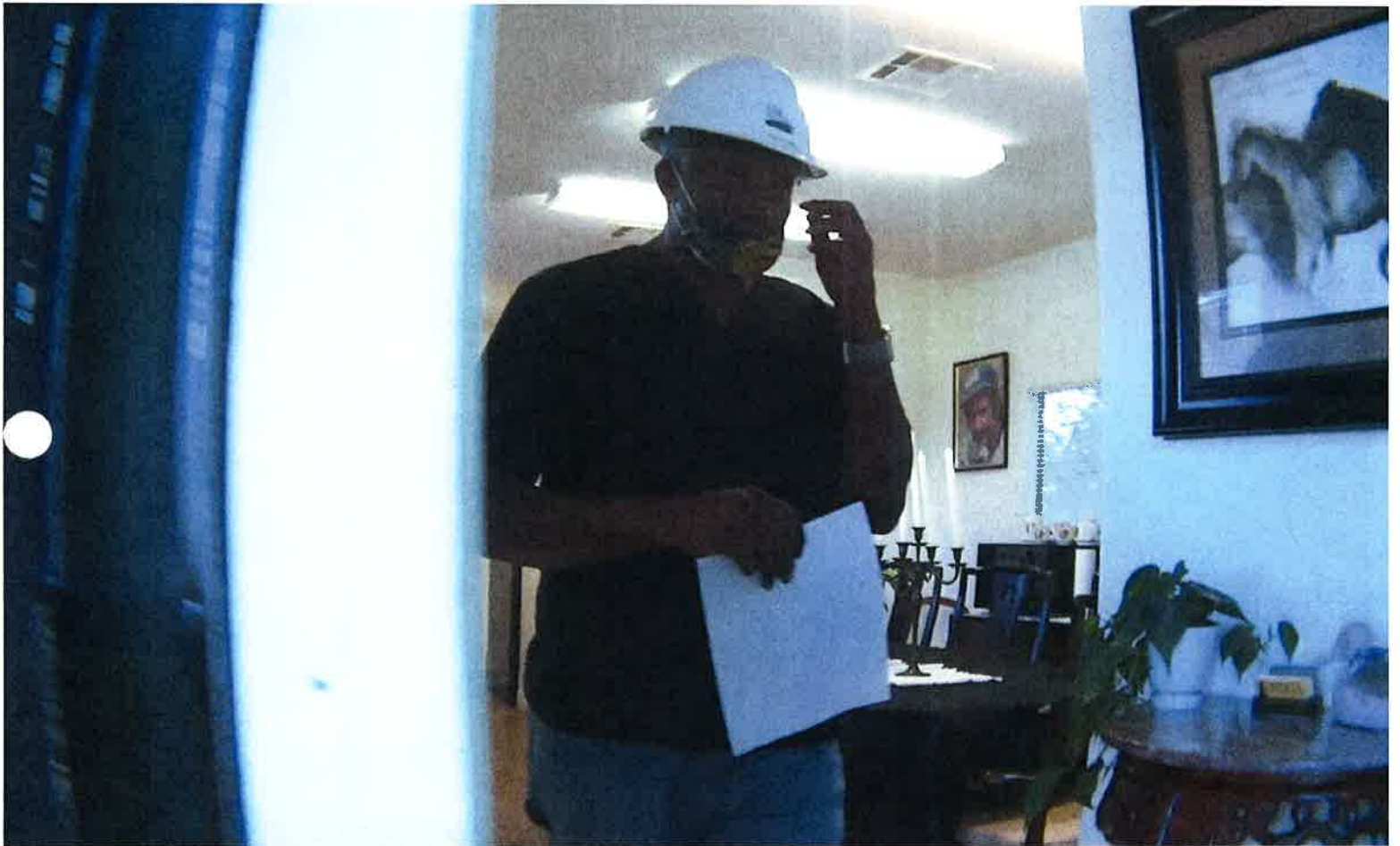


Killer
(worker)





USDA Inspector



USDA (FSIS) on site



Killer
(worker)



Killer
(Warder)



Killer
(worker)



Killer
(worker)



Killer
(Worker)

PHOTOGRAPHS





