



**animal
wellness
action**

**INVESTIGATIVE
SPECIAL REPORT**

VERSION 1.0 AUGUST 6, 2020

COMMONWEALTH CRUELTY:

AN INVESTIGATION INTO KENTUCKY'S GLOBAL
TRAFFICKING OF FIGHTING ANIMALS

OVERVIEW

Based on a weeks-long investigation assembled from a range of source materials and documented in this report, Animal Wellness Action has determined Kentucky is one of the centers of cockfighting in the United States. While it is apparent that there are still major pits and other fighting venues in Kentucky, it's also clear that the state is a major launching point for the shipment of fighting birds to Mexico, the Philippines, and other cockfighting venues across the world. These individuals below are suspected of collectively selling tens of thousands of fighting animals a year to other jurisdictions and profiting in the millions off those allegedly illegal sales. Dink Fair Gamefarm, apparently run by Albert Dink in Smithfield, is one of the largest gamecock farms we've discovered in the United States. Chris Copas, of Bowling Green, described his participation in cockfighting at the World Slashers Cup Derby in the Philippines earlier this year. He stated that he won 2nd place and appeared on the cover of a cockfighting industry journal.

Kentucky has long been a hotbed of cockfighting, partly because of tolerance for the activity from key lawmakers and even law enforcement. The late U.S. Senator Wendell Ford of Kentucky is widely viewed as the architect of a loophole in the original 1976 anti-animal fighting provision in the Animal Welfare Act, allowing cockfighters to transport birds to any jurisdiction where cockfighting was legal – a provision that remained in effect at the federal level until 2002.

It wasn't until 1974 that the Kentucky General Assembly passed an animal cruelty law that made cockfighting a misdemeanor. But just a few years ago, "under the ruse that a weakening of the law was necessary to deal with a blackbird infestation in Western Kentucky, fowl was omitted from the definition of "animal" in the cruelty law, effectively legalizing cockfighting, according to the [Courier Journal](#). There was dispute about whether Governor John Y. Brown's veto of the measure was timely, and that further muddled the legal status of cockfighting. In 1994, when someone charged with cockfighting challenged the validity of the law, the Kentucky Court of Appeals upheld cockfighting as illegal. Yet, even with that ruling, Kentucky's prohibition on cockfighting is misdemeanor only, and there is no ban on training or possessing fighting animals, being a spectator at a fighting spectacle, or possessing cockfighting implements.

Key state lawmakers have steadfastly opposed efforts to strengthen the law and enable felony prosecutions. In 2014, in his attempt to unseat Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in the Republican primary in Kentucky, former Governor Matt Bevin attended a rally of cockfighters.

He apparently thought he had an opening on this subject because McConnell had supported a provision in the Farm bill to make it a crime to attend or bring a minor to an animal fighting venture. Bevin later claimed not to understand that the people assembled at the venue were cockfighters and he disavowed any support for cockfighting. Yet, during his four-year term, he took no actions to strengthen the law against cockfighting.

Indeed, many states (42) do make cockfighting a felony, and most state statutes ban activities commingled with fighting, such as possessing birds for fighting or being a spectator. But the greatest legal jeopardy they face is federal. The United States bans cockfighting itself everywhere in the country and it also makes a wide range of associated activities a felony.

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 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.

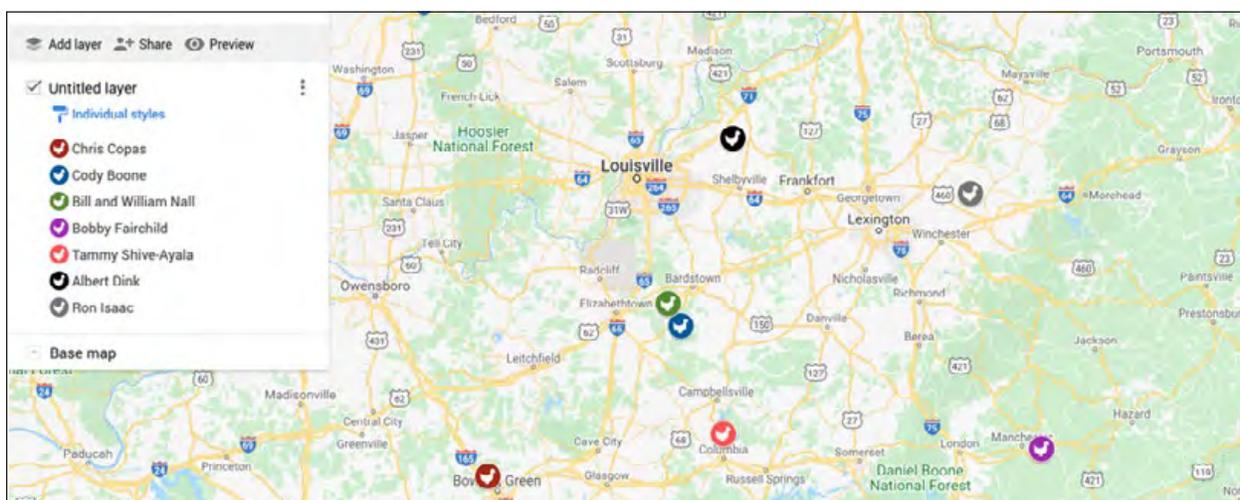
Penalties for each violation of any one of these provisions allows for a maximum of 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for perpetrators, except for an adult attending an animal fighting venture. Penalties for adult attendance are 1 year in prison and a \$5,000 fine. An “animal fighting venture” involves “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.”

Cockfighters have long falsely claimed that “we are only gamefowl breeders,” as if training, possessing, and selling birds for fighting purposes is a legally accepted business strategy. Indeed, it may not be a state crime to breed or possess or ship fighting animals, but it is most certainly a federal crime. Based on our investigation, we have reason to believe that the individuals named in this report are engaged in prohibited activities. We examined satellite images of their farms, captured social media posts and images explicitly demonstrating involvement in illegal animal fighting ventures, mined cockfighting magazines and other primary industry sources, and even obtained video providing tours of their farms and marketing their birds to the Philippines.

We list seven individuals and their farms suspected of illegal cockfighting operations. Four individuals operate from the Western District of Kentucky and three from the Eastern District, as administered by the U.S. Department of Justice. We provided detailed evidence that supports our concerns about their activities.

First Name	Last Name	City / County	District Location
Chris	Copas	Bowling Green/Warren Co	Western (Bowling Green Division)
Cody	Boone	New Haven/Nelson Co	Western (Louisville Division)
Bill & William	Nall	Boston/Nelson Co	Western (Louisville Division)
Tammy	Shive-Ayala	Columbia/Adair Co	Western (Bowling Green Division)
Bobby	Fairchild	Manchester/Clay Co	Eastern (London Division)
Albert	Dink	Smithfield/Henry Co	Eastern (Frankfort Division)
Ron	Isaac	Carlisle/Nicholas Co	Eastern (Lexington Division)



PROFILES



CHRIS COPAS

Kentucky Acres Game Farm,
1194 Price Chapel Rd, Bowling Green, KY

Chris Copas' Picuki Page: [Click here](#)

This page includes pictures and videos of himself purportedly participating in cockfighting at the World Slasher's Cup 2020 in the Philippines - where it's described that he took 2nd place. And in 2019, where he supposedly won the championship. There are also pictures and videos of sparring and breeding and birds for sale.

Business Facebook page for the game farm is set to private: [Click here](#)

Personal Facebook page is set to private: [Click here](#)

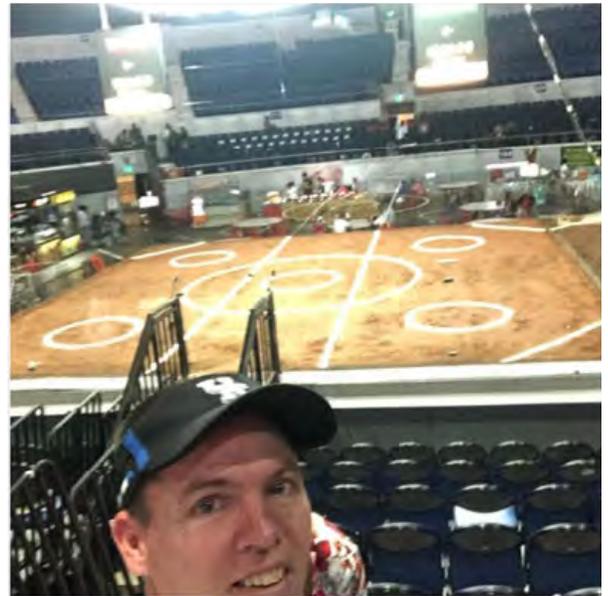


Picture above is a screen shot of his property during an Interview he did on BNTV dated April 8, 2020. BNTV is a cockfighting broadcaster in the Philippines whose hosts tour the U.S showcasing what they consider to be the best gamefowl farms. See Youtube Video: [Click here](#)

CHRIS COPAS (Continued)

Chris describing his participation in cockfighting at the World Slashers Cup 2020 – states that he won 2nd place

- “You went to the Philippines already? – “Yes, I’ve been two times...Davaos and then 2 years ago the World Slasher. And we participated this year in the Pit Master...”
- “Everybody was talking this fight, man you drew rough, you know, you’re into Joe Brown and I said man I know Joe Brown my whole life he lives 30 minutes from me, and he says well this is gonna be, you know, big big fight, lots of money. And I thought man it’s something that I went halfway around the world to fight against another rooster that come maybe thirty miles from here.”
- “What birds was you fighting then?” – “I was fighting yellow legged hatch and kelso...”
- “they’re easier to cull that way...nothing matters but cut, cutting ability, cutting ability, cutting ability, that’s all that matters...”
- “since I’ve been fighting in the Philippines, you know, my good friend Joe Brown down the road...we’ve acquired really good sweaters from them and infuse that with our chickens and that’s a hard combination to beat.”
- “They hit flying sideways. They have the craziest fighting style.”
- “I got a special blend just for the Philippines.”
- “Usually when I fight a 5-cock I’ll probably put up fifteen roosters. You know, usually when I fight a 5-cock I fight two entries so we’ll put up two entries and cull pretty hard from there.”
- “But you spar your birds?” – “oh yeah...maybe twice a week.”
- “That will be your gauge if they’re ready or not?” – “I mean that tells me about where I’m at, you don’t want to have a whole lot really good and a whole lot in the middle and a whole lot at the bottom if that’s the case you need to throw em all out and start over...I want to have a hard decision come fight day.”



@copas_chris

Won 7-lost 2 in the World Slasher Cup we were runners up very respectable score two years in a row



CHRIS COPAS (Continued)



Participation at the World Slasher Cup in 2019 - states he was the champion.



@copas_chris

One of the best feelings of my life 😊

CHRIS COPAS (Continued)



@copas_chris

A few yrs back Ky state championship 🏆

Reportedly participating in cockfighting in KY, unknown date



@copas_chris

Hercules still in Philippines my 2 time WSC winner



@copas_chris

Kelso gone to Mexico

Reportedly shipping and selling birds to other countries to be fought.

CHRIS COPAS (Continued)



@copas_chris

Sweater stag is reaching 😊

Chris stated in his interview that he spars (fights) the birds at least twice a week to gauge their fighting ability.



@copas_chris

Body hitters



@copas_chris

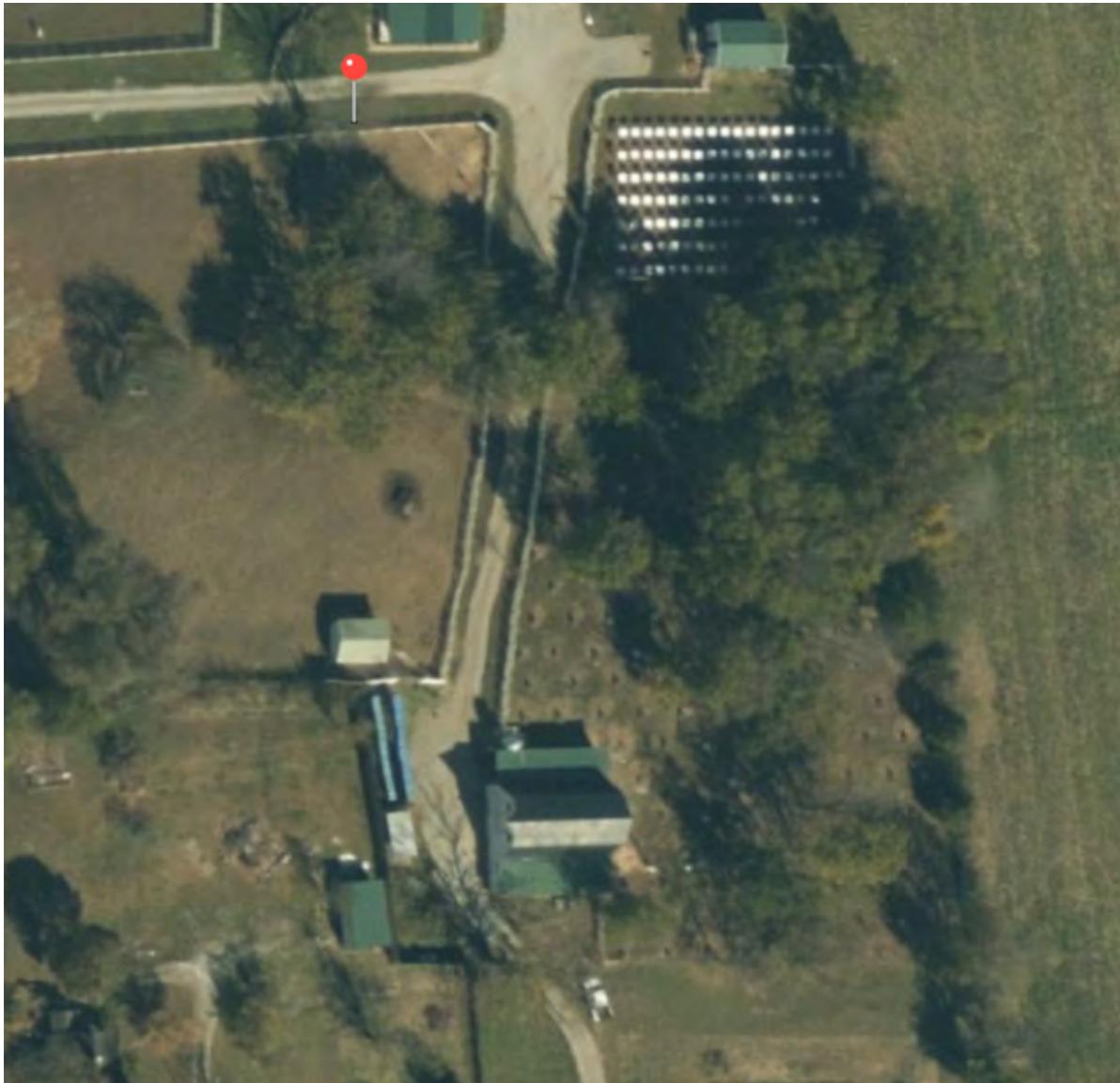
Learning 😊

PROFILES



CODY BOONE

Boone Farms,
3746 New Hope Rd New Haven, Kentucky 40051



Satellite view of Cody Boone's property

CODY BOONE (Continued)



Boone was interviewed on BNTV, a cockfighting broadcaster in the Philippines whose hosts tour the U.S showcasing what they consider to be the best gamefowl farms. [Click here](#)

- "We sell a lot of brood stock to the Philippines."
- "There's a lot of them guys, a lot of guys winning big time." (exporting to Manila)
- "We went to the World Slasher...I had a great time."

Facebook page: [Click here](#)



CODY BOONE (Continued)



Describes using the U.S Postal Service to ship birds.

“Thanks to all the new and repeat customers I’m am SOLD OUT of cocks and stags again this year. We have shipped every week since October with our biggest shipment bing 73 birds at one time. We shipped all over the world including Hawaii, Guam ,Honduras, Philippines, Kansas, Colorado, California, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, New Mexico , Mexico and many more. We still fave a few more shipments in the next few weeks and Still have a few select pullets available.”

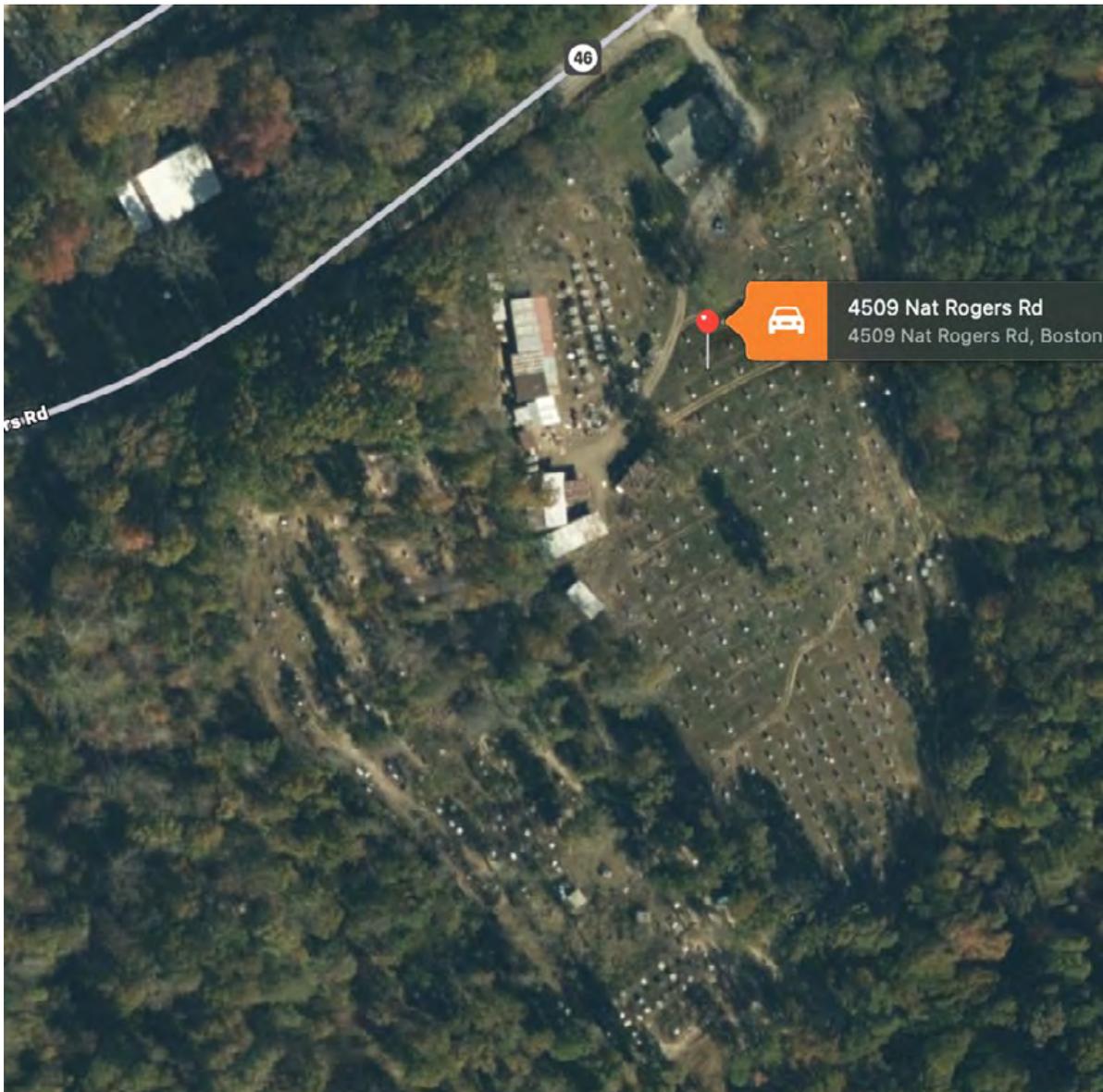


PROFILES



BILL AND WILLIAM NALL
Windy Gamefarm,
4509 Nat Rogers Rd, Boston, KY

Satellite view of his property



BILL AND WILLIAM NALL (Continued)

Interview on BNTV, a cockfighting broadcaster in the Philippines whose hosts tour the U.S showcasing what they consider to be the best gamefowl farms. [Click here](#)



About 700 birds on this gamefarm

- "It's the best sport in the world."
- "We fought 9, won 7. Should have won, really should've won 8..."
- "The sweater blood we have are just good game."
- "Being associated with guys like Boyet Plaza who fights and campaigns in the Philippines, I know that you're now gearing towards the knife brood stocks right." - "...yes they made the grade they're good game and they'll be part of the breeding program."
- "The few we have won better than 78% against tough competition so that's good enough for us. Now, we hadn't won every fight we ever fought with them but they won a bunch of them."
- "You gotta have that hard hitting to put in...now you always got to cut but you got to have the hard lick to go along with it. You all went from two and a half inch knives to four-inch knives (laughs)."
- "They good stag fighters." (stag is a young bird, under a year old)

BILL AND WILLIAM NALL (Continued)

William Nall facebook page: [Click here](#)



William Nall
June 20 · 🌐

👍❤️ 97 19 Comments · 1 Share

🔄 Share

View 6 more comments

Obet Ojo Is that a spurrier Grey sir?
3w

↳ **Obet Ojo** replied · 2 Replies

Joey Sy I once saw one of those Regular Greys in your farm and fell in love with it. So, from afar, I bought it from you to breed in the Philippines. When it arrived, it was too small for my taste and didn't breed it at all. My friend **Boyet Plaza** found out about it and got it from me with a barter. I believe that is one mistake I have been guilty of, as my good buddy is singing praises about it. Apparently, I had Gold in my yard and failed to recognize it, and let it slip away from me!
2w · Edited

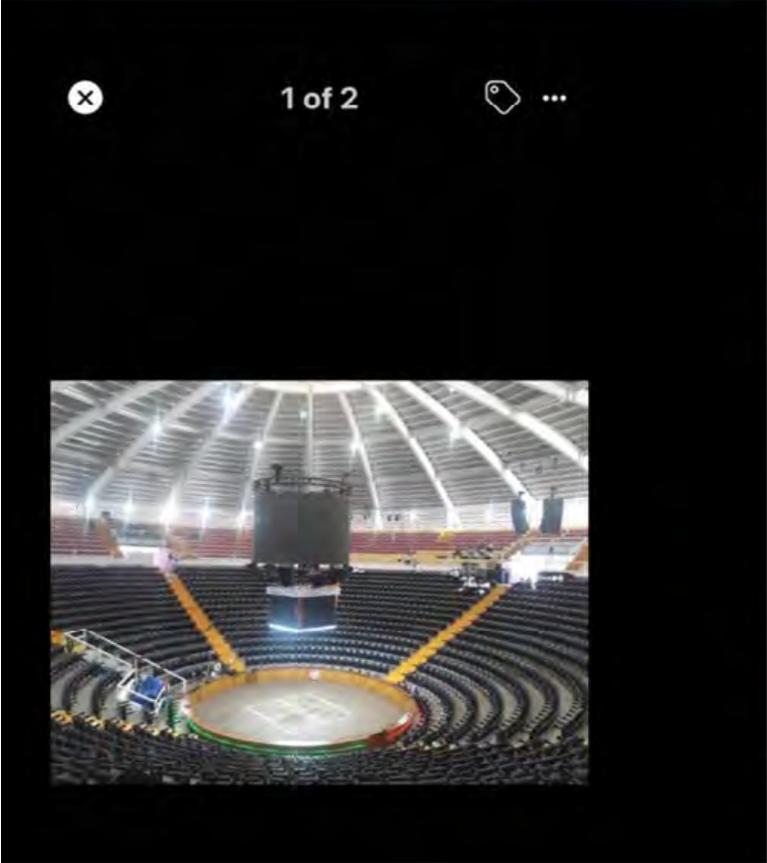
William Nall Joey Sy they are small only as bred pure when crossed the produce good size birds and usually way above average ability. Their cutting ability is above average and they are athletic
2w

Kevin Young If it's what I think it is, over a madigan they made monsters.
2w

William describes his birds "...they are small only as bred pure when crossed the produce good size birds and usually way above average ability. **Their cutting ability** is above average and they are athletic"

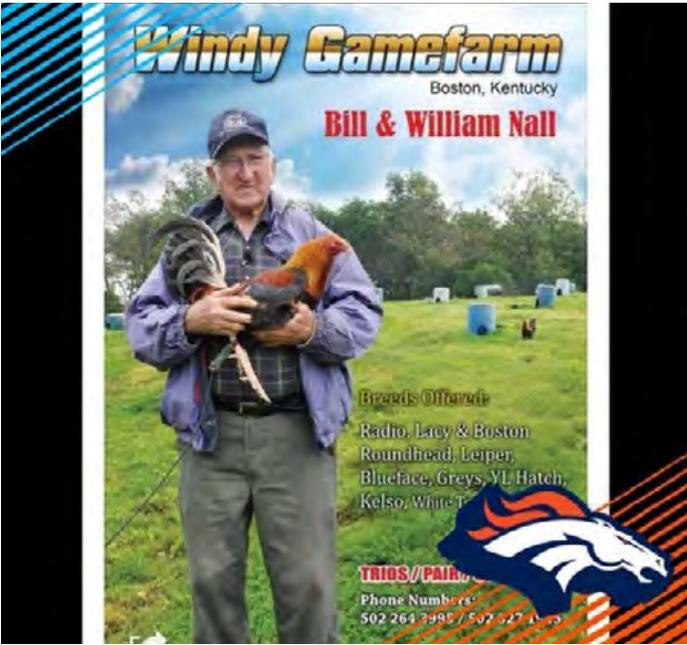
BILL AND WILLIAM NALL (Continued)

Describing a cockfighting arena in Mexico, "Super nice place."



The screenshot shows a Facebook post from William Nall, dated August 3, 2019. The post features a photograph of a large, modern, domed cockfighting arena with tiered seating and a central fighting pit. The post has 43 reactions (likes and emojis) and 12 comments. The comments include:

- Catalino Abella Resurreccion: "William Nall bro where this at" (49w)
- William Nall: "Catalino Abella Resurreccion mexico" (49w)
- Nestor Pua: "Probably its in Mexico, just a guess?" (49w)
- Victor Inurreta Elizondo: "Our Home sir" (49w)



Windy Gamefarm
Boston, Kentucky
Bill & William Nall

Breeds Offered:
Radio, Lacy & Boston
Roundhead, Leiper,
Blueface, Greys, YL Hatch,
Kelso, White T

TRIPS/PAIN
Phone Numbers:
502 264 7995 / 502 227 1113

PROFILES



BOBBY FAIRCHILD

Clear Creek Game Farm,
10493 Hwy 149 Manchester, KY

Bobby was interviewed on BNTV, a cockfighting broadcaster in the Philippines. This interview also includes Mayor Jesry Palmares of Passi City, Lloilo, Philippines (now the Vice Mayor) who is there to visit Bobby. It's described that Mayor Palmares sponsored Bobby Fairchild's participation in the World Slasher Cup 6 times. It's also described that Mayor Jesry Palmares has been importing and raising birds from Bobby Fairchild's breeding stock for over a dozen years for the purpose of cockfighting. See YouTube Video: [Click here](#)



- "I've had your game fowl through Mayor Jesry Palmares and they been winning for us."
- "For the past 16 or 17 years that I have been breeding these greys and kelso, I have not experienced a bad situation, of course you win you lose."
- "That's the beauty of cockfighting you know, I mean everyone has to strive hard to win."

BOBBY FAIRCHILD (Continued)

Facebook Business page: [Click here](#)



BOBBY FAIRCHILD (Continued)

Interview dated January 2020: [Click here](#)

“Mhar Delaben: Your birds are sought after around the Globe, how do you make sure that they will perform as advertising? What do you do to maintain or exceed your status?”

Bobby Fairchild: Well, for one thing, we never take for granted that they are what they would want. Continuously look for different ways to improve the performance of these purebred warriors. Of course, we do not nor will we participate in illegal cockfights in the United States. I have never been to an illegal cockfight nor do I intend to, but we keep up with the things that our customers are looking for and we check on the performance to make sure that our friends and customers continue to reap the results that they have always reaped and we stay as close to the solid foundation as we can.”

“Mhar Delaben: Have you tried competing in the Philippines? (What are your experience)”

Bobby Fairchild: Yes, we have completed a few times with our friend Jessery Palmaris, Jessery has brought me to the Philippines more than once, treated me with the utmost respect and has come to be a true friend. I look forward to the day that I get to see Jessery again probably on Filipino soil, Jessery and I have had very good success. At the world slasher cup as well as the Candelaria, we haven't won them yet together but I see it will happen. We've always been a very strong force.”

“Mhar Delaben: Would you name some Breeders in the Philippines that were using your birds in their campaign?”

Bobby Fairchild: Well, I will name a few of them but some of the big-name breeders like to keep their secrets since they spent good money in the fowl that they have. My number one customer in the Philippines and always been is Jessery Palmaris.”

Image from Bobby Fairchild's Interview in Purebreadwarrior.com



BOBBY FAIRCHILD (Continued)



#digitalmagazine #purebredwarrior
#bobbyfairchild... please visit our
youtubechannel to know more about

♡ 53 💬 4 🕒 14 January, 2020

Bobby states that he uses Domi Corpus, a broker in CA, to ship to the Philippines.

February 2020: [Visit Facebook Video](#)

 **CLEAR CREEK FARM - Bobby Fairchild** · Follow
February 23 · 🌐

If you are waiting on Domi to send your chickens to the Philippines from me Bobby Fairchild - clear creek farm "" please contact Domi immediately



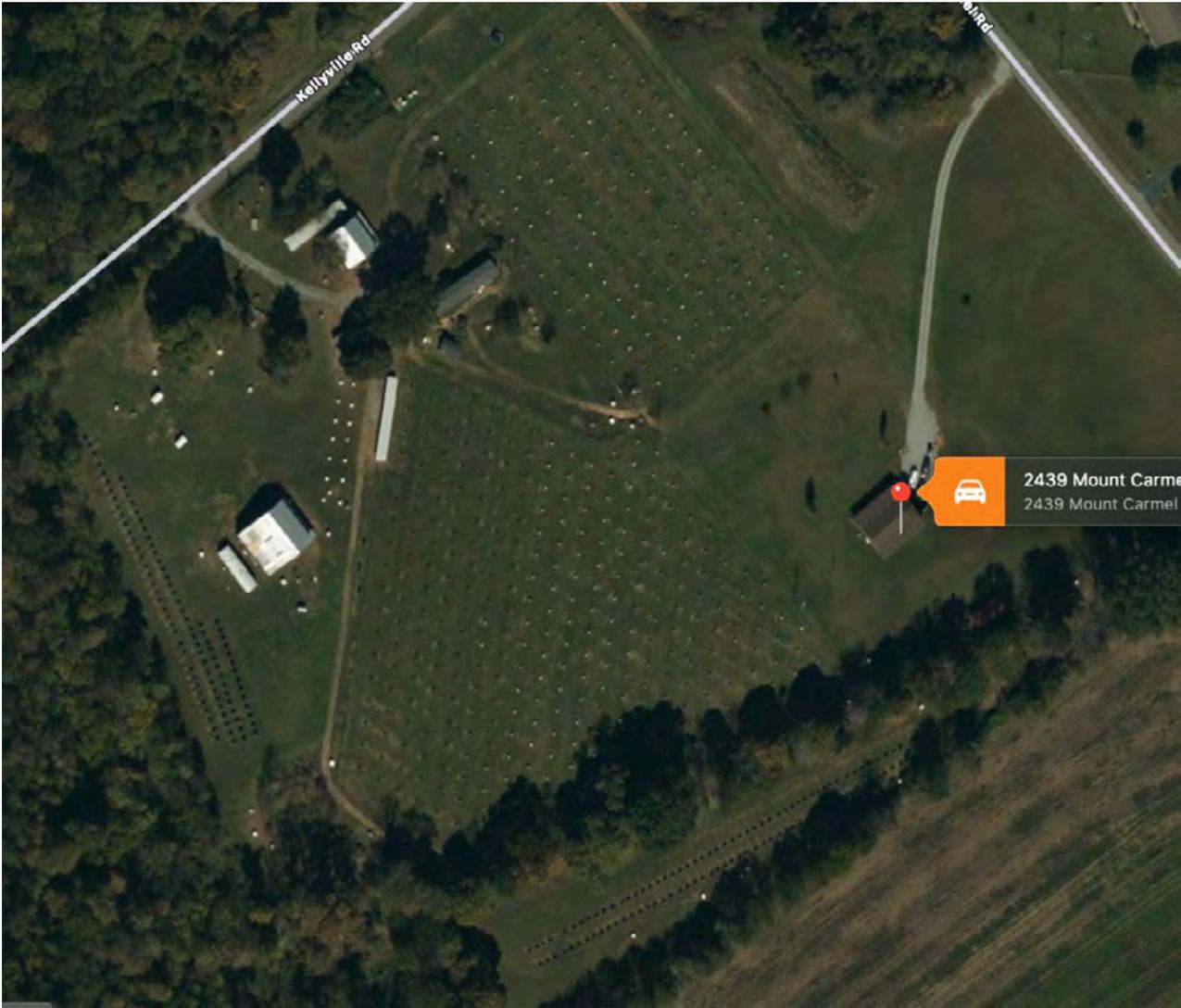
The video player shows a man, Bobby Fairchild, wearing a purple patterned shirt and a baseball cap, speaking directly to the camera. The video player interface includes a play button, a progress bar, and a timestamp of -1:19.

PROFILES



TAMMY SHIVE-AYALA
Green River Game Farm,
2439 Mount Carmel Rd, Columbia, KY
Phone: (270) 250-1098

Satellite view of her property.



TAMMY SHIVE-AYALA (Continued)



Mateo Bueno

January 22, 2016 · 🌐



TAMMY SHIVE
Green River
GAMEFARM

Price List:

- Pure Trios \$1550.00**
- Pure Stags or Cocks from 8-24 Months \$850.00**
- Pure Pullets or Hens \$350.00**
- Cross Stags \$300.00**
- Cross Cocks \$350.00**
- Cross Pullets \$250.00**

Includes:

- Richard Bates Hatch
- Sweater
- Johnnie Jumper Radio
- Stewart Yellow-Legged Hatch

PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING INSIDE THE USA - EXCLUDING HAWAII.
 ALL FOWLS SOLD FOR BREEDING PURPOSES ONLY.
 I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY FOWLS UNLESS THEY'RE PURCHASED DIRECTLY FROM ME. - TAMMY SHIVE AYALA

KENTUCKY, U.S.A. - TEL. NO. 001-270-250-1098

Green River Gamefarm Magazine.

Revista Gallo Club

January 22, 2016 · 🌐



Las mejores líneas de sangre de la actualidad, Green River Game Farm by Tammy Shive.

Nota: El Sr. Xavier Rodriguez no tiene nada que ver con Green River Game Farm o con Tammy Shive.

TAMMY SHIVE-AYALA (Continued)

Tammy was interviewed at her property on BNTV, a cockfighting broadcaster in the Philippines whose hosts tour the U.S showcasing what they consider to be the best gamefowl farms. See YouTube video: [Click here](#)



2019 TAMMY SHIVE AYALA

- “Unlike the Philippines, we don’t have the luxury of cheap labor here so we do a lot. This is a family run business and we work seven days a week.”
- “It’s not easy to maintain in-bred families for years, you know.”

TAMMY SHIVE-AYALA (Continued)

Another video Tammy interviewed in:

Part 1: [Click here](#)

Part 2: [Click here](#)



- "I've been involved in the sport for 31 years."
- "I married a man in 1990 and he fights the roosters and we really enjoyed it and he got me involved in it."
- "I was intrigued by their ability to fight to the death for no other reason than gameness."
- "The closest thing to our roosters is our military, our young men and women that died for our country and for our rights and our freedoms."
- "We send to breeders all over the world, Philippines, Guam, Mexico, Vietnam, Hawaii, everywhere, they go all over."
- "I fought in Sunset. I fought in Bayou Club....they were what I felt like I needed to maintain." (winning bloodlines)
- "We make a living off of it."
- "I got a lot of customers, I've got books full of customers."

PROFILES



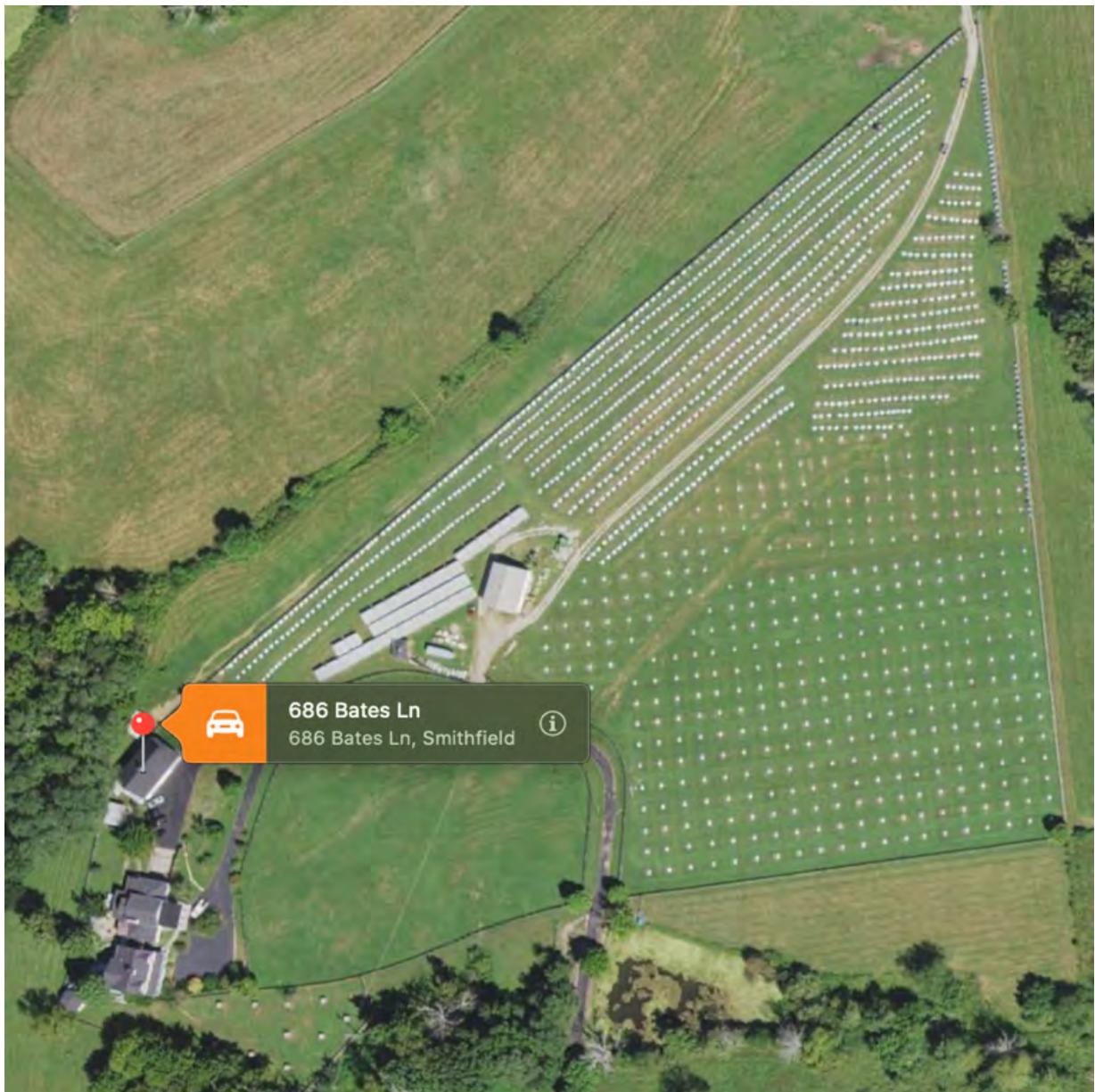
ALBERT DINK

Dink Fair Gamefarm,
686 Bates Lane, Smithfield, KY
Phone: (918) 822-0204

Business Facebook page for Dink Gamefarm's: [Click here](#)

Personal Facebook page: [Click here](#)

Satellite view of his property.



ALBERT DINK (Continued)

In this You Tube video by Pit Games TV, Dink Fair is in the Philippines at a gathering where he is being celebrated as a “legendary breeder”. [Click here for video.](#)



- A cockfighter at the celebration states, “I’m a hardcore breeder of doms of bulik and crossing the dom to some dink fair sweaters helped me win some derbies.”
- Another states, “And the bloodlines of Mr. Dink Fair has a very high winning percentage.”
- Dink says, “With good products, good breeding, good culling and good chickens and then you’ll be on your way to winning.” (standing in front of various medical products and supplements for sale)

ALBERT DINK (Continued)

Interview describing his history in participating in cockfighting, inbreeding and training and winning derbies: [Click here for video](#)



- "...we were winning lots of derbies..."
- "My dream was to become a good breeder."
- "Breeding is such a hard aspect of the game."

ALBERT DINK (Continued)

Dink describing how he inbreeds his roosters successfully and what makes a bird a winner:

[Click here for video.](#)



- "Confirmation just don't win the fights...number one is cutting ability, number two is timing, great timing and then you got defense and offense."
- "Chickens have been very good for me, I've raised my family, put my kids through college."

ALBERT DINK (Continued)

Dink describes his various bloodlines and how they win:

[Click here for video](#)



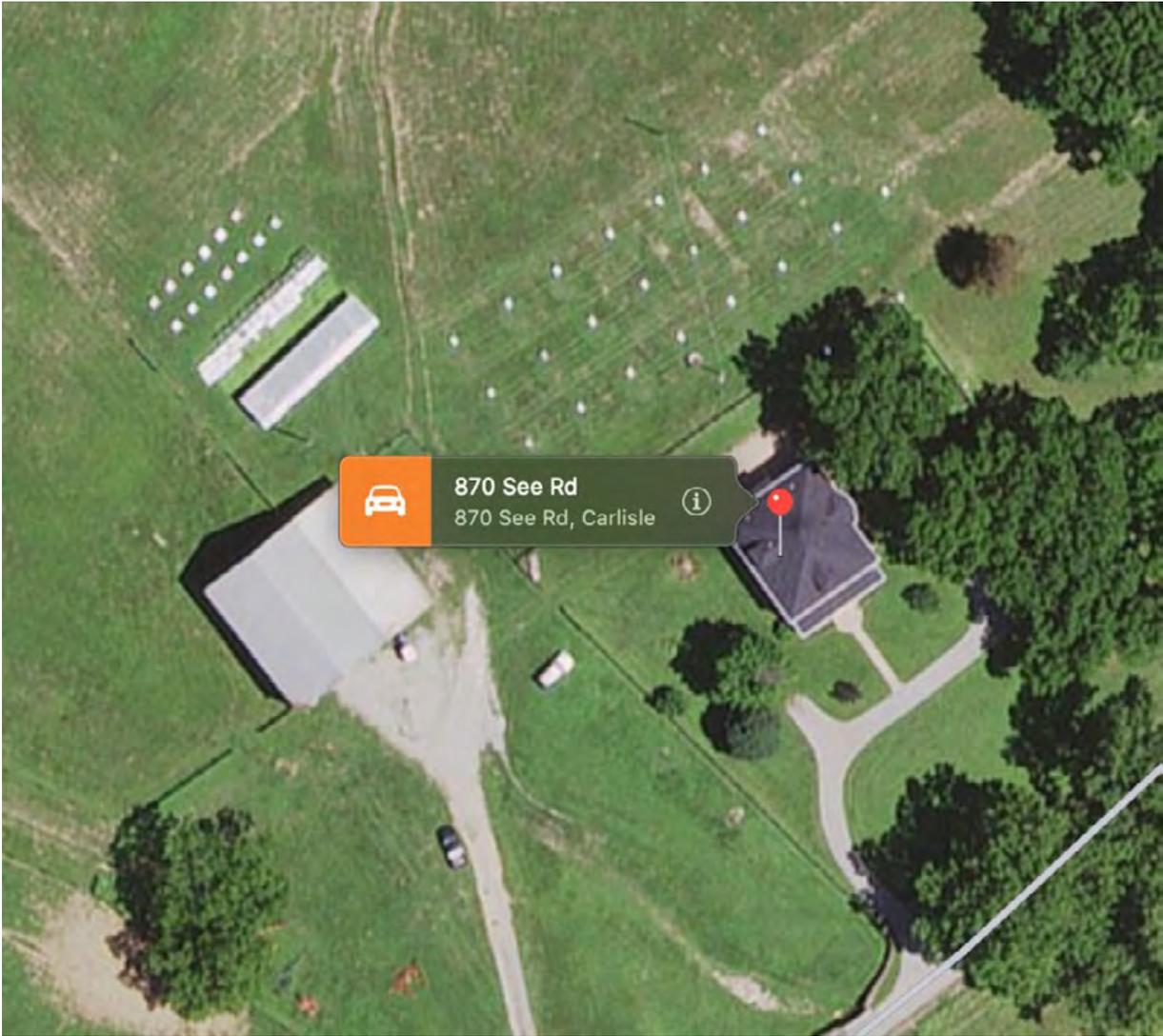
- “They have infighting, mine want to be vicious on the infighting on the ground, yet they still have good outside qualities like breaking and timing.”
- “...pretty good power, pretty deliberate hitters.” (on the albanys he raises)

PROFILES



RON ISAAC
870 See Rd, Carlisle, KY

Satellite view of his property.



RON ISAAC (Continued)

Ron was interviewed on BNTV, a cockfighting broadcaster in the Philippines whose hosts tour the U.S showcasing what they consider to be the best gamefowl farms. [Click here for video](#)



- “I don’t care how far away from the law it gets.”

Article from 2019 explains that he breeds birds for export – the purpose is for cockfighting: [Click here](#) to read article.

- “The striking images of poultry that decorate the stairways and hallways are a nod to Ron’s hobby - he breeds fighting cocks. And although this throwback to the pre-civil war south is now banned in the US, his birds find a welcome home in the Philippines where they fetch a good price.”



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foundation

Marty Irby

Executive Director, Animal Wellness Action

Email: Marty@AnimalWellnessAction.org

Phone: (202) 821-5686