

## St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office Launches Multiple-Agency Raid of Illegal Animal Slaughter Farm.



FT. PIERCE, FLORIDA, FEBRUARY 14th, 2024. **HAPPENING NOW.** The St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, along with a task force of County, State, and Federal Agencies, and Animal Recovery Mission (ARM), are on the ground executing a raid and animal rescue operation of an illegal animal slaughter farm located at 200 Godwin Road, Fort Pierce, Florida, 34945. A press conference will be held by ARM at 2 pm at the illegal slaughter farm.

The multiple agency tactical strike is a result of a six-month-long undercover investigation conducted by ARM who obtained undercover video footage of violent, criminal acts against animals that are in clear violation of the Humane Slaughter Act, where animals are killed without being rendered insensible to pain prior to being butchered and sold for human consumption.

Footage collected by ARM revealed conscious goats hoisted upside down, their throats slashed and skinned alive, alert and reactive pigs pinned down and stabbed in the heart multiple times, and evidence consistent with animal fighting and training operations.

Animals seized from the property, including dogs, cats, pigs, goats, sheep, cows, and birds, are being taken into custody by ARM Sanctuary, where they will be rehabilitated and given lifetime care.

Criminal offenders have been arrested by the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office on felony charges of animal cruelty resulting in death, operating an animal slaughter farm without a license, and other egregious crimes.

*"We are grateful to the Sheriff's Office response for their rapid response in investigating these allegations and welcome the opportunity to collaborate in any way that ensures the welfare of animals in this community is prioritized and crimes against animals are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."* – ARM Founder, Richard 'Kudo' Couto.

**INVESTIGATION EVIDENCE VIDEO: <https://vimeo.com/912059698>**

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