

animal
wellness
action

The Texoma Cockfighting Corridor



**WIDESPREAD ILLEGAL CONDUCT AND ASSOCIATED CRIMES IN CRIMINAL
NETWORK SPAN REMOTE REACHES BETWEEN TULSA AND DALLAS**

I. SUMMARY

The Texoma Cockfighting Corridor (the “Corridor”) is a hub for illegal cockfighting operators, with fighting pits and hundreds of gamecock farms stretching from the outskirts of Tulsa to the Dallas metroplex. Even though cockfighting is illegal in Oklahoma and Texas, the region has become a hub for underground operations — arguably with one of the highest concentrations in the nation, rivaled only by Hawaii, the Texas and California border regions, northern Alabama, and eastern Kentucky.

Animal Wellness Action, the Center for a Humane Economy and Showing Animals Respect and Kindness (SHARK) have conducted investigations across this area of eastern Oklahoma and northeast Texas over the past five years and documented an extraordinary cockfighting footprint. Until recently, these lawless individuals operated openly and without consequence—brought to light only through the efforts of Animal Wellness Action and SHARK, which exposed their activities and reported them to law enforcement.

It is also an area that incubated politically active cockfighters who brazenly raised their heads and took on the task of organizing cockfighters to attempt to legalize staged animal fights. Three years ago, Anthony Devore and Blake Pearce — who hail from multi-generational cockfighting families in eastern Oklahoma — formed the Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission and a related political action committee to decriminalize the practice of cockfighting.

They subsequently worked with allies in Texas and a half dozen other states to establish parallel political organizations to challenge other state laws against animal fighting, stitching together a convoluted narrative that they wished only to legalize possession and sales of gamefowl as well as to weaken penalties for animal fighting. They claimed they are criminal-justice advocates and don’t believe people should go to jail for fighting chickens.

Cockfighting pits in this region are often hidden in remote barns or wooded areas and are typically connected to expansive gamefowl farms that breed and train birds for fighting. The operators of these farms, some with thousands of roosters tethered outdoors, openly deny involvement in illegal activities while selling birds for up to \$2,000 each. Cockfighting enthusiasts also breed and train and then export tens of thousands of roosters to Guam, Mexico, the Philippines, and other nations, despite federal laws banning such shipments. In 2025, our investigators discovered the operations of a company outside of Dallas — deceptively named the North Texas Livestock Shipping Company — that specializes in trafficking fighting birds to the Philippines. The operators appear mainly to use Korean Airlines to move the birds to Asia’s biggest hub for staged animal fighting.

The practice of illegal cockfighting has deep roots in southeastern Oklahoma and northeastern Texas, reinforced by recent immigration from countries where staged fighting remains legal. For some rural communities, the illicit trade provides significant income for a few, with individual derbies generating tens of thousands of dollars through entry fees, betting, and bird sales.

Political front groups, such as the Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission and the Texas Gamefowl Breeders Association, attempt to shield cockfighters by lobbying for legalization, intimidating law enforcement, and funneling money into local politics.

In September 2025, the Oklahoma Ethics Commission ordered the Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission to cease operations for at least two years and fined the organization \$10,000. The Ethics Commission found gross violations of campaign finance laws, and Animal Wellness Action and SHARK had discovered that Anthony Devore and Blake Pearce, the leaders of the Commission, had been raising money for its political action committee by auctioning birds — a felony under federal law and a felony in Oklahoma.

The Gamefowl Commission also failed to report names of donors, exceeded contribution limits, and made a hash of state law. Concomitantly, McIntosh County law enforcement arrested Devore and Pearce for illegal animal fighting activities after an undercover investigator with Animal Wellness Action recorded them at an illegal fighting derby. Since their arrival on the political scene, and their advocacy for legislation in Oklahoma City to gut the state's anti-cockfighting law, Devore and Pearce had claimed that they were not cockfighters and never engaged in illegal activities. Their trials, which will showcase their knowing deceptions, should begin late in 2025.

For the past three years, Devore and Pearce pushed the introduction of more than a dozen pro-cockfighting bills at the state Capitol after lavishing a set of rural lawmakers with political donations, made public endorsements, and worked closely with Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt on the issues. Animal Wellness Action argued to lawmakers that these were just decriminalization bills and that the proponents were seeking to clear a path for their illegal conduct. State lawmakers turned back these bills, but Governor Stitt appeared [in a video](#) at a cockfighters' convention and lauded their work. He was forced to backpedal after Animal Wellness Action obtained footage of the meeting, exposing it as a cockfighting conclave.

Oklahoma has strong penalties for a range of cockfighting activities, with felony charges punishable by up to 10 years in prison and fines of up to \$25,000 for certain offenses. But enforcement has been weak and often undermined by political interference, prosecutorial leniency, or local corruption. Tribal jurisdiction further complicates enforcement. Texas law enforcement, though sheriffs deal with a weaker, less comprehensive statute, has been more robust in interdicting illegal animal fighting operations and holding the cockfighters accountable. The number of recent arrests in Texas has been eye-catching, and they are detailed in this report.

From 2023–2025, due to the work of the organizations that have published this report, both states have seen a major uptick in enforcement actions, with arrests of perpetrators and thousands of birds seized. Tim Thompson's arrest in Titus County, where he maintained a massive cockfighting complex, was a particularly noteworthy enforcement action. Yet, in Oklahoma, enforcement actions were followed by flaccid prosecutions, with light penalties not serving the function of deterring future crimes from hardened cockfighting recidivists. In contrast, Texas sheriffs have pursued more aggressive action, including undercover investigations, helicopter-assisted raids, and the arrest of key operators.

The Corridor remains America's primary hub of illegal cockfighting, sustained by profits, spotty enforcement, and organized criminal backing. While recent investigations and public exposure have pressured authorities, there is need for stronger and more consistent law enforcement action — at local, state, tribal, and federal levels. That action is the only path to dismantling a massive cockfighting criminal network that involves thousands of participants and dozens of ringleaders for these crimes of violence, which are often bound with a wide range of other illicit conduct that degrades the safety of communities from Tulsa to Dallas.

II. INTRODUCTION

Many illicit fighting rooster operations (gamefowl farms) and cockfighting pits are concentrated in southeast Oklahoma and northeast Texas. Known as the Texoma Cockfighting Corridor (the Corridor), it stretches from Tulsa to Dallas. A recent series of cockfighting investigations and busts in 2025 by Animal Wellness Action, the Center for a Humane Economy, and Showing Animals Respect and Kindness (SHARK) have highlighted the need for more law enforcement action in the region as well as strengthened laws.

While Texas outlawed cockfighting more than a century ago, it was geographically surrounded by the last legal enclaves of cockfighting. Mexico still lacks a national law to outlaw cockfighting, and the border with Texas is immense and has proved very difficult to police, with significant commerce flowing across the Rio Grande. The Mexican states bordering Texas are Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, and Chihuahua, with only Coahuila outlawing cockfighting.

Three states surrounding Texas were the last domains for legal cockfighting in the United States, allowing cockfighting into the 21st century. Oklahoma only banned cockfighting in 2002, with voters approving a ballot measure. In 2007, state lawmakers in New Mexico and Louisiana finally passed legislation to outlaw cockfighting, but implementation of the ban was postponed a full year after enactment.

The other state bordering Texas, Arkansas, had a very weak misdemeanor penalty for cockfighting until 2009, when the state adopted a comprehensive felony-level statute. Yet a separate report conducted by Animal Wellness Action shows continuing extensive illegal activity in western Arkansas, near the border of Oklahoma and connected to the Texoma Corridor. In fact, two of the three national monthly subscription cockfighting magazines operated for decades in eastern Arkansas — The Feathered Warrior and The Gamecock. These publications ceased operations only after Congress banned the promotion of cockfighting contraband in 2007 and 2008.

Over decades, cockfighters situated their cockfighting arenas on the borders separating a “legal” state from an “illegal” state, with Texas cockfighters flocking to these enclaves in Oklahoma, Louisiana, and New Mexico. (Gambling was always forbidden at these spectacles but no state authorities ever enforced such bans.)

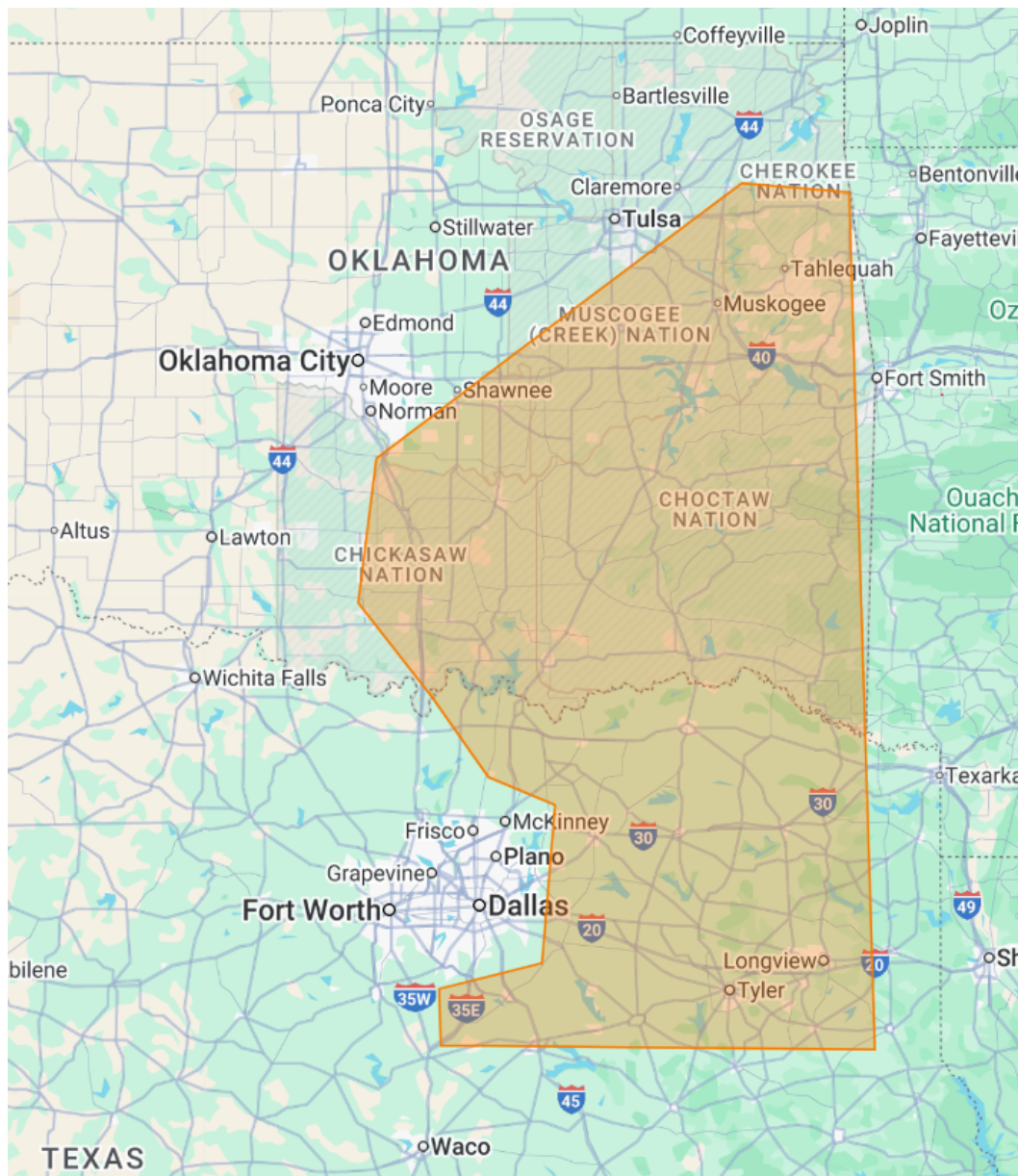
One of the most famous border-pits was the Texoma Game Club on the Oklahoma side of the Red River. The Ark-La-Tex Game Club operated at the intersection of the three states until Oklahoma voters banned the practice at the ballot box. Only recently have Animal Wellness Action, the Center, and SHARK focused on undercover investigations, online research, and other methods to unmask the extent of illegal cockfighting networks in the Texoma Corridor. Our work to document cockfighting derbies in progress and to alert law enforcement has resulted in enforcement actions and stirred media coverage, exposing the presence of fighting pits and breeder’s training operations that most Americans assumed had been handled decades ago. We’ve uncovered ties to Mexican cartels, and each cockfighting bust proves the cluster crime theory, combining the illegal activities of cockfighting, drugs, and guns, illegal gambling, and tax evasion.

Animal Wellness Action has spent five years uncovering cockfighting networks in Oklahoma, but it’s only been in 2025 that Animal Wellness Action and SHARK have found a similarly dense network of illegal fighting operations on the other side of the Red River in Texas. Texas is without doubt the transit point for the brisk illegal trade to Mexico and has very substantial illegal operations across the Lone Star State.

This report exposes a network of multi-million-dollar cockfighting complexes, including operations overseen by convicted criminals such as John Bottoms and Bobby Fairchild and by Tim Thompson, who now faces trial. The report brings to light the illegal trafficking of fighting birds by the North Texas Livestock Shipping Company and pinpoints fighting pits we've discovered in more than a dozen counties in the Texoma region. And it also has tracked marketing videos developed by a Filipino cockfighting network that came to cockfighting complexes to help promote sales to the east Asia cockfighting behemoth. This year, dozens of murders in the Philippines came to light, instances of cockfighter-on-cockfighter violence tied to gambling debts and the rigging of fights. In 2022, Filipino authorities reported more than \$12 billion in wagering on cockfights — known as e-sabong.

Cockfighting Culture

Southeast Oklahoma and northeast Texas were settled by immigrants from Southeastern states where cockfighting was seen as a cultural practice passed through many generations. The recent influx of immigrants from Mexico and other countries where cockfighting may still be legal has added to the numbers of cockfighting enthusiasts.



III. COCKFIGHTING KINGPINS OF THE CORRIDOR

The following are the most egregious, obvious, and largest farms breeding, training, and selling roosters for cockfighting.

JOHN BOTTOMS Gunner Gamefarm

12710 Lovings Road
Heavener, OK 74937

Facebook page

In a two-part, 24-minute interview published by BNTV, a cockfighting video platform based in the Philippines which toured the U.S. to advertise cockfighting birds, John Bottoms describes himself as a long knife cockfighter and handler and admits that he currently makes a living possessing and training birds for the purpose of cockfighting. View Part 1 [here](#) and Part 2 [here](#).

The following passages are direct quotes drawn from the videos. They capture candid remarks about the training of roosters, the types of knives used, and what Bottoms' prizes most in birds during fights. The quotes offer a disturbing window into the mindset and language of individuals engaged in animal fighting.

On success in the pit:

- "Yes sir, we've done very well over the last year's long knife."
- "And that's what we do, you know, pretty much for a living."

On training and preparation:

- "John, what part do you like best..."
 - "Training ... I train roosters for a lot of people."

On what makes a strong fighting bird:

- "... one of the things that I regard most about a gamecock is one that can win when he's hurt, you know. And when you get too much height then it's so hard to balance when he gets and cuts on him."
- "I love a rooster that hits back and can win, you know, because — you know, at the Pit Masters not too many roosters got out clean."
- "So many people think the long knife is one fly ... one of Bruce's roosters was a monster that got knocked down and won and almost 10 minute time limit and he won on pure gameness ... you got to have game roosters."
- "They got to be super game. You know, to be hit with that big a knife and the shock it puts on them, they got to have a will to live."

On knife types and strategy:

- "They (short knife roosters) need to start almost the same way as a long knife rooster, but after the start they need to start hitting up toward the neck area because it's just hard to kill one with a little knife."
- "And when he's injured very bad it don't take a very strong lick to stop him, you know. And I prefer the Mexican knife compared to the socket short knife."
- "I'm liking them. They deep cut, deep body cutting roosters."

- “Deep cutting and wonderful livability ... you can hurt them and with their last dying breath they can kill a rooster ... a lot of roosters that’s plenty game, but they can’t take it ... let them get hit with one of those four inch knives and see if they don’t have to be game to take it.”

On breeds and performance:

- “A lot of the deep cutting ability comes from a rooster that intends to hurt the other rooster and the lacies cut really well and boy they got a lot of athletic ability but the yellow legged hatch cut so deep ... and I’ve won a lot of fights with them hurt really bad.”



John Bottoms has shipped more than 1,700 roosters via U.S mail to Guam according to records we’ve received from the Guamanian Commissioner of Agriculture.

John Bottoms
February 7, 2021 · 🌐

One going to Mexico



John Bottoms
November 1, 2020 · 🌐

Brood stags going to Guam



John Bottoms
December 14, 2019 · 🌐

Big day on Gunner Game Farm thanks Raymond Reggie Colby Tim and Claud



Brenda Carol Williford Bottoms
February 5, 2019 · 🌐

My business" Brendas shipping"
Will be going up on my prices do to postage going up.
Thank you
Brenda Bottoms — with **John Bottoms**.

👍 5

1 comment

JP Breed

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

RANDY HERRON — District Director of the Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission

Choctaw, Oklahoma

405.201.3019

Facebook page

In this interview on BNTV, a cockfighting broadcaster from the Philippines who was visiting the U.S to advertise cockfighting roosters, Herron describes possessing, training, breeding and exporting birds for the purpose of cockfighting.

The following excerpts come from the video. They include remarks from a child alongside adults, discussing rooster breeds, fighting performance, and outcomes in derbies. The comments illustrate how cockfighting culture normalizes cruelty across generations and treats roosters as competitive assets.

From a child participant:

- “I love asils ... because them cut good, they’re really really fast and they win sometimes.”

On recent fighting results:

- “The bostons and my blacks this year in the Philippines they done real good. We was a half a point away from winning.”
- “... they won a 9-stag solo derby.”

On the number of birds and fighting record:

- “I have 50 roosters over there and some’s already been fought.”

On performance and fighting style:

- “Very accurate cutting chickens.”
- “... they fought in the short knife.”
- “... they’ve done really good in the long knife.”

On personal preferences:

- “I like cutting chickens.”
- “My blacks and roundheads, you can fight them as stags.”



The boy (left) is the child in the interview.



Herron, a well-known cockfighter, participating in a cockfight with Mayor Jesry Palmares, now a vice mayor in the Philippines

Figba Bakbakan Early Bird 9-STAG DERBY

Format:
 2-Stag Eliminations (1 point to qualify for Semis)
 3-Stag Semis (3 points to qualify for Finals)
 4-Stag Finals

Guaranteed Prize: 10 Million

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Champion - | P 5,000,000.00 | Any 6 points - | 1,800,000.00 |
| Runner Up - | 2,000,000.00 | Straight 5 - | 1,000,000.00 |

37 Likes 5 Comments

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Most Relevant


Write a comment...

Gone HorseRacing Good job on a hard derby . Congrats
 Like · Reply · 24w

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

Author
Randy Herron Gamefowl Gone HorseRacing thanks
 Like · Reply · 24w

The high prices for his birds are indicative of fighting birds, not birds for laying or hobby.



Randy Herron Gamefowl
September 19 · 🌐

Pure

Pure stags 500
Pure pullet 300
Pair 800 stag and pullet
Trio 1100 stag and two pullets

Cross

Cross stag 200
Cross pullet 100
Shipping \$75 in usa or to broker
Boston rh Brunner rh,Remington
grey,Blacks, koopmans, Rubles,bowen asil

Randy Herron
Choctaw Oklahoma

Randy Herron Gamefowl's Post



Randy Herron Gamefowl · Follow
October 18, 2023 · 🌐

1300 for a trio 900 pair 500 stag 400 pullet shipped in USA or to a broker...

77
13 comments

Like
Comment
Share

Most relevant



Gordo Cereceres
David Vaden Sanchez said he's gona gift me a trio of your blacks

1y
Like
Reply



Author
Randy Herron Gamefowl
Gordo Cereceres okay I give you his at his dads.

1y
Like
Reply



Reply to Gordo Cereceres...



Ted Minoza
Very reasonable price sir

1y
Like
Reply



Lansii Magsino
Can i buy stags from you sir?

1y
Like
Reply



Author
Randy Herron Gamefowl
Lansii Magsino sure can

1y
Like
Reply



Lansii Magsino
Randy Herron Gamefowl Im from Philippines sir

1y
Like
Reply

Shipping and price increase.

11

Animal Wellness Action • THE TEXOMA COCKFIGHTING CORRIDOR

BOBBY AND MELINDA FAIRCHILD

Clear Creek Gamefarm

34.44753, -96.15663
Coalgate, OK 74538

Facebook page

Bobby Fairchild's legal history includes using his gamefowl operation as cover for drug running and money laundering. See U.S. District Court Eastern District of Oklahoma, case number 08-MJ-0105-SPS, for details. He is still operating.

Fairchild was interviewed on BNTV, a cockfighting broadcaster in the Philippines visiting the U.S to advertise cockfighting rooster farms. This interview also includes Vice Mayor Jesry Palmares of Passi City, Lloilo, Philippines, who is there to visit Fairchild. It's described that Mayor Palmares sponsored Fairchild's participation in the World Slasher Cup many times. It's also described that Vice Mayor Jesry Palmares has been importing and raising birds from Fairchild's breeding stock for over a dozen years for the purpose of cockfighting.

The following exchange, taken from the video, features Palmares and Fairchild discussing their long-standing relationship in cockfighting. Their remarks highlight the international trade in fighting birds, breeding practices, and the way they frame cockfighting as both a business and a competitive pursuit.

On introductions and partnership:

- Host: "I've had your game fowl through Mayor Jesry Palmares, and they [have] been winning for us."
- Jesry recalls first coming to Mr. Fairchild's game farm in 2001 and inviting him to the Philippines the following year. He notes, "Mr. Fairchild then started shipping battle roosters, and from there on Bobby's been coming to the Philippines almost every year."

On breeding and selection:

- Speaking of choosing the best birds, Jesry explains, "We cull cull cull cull ... they got to have confirmation and athletic ability."
- He describes raising birds from Fairchild's stock and following Fairchild's advice: "For the past 16 or 17 years that I have been breeding these greys and kelsos, I have not experienced a bad situation, of course you win, you lose."

On winning and competition:

- Fairchild remarks, "If we ever have them that's 100% winners, Mayor, they wouldn't be for sale."
- Jesry responds, "That's the beauty of cockfighting, you know, I mean everyone has to strive hard to win."

The following is a video broadcasted by PitGames.tv called "Breeder of the Week" and is from his gamefowl farm when Fairchild lived in Kentucky. He describes carrying a very successful bloodline of birds that win fights and can sell for hundreds of dollars. His comments reveal not only the volume of animals kept for fighting but also the culture of trophies, reputations, and the identity many cockfighters build around breeding.

On the size of the operation:

- "Probably 1,100 roosters here right now."

On performance and success:

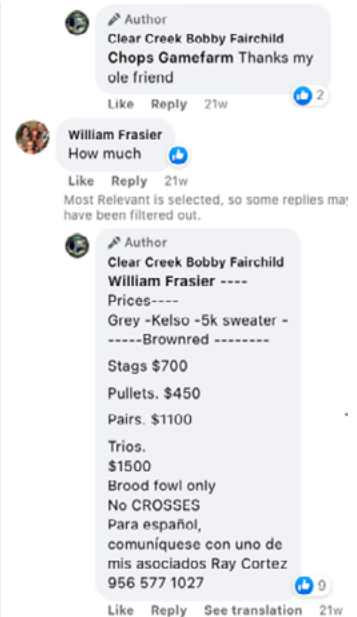
- "They have been extremely good."

On trophies and bloodlines:

- (Pointing to a trophy) “This was the Mel Simms tribute at mid-America which you know now I carry the Mel Simms black line and I’m very proud of them.”

On zeal for his work:

- “I liked going to events and stuff, but I love being a breeder.”



Bobby Fairchild’s bird prices are indicative of fighting birds, proven bloodlines that win derbies and are sold for top dollar as he described in the video above.

This is a [video](#) of Bobby Fairchild’s massive game farm and video of his wife at the post office shipping birds. It is a federal crime to use the Postal Service to ship fighting birds. This video is provided by SHARK.



Melinda Fairchild proudly standing on the loading dock of a US Post Office building where she's mailing a shipment of roosters to be used for cockfights



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

♡ 53 💬 4 🕒 14 January, 2020

Fairchild's game farm on the cover
of cockfighting magazines.



Bobby Fairchild at a cockfighting derby that he won.

The following excerpt is from a January 2020 interview in Purebred Warrior.

Mhar Delaben: Your birds are sought after around the globe; how do you make sure that they will perform as advertised? 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.

Delaben: Have you tried competing in the Philippines?

Fairchild: Yes, we have competed 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."

Delaben: Would you name some breeders in the Philippines that were using your birds in their campaign?

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.



Mr. Fairchild built a trophy room.

ANTHONY DEVORE — President of the Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission HD Farms

739 Pleasant Hill Rd
Caddo, OK 74729 (Bryan County)
(469) 215-8165

Anthony Devore owns HD Farms in Bryan County, Oklahoma, and serves as the founder and president of the Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission (OGC), a front group for cockfighters. In June 2025, Animal Wellness Action investigators got Devore on video participating in cockfighting at a pit in McIntosh County, Oklahoma.

Devore's OGC PAC has been lobbying for lower penalties for cockfighting and donating to legislators' campaigns for years. In September 2025, the Oklahoma Ethics Commission disbanded the OGC PAC and fined them \$10,000 for blatant campaign finance allegations. The OGC PAC now includes at least three commission members who have been either indicted or caught on tape at cockfights. Videos are available [here](#) and [here](#).



HD Farms, a typical cockfighting breeding operation: isolated roosters out on lines.



Anthony selling roosters for \$1,500.

Devore also sells cockfighting knives on a private Facebook page called the Art of the Gaff or Gamefowl Collectibles. He makes them himself and sells them by the dozen. The page is home to a multitude of sellers and buyers of illegal cockfighting knives and other paraphernalia.

The Art of The Gaff

Private group · 11.0K members




About Discussion Members Events Media Files


**Anthony Devore**
December 16, 2023 · 🌐

New regulations 2 1/2" light and keen. PM me if interested.



**The Art of The Gaff**
Anthony Devore · January 16, 2024 · 🌐

New 2 1/2" light and keen regulations. \$100 plus shipping 4 sets available.




1y Like Reply

**Anthony Devore** Author
Valley Grove Farms pm sent

1y Like Reply

**Valley Grove Farms**
Anthony Devore hey man ,what kinda deals on two,or how much for one 2 1/2 light keen

1y Like Reply

**Valley Grove Farms**
Anthony Devore I live in Alabama

1y Like Reply


**Anthony Devore** Author
Valley Grove Farms sorry I don't make deals for less than a dozen pair. This is my art and craft. Not in it for the money, I just love doing it. These are 2 1/2" light and keen and \$100 per set.

1y Like Reply


38 10 comments

Like Comment Copy


All comments ▾

**Bill Mankin**
Did you like those Anthony???


35w Like Reply

**Anthony Devore** Author
Bill Mankin yes

34w Like Reply

**Bill Mankin**
I meant to ask you if you made those???

34w Like Reply

**Anthony Devore** Author
Bill Mankin yes

34w Like Reply

HOWARD JOEL Skinny's Gamefarm

Grand View, TX
817.300.6723

In an [interview from BNTV](#), a cockfighting broadcaster in the Philippines, Joel describes breeding and shipping his roosters for the purpose of cockfighting.

- The host describes his roosters as “proven to be very excellent game fowl for long knife.”
- He describes how his roosters almost won in the World Slasher’s Cup in the Philippines. “My roosters did it,” Joel replies. He adds that he breeds about 1,400 roosters and says his birds go all over the country and to Mexico, the Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, and other places. He says his roosters are used for both long and short knife fights.



HELEN HOSKINS

Mesquite, TX
(214) 734-3455

In an **interview from BNTV**, a cockfighting broadcaster in the Philippines, Hoskins describes breeding and shipping her roosters which are used for fighting.

- Hoskins said she sells to Mexico, the United States, and the Philippines.
- Her birds are shown a lot in Mexico.
- She says she was at the Golden Rooster last week, one of the biggest derbies in Mexico.
- She says she will be showing her roosters next April at the Golden Rooster Derby.
- The host says he has a good friend in the Philippines who fights Hoskins' roosters.



The Pits

Illegal cockfighting pits are where the actual cockfighting takes place. Most are in metal barn-like buildings hidden in wooded areas out-of-sight of public roads. Some pits are permanent structures concealing dirt pits surrounded by bleachers which can seat over 100 attendees. Others are makeshift pits hidden under trees or tents. The cockfights at the pits are highly secret and are not advertised publicly or on social media to avoid discovery by law enforcement. Communications about cockfighting schedules are done via e-mail or apps such as Signal.

As secretive as cockfighters are, Animal Wellness Action, the Center, and SHARK are helped by anonymous cockfighters, family members, or others who send in tips for reward money or because they object to the cruelty.

The Fighting Rooster Farms

To supply the need for roosters to use in cockfighting, gamecock breeders establish “gamefowl farms” where specific breeds of the most aggressive gamecocks are raised. There are dozens of large-scale gamefowl farms in the Corridor. Insufficiently aggressive roosters are culled (killed) to maximize the aggressiveness of the breeder’s line. Breeders also fight their own birds at cockfights to prove the aggressiveness and value of their birds. Birds that win are inbred and trained, and they can be sold to cockfighters at prices that can range from \$500 to \$2,000 per bird. Gamefowl farms range in size from a few dozen roosters to thousands.

Most people who drive around rural areas in the Corridor have seen gamefowl farms where the fighting roosters and their hens are raised. Many of these operations are hidden from public view but some are next to roads. These operations typically have roosters tied individually to a short rope or cable (often 3–6 feet long) that is staked into the ground. Each rooster is housed next to a small A-frame or barrel shelter for shade and weather protection. These shelters are spaced several feet apart to prevent the roosters from fighting. A large operation will have hundreds of these staked birds arranged in rows.

One massive gamefowl farm and training operation with thousands of roosters is located in Carter County, Oklahoma. This large operation is owned by Troy Thompson (shown below).



Video of his farm

In an interview on a Philippine TV network, Thompson described his birds as going through a conditioning program for which they are famous in the Philippines because they win at cockfights.

Gamefowl breeding itself is legal if the birds are not raised for use in cockfighting. This loophole for gamefowl farms provides cover for illegal activity. To claim, as gamefowl breeders do, that gamefowl are raised solely for exhibition is as disingenuous as a marijuana grower insisting their crop is purely ornamental. Everyone understands the true purpose — it's not about aesthetics; it's about function. These birds are bred, conditioned, and selected for traits suited for the pit, not the pageant.

Signs prominently posted at the entrance of any cockfighter's game farm proclaim the fiction that "No Fowl Sold for Any Illegal Purposes." However, cockfighting busts often happen on the same property where the birds are bred.

What the visitor will see when driving through the gate are dozens, hundreds, or thousands of roosters tied out. What's usually less visible on the property, if you go past the sign, are the fighting arenas.

In June 2025, in Titus County, Texas, the sheriff's office arrested Timothy Thompson for hosting a July 4 cockfight. He has one of the largest operations in the region, with about 500 birds on his property. Animal Wellness Action and SHARK's investigators provided the necessary evidence to instigate this bust where between 100-200 cockfighters were present. Thompson's arena was a large metal barn adjacent to his gamefowl farm.

Breeding operations should be seen by law enforcement as the illegal training grounds for fighting roosters and cockfighting operations they are.

Ties to the Cartel

Drug cartels are heavily involved in cockfighting, using it as a front for a wide range of criminal activity. American cockfighters send hundreds of thousands of birds to cartel-controlled arenas in Mexico to be fought in derbies.

Clearcreek Gamefowl Farm, one of the largest gamefowl farms in Oklahoma, is run by Bobby Fairchild in Coal County. In 2008, a criminal arrest warrant was issued for Fairchild for conspiracy to distribute controlled substances and conspiracy to commit money laundering using his game farm as cover for his dealings with the Mexican poly-drug trafficking cartel known as the Gulf Cartel. (Criminal Complaint Case Number 08-MJ-0105-SPS filed in the Eastern District of Oklahoma and available upon request.) Not only does Fairchild continue to expand his game farm, fight his birds, and sell birds for fighting, but he does so uninterrupted and undisturbed by law enforcement.





Here is Fairchild and his wife congratulating their team in Mexico who fought their birds in a 2024 derby and came in 2nd place.

Mexican cockfighters, including cartels, use their American counterpart’s cockfighting operations to fund their criminal networks, distribute heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and opioids, weapons, and human trafficking. The violence in Mexico perpetrated at cockfighting derbies and linked to cockfighting events spills over the border, particularly in border states such as Texas, where fighting animals flow freely back and forth.

Animal Wellness Action and the Center introduced the **Fighting Inhumane Gambling and High-Risk Trafficking (FIGHT) Act** to amend the national laws prohibiting organized dog and cockfighting to give law enforcement the tools they need to root out these persistent, widespread, and dangerous criminal enterprises.

Roosters Destined for Fighting Pits Here and Abroad

Gamefowl breeders ship their birds all over the world. Animal Wellness Action found that cockfighters exported more roosters to Guam for fighting purposes from Oklahoma than from any other state. The two top sellers are from LeFlore County and Haskell County. John Bottoms of LeFlore County shared this Facebook post stating he’s sending his birds to Guam to participate in the Dededo Cockfighting Derby and even shared the schedule.



Bottoms has shipped over 1,700 roosters via U.S. Mail to Guam and countless cockfighting roosters to the Philippines.

There is no legitimate reason for this number of roosters to be shipped to Guam. Guam has no broiler bird or laying hen industry, and it has no show-fowl circuit. Shippers and buyers are unmistakably involved in illegal fighting, and the transport is occurring only because other cockfighters are willing to pay thousands of dollars for birds with good fighting bloodlines. 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.

According to records Animal Wellness Action has received from the Guamanian Commissioner of Agriculture, the total number of roosters shipped to Guam since 2019 from the United States is over 11,500.

The list below includes the Oklahoma residents who shipped the most to Guam.

Lester Hasbel is deceased now, but his roosters went to Anthony Devore, the president of the Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission (OGC), a front group for cockfighters. Jeff Pearce is Blake Pearce's father. Blake is the OGC's policy chairman and vice president.

| Exporter Name | Address | City | County |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------|----------|
| John Bottoms | 12710 Lovings Rd | Heavener | LeFlore |
| Bill McNatt | 20102 N County Rd 4515 | Stigler | Haskell |
| Darrell Trammel | 9367 Hwy 82A | Tahlequah | Cherokee |
| Jeff Pearce | 112796 S 4610 | Sallisaw | Sequoyah |
| Steve Tankersley | E 1020 Rd & N 4170 Rd | Council Hill | Muskogee |

Animal Wellness Action also uncovered a massive advertising collaboration between BNTV, a cockfighting broadcaster based in the Philippines, and U.S. breeders. BNTV reporters toured what they considered to be the largest U.S. breeding and training operations. BNTV featured over 50 breeders, 12 of them Oklahomans. Interviews included breeders unabashedly touting the fighting prowess of their birds, with many talking about winning international cockfighting derbies.



John Bottoms runs his training operation, Gunner Gamefarm, with his wife. In an interview with BNTV, Bottoms says of his birds, “They got to be super game. You know, to be hit with that big a knife and the shock it puts on them, they got to have a will to live,” and “that’s what we do, you know, pretty much for a living.”



In one of the most troubling interviews recorded, Randy Heron of Choctaw, includes his son in the video, and when the host asks what he likes best about his birds, the boy says, “Because they cut good, they’re really, really fast, and they win sometimes.”



Animal Wellness Action downloaded the videos before BNTV and the cockfighters realized how incriminating these testimonials were and pulled them offline.

Front Groups

Some local or tribal political figures and law enforcement officials are sympathetic to cockfighters. Front groups like the Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission (OGC) and the Texas Gamefowl Breeders Association (TGBA) openly advocate for legalizing cockfighting and try to wield political influence by forming political action committees and lobbying. These front groups criticize law enforcement and prosecutors who do try to enforce the laws. Anthony Devore, the OGC's president, formed the United States Gamefowl Commission (USGC) so they could enlist other states' breeder associations and begin funneling their ill-gotten gains into political pockets at state capitols and local governments across the United States.



As the OGC lobbied in Oklahoma, they spent a lot of money donating to various lawmakers to weaken cockfighting laws, or as State Representative JJ Humphrey from Oklahoma's 19th District put it, "return cockfighting on a county vote." (Devore far left) In 2002, Oklahoma voters had approved the anti-cockfighting law at the recommendation of then Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating and U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe. Even after cockfighters challenged it, in *Edmondson v Pearce*, the Oklahoma Supreme Court upheld the law unanimously. Drew Edmondson, as the former Oklahoma attorney general, defended the law then and now.

Meanwhile, Animal Wellness Action has tracked the OGC's work and testified against them at every turn, recently blocking three bills in Oklahoma and one in Arkansas.

Devore is the owner of HD Farms and is a long time cockfighter, breeder. He also designs, makes, and sells knives and gaffs used for cockfighting. Ever since Animal Wellness Action began its investigation into the front group, Devore has feigned outrage over being called out. Even after their

district director, Chance Campo, was arrested for cockfighting in Carter County in 2023, Devore said the OGC "does not promote, condone nor participate in any illegal activities."

In June 2025, Animal Wellness Action documented individuals participating in cockfighting at two separate derbies, including one in McIntosh County, Oklahoma, where they sat front row cheering on bloodied roosters. With their cover now collapsed, the Oklahoma Ethics Commission **announced it was investigating** the OGC, fining its PAC \$10,000 and ordering it to disband for violations of state law.

Weak Enforcement in Oklahoma

Today, enforcement of anti-cockfighting laws is inconsistent in the Corridor's rural counties. While many local law enforcement agencies enforce the laws very well, there are reports of some local law enforcement turning a blind eye or even protecting cockfights.

Tribal land jurisdiction in eastern Oklahoma (after the *McGirt v. Oklahoma* decision) complicates enforcement further, especially when it comes to cross-jurisdiction crimes. Cockfight organizers are taking advantage of the jurisdictional confusion by locating fighting pits on tribal land. In 2024 and 2025, tribal law enforcement agencies failed to take action in three instances where large cockfights were in progress on tribal land.

In cases where there have been cockfighting busts in Oklahoma, weak penalties or complete dismissals of cockfighting charges have been a common outcome.

- In March 2021, the Bryan County Sheriff **raided** a major cockfighting pit near Calera, Oklahoma, where 200-300 participants scattered when law enforcement vehicles appeared. The facility had bleachers and concession stands. Ricky Don Hensley was arrested in September 2021 and **charged with** instigating or encouraging a cockfight, keeping a facility for cockfighting, and servicing or facilitating a cockfight. All are felony charges. In August 2022, Hensley, owner of the pit, was given a \$200 fine and a 5-year deferred sentence on one count of servicing/facilitating a cockfight. The other two counts were dismissed without cost.
- In June 2023, three men in Marshall County were arrested and charged with possessing birds for cockfighting and keeping a cockfight pit. Herminio Mendoza of Texas was on his way to a Marshall County cockfight pit owned by Jamie Bell and Jackson Bell when he struck cows on the highway. Investigating officers found fighting roosters and gaffs in his truck. Officers obtained a search warrant for the pit where they found 13 cockfighting trailers full of birds, a fighting pit full of feathers, cockfight betting cards and ledger, syringes, photos of fights, and many gaffs. The men were charged with multiple felonies. In June 2024, all cockfighting charges were dismissed, and the men were charged with a misdemeanor of outraging public decency and fined \$1,000 each.
- In August 2023, Carter County prosecutors charged seven men, including Chance Campo, a leader of the Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission, with felony offenses related to cockfighting, stemming from a bust of a cockfighting pit in Ratliff City. Four others faced misdemeanor charges for an event dubbed as the "Asian Gaff Championship." Deputies broke up the illegal cockfighting event and confiscated about 60 fighting roosters and equipment while impounding 20 vehicles and trailers outfitted for cockfighting. There were 170 to 180 people present for the cockfight. In the end, the District Attorney dramatically reduced charges against all of the accused, fining them less than the average sell price of one fighting rooster.



Chance Campo. Credit-Carter County Jail

In other cases, law enforcement has declined to intervene in cockfights at all — even when given advanced notification by investigators. In Atoka County in June 2022, Animal Wellness Action and SHARK reported an illegal animal fighting arena to Atoka County Sheriff Tony Head, but the sheriff declined to interrupt the cockfights or make any arrests despite being provided with detailed information about a regular fighting schedule. Sheriff Tony Head lost reelection in 2024.

In a similar case, in February 2024, acting on a tip, SHARK gave Adair County Sheriff Jason Ritchie's office the exact coordinates three days in advance for a planned cockfight near his office in Stilwell, but the Sheriff failed to act. Animal Wellness Action and SHARK investigators witnessed the cockfight in progress and tried unsuccessfully to lead deputies to the crime scene in progress. Almost 100 vehicles and cockfighting trailers surrounded the pit. An undersheriff finally investigated the cockfight pit six days after everything had been cleaned up and invited the cockfight pit owner to press charges against the cruelty investigators for “invasion of privacy.” They declined, not desiring any publicity.

There have been no arrests in an array of counties with extensive cockfighting, including Adair, Atoka, Coal, LeFlore, Murray, and McCurtain. The broad failure to enforce the law across so many counties suggests there may be some level of public corruption at work.

Geography and Demographics

Large areas of the Corridor are rural and remote, which makes it easier to hold large illegal gatherings undetected. Most of the counties are sparsely populated, and law enforcement agencies are understaffed — especially on weekends, when most cockfights are held. Sparse law enforcement presence and rugged terrain can slow response times and surveillance. Given the hidden nature of cockfighting pits, the only way to locate them is through the use of drones by investigators. To meet this threat, the cockfighter's front groups have, under the guise of privacy protection, tried to pass laws to prohibit the use of drones to uncover animal abuse.

Economics

Cockfighting and the illegal gambling tied to it can be highly lucrative in economically depressed rural areas. Illegal fights may involve thousands to tens of thousands of dollars in entry fees, betting, and bird sales. Some breeders make significant income from illegally selling fighting birds domestically and internationally, especially to countries where cockfighting is legal (e.g., the Philippines, Mexico).



Greg Williams runs the Top Hat Gamefarm in Crescent, Oklahoma (Logan County), with a population of less than 1,500. In this video from BNTV, Williams says he's fought in the Philippines and he'll be bringing even more birds to compete in the annual **World Slasher Cup**, where it's reported that \$600,000 changes hands nightly and winners can bring home hundreds of thousands of U.S. dollars. He also regularly fights in Mexico, where, he says, his roosters “are competing very well.”

Recent Developments

Oklahoma

From 2023 to 2025, Oklahoma saw a surge in cockfighting enforcement activity in a few counties, with major busts occurring, albeit with weak prosecution. In Carter County alone, two significant events were broken up — one in 2023 that drew nearly 200 attendees to a so-called “Asian Gaff Championship,” and another in 2024, the discovery of which was triggered by a tip from Animal Wellness Action and SHARK. Both operations uncovered extensive evidence, including dead and injured roosters, fighting pits, and cockfighting tools. Several individuals, including a prominent member of the Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission, were arrested, although most charges were later reduced or dismissed.

Similar operations were uncovered in Marshall, Oklahoma, Cleveland, and Logan Counties, where law enforcement found dozens of injured birds, drugs, weapons, and elaborate setups for animal fighting. However, prosecution outcomes were inconsistent, with many serious felony charges negotiated down to minor misdemeanors and deferred sentences. Meanwhile, in counties like Adair, Murray, McIntosh, and Atoka, law enforcement either failed to act or deferred responsibility to tribal authorities, often resulting in no arrests despite substantial documentation of illegal activity by investigators from Animal Wellness Action and SHARK. These patterns point to a widespread, organized but tolerated network of cockfighting operations in Oklahoma, aided by weak enforcement, political interference, and limited judicial follow-through.

Adair County is an example of the challenges faced by citizens wanting animal cruelty laws enforced. Investigators from Animal Wellness Action and SHARK documented a major cockfighting derby in a remote metal building in February 2024. The Adair County Sheriff had been given three days’ advance notice of the planned cockfight. Although the cockfight attracted over 100 vehicles and participants who engaged in prolonged bouts of staged bird combat and unregulated gambling, the Adair County Sheriff’s Office and the Cherokee Nation Marshal Service did not investigate until six days later — after the site had been cleaned of any evidence. The police report indicated that the Deputy Sheriff had actually invited the cockfight organizer to file charges against the animal cruelty investigators, but he declined, apparently not wanting additional notoriety.

Texas

Just across the Red River in Texas, law enforcement has been breaking up a series of high-profile operations. In Hunt County (March 30, 2025), deputies responding to a tip by Animal Wellness Action and SHARK intervened at an active cockfighting site attended by roughly 100 people, arresting 21 individuals and rescuing 65 roosters — 10 of which were found dead — alongside gaffs, performance-enhancing drugs, and makeshift fighting arenas. Further north, in Navarro County (March 2024), local authorities discovered more than \$7,700 in prize money and a live fighting pit on rural property. Meanwhile, Dallas County has seen multiple busts: in February 2024, police rescued 123 roosters and eight hens from an urban cockfighting setup hidden in horse stalls, and on July 2, 2025, a helicopter-led intervention seized 53 live roosters and 32 deceased birds from another southeast Dallas location.



Most recently, in Titus County, Animal Wellness Action and SHARK conducted an undercover investigation on the evening of July 4 of a cockfighting derby in progress north of Mt. Pleasant and tipped off local authorities to the illegal event. The Titus County Sheriff’s Office took swift action and arrested cockfighting kingpin Timothy Thompson and others. On the very next day, these organizations documented two cockfights in Kaufman County and in at least one case the Kaufman County Sheriff’s Office investigated immediately, interrupted a cockfight and impounded 29 vehicles after cockfighters ran into the woods.

A more comprehensive treatment of Corridor cockfighting incidents and prosecutions can be found in the addendum below.

Enforcement is better in Texas but the laws are weaker

Anti-Cockfighting Laws: Texas vs. Oklahoma

| Feature | Texas | Oklahoma |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Strength of felony charges | State jail felony (2 years) | Up to 10 years in prison |
| Fines for organization | Up to \$10,000 | Up to \$25,000 |
| Misdemeanor offences | Attending or minor participation | Also, misdemeanors for attendance or passive involvement |
| Legislative softening | No major push to reduce penalties | Multiple bills proposed, though none have passed |
| Public enforcement/policy | Politicians discouraging decriminalization efforts | Efforts to weaken the law have been defeated repeatedly |

Texas' laws are weaker than Oklahoma's, especially in terms of prison exposure and maximum financial penalties. In Oklahoma, felony cockfighting can result in longer sentences and steeper fines. Even though Oklahoma has seen legislative attempts to soften its statute, none has succeeded. In contrast, Texas maintains a mid-level felony for serious participation, but it's capped at lesser terms and fines.

Enforcement is Better in Texas

| Aspect | Texas | Oklahoma |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Frequency of raids | Regular: multiple big busts in recent months | Very few: about 1–2 per year statewide on average |
| Evidence usage | Sheriff's offices often act on tips and documentary evidence | Even with info/videos provided, many law enforcement agencies don't respond |
| Arrest outcomes | Multiple people arrested, felony charges common | Rarely arrests beyond isolated individuals; often no charges filed |
| Organizational involvement | Animal Wellness Action, SHARK and allies frequently help trigger enforcement | Intel contributions often disregarded by local law enforcement |
| Corruption/allegiance | Some recalcitrance, but many active sheriff offices | Reports of local officials protecting cockfighting networks |

Enforcement Summary

Texas

Enforcement is active and often aggressive when enabled by tips and organized intelligence. Numerous counties have conducted raids, seized birds, and charged participants — especially in North Texas' fight hotspots.

Oklahoma

Despite a stricter criminal statute, enforcement is alarmingly weak, with low numbers of arrests, widespread disregard of credible evidence, and many operations proceeding under relative impunity. So, while both states criminalize cockfighting, enforcement in Texas is significantly more robust and consistent, whereas Oklahoma suffers from enforcement breakdowns at the county and tribal level.

Shipping and Cockfighting Traffickers

Just north of Dallas, in Collin County, Texas, a business calling itself the North Texas Livestock Shipping Company **advertises its services** of shipping American gamecocks to the Philippines and other countries in Asia where cockfighting is legal. Under the Animal Welfare Act and the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act (2007), it is a federal crime to transport, deliver, or receive any animal for use in an animal fighting

venture. It is illegal to use mail or any instrumentality of interstate commerce to facilitate cockfighting. Violators face up to three years in prison and substantial fines for transporting fighting animals across state or international lines.

Animal Wellness Action has reported this business to the local sheriff, but cross-jurisdictional confusion has led to inaction. Law enforcement could specifically investigate their customers, such as David and Keith Graves, who run Hatch Village Farms in Haskell, Oklahoma. They ship internationally, primarily using the North Texas Livestock Shipping Company.



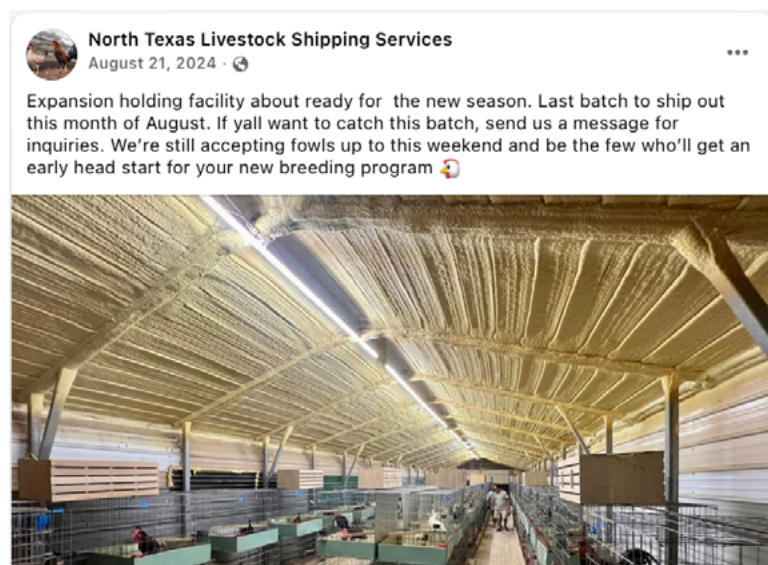


This is a very large farm with a very lucrative business model.



They have a building specifically dedicated to all their trophies, as seen here in this [video](#) created by [Paco Baluarte](#), a cockfighter from Mexico who traveled there to pick out roosters to be shipped back. The link between their breeding and training operations, shipping, and cockfighting is obvious.

Unfortunately, shippers like the North Texas Livestock Shipping Services are expanding despite their blatant illegal activity.



United States Postal Service

Animal Wellness Action has compiled dozens of reports focused on cockfighters across the United States who ship birds across state lines and into other countries using the United States Postal Service.

In addition to the shipping records obtained by Animal Wellness Action from the Guamanian Commissioner of Agriculture which proves roosters are shipped via U.S. mail for illegal purposes, there are also the BNTV interviews advertising how Filipinos contact U.S. breeders to buy and ship birds.

Bobby Fairchild's wife, Brenda, was caught on video loading dozens of birds to be shipped at their local U.S. post office in Coalgate, Oklahoma. SHARK obtained this [video footage](#) of her activity there, drone footage of their massive breeding operation, and quotes from Bobby himself from various interviews featured in the videos ([BNTV video](#), [Pitgames video](#)) and in print from the [Purebred Warrior](#).



Other examples of cockfighters in Oklahoma shipping via USPS:

RANDY HERRON

Choctaw

GARY GILLIAM

Gilliam Gamefarm

Tahlequah

GUSTAVO SANCHEZ

Guess Farm

Muskogee

JOSH TADYCH

Tenbears Gamefowl

Vinita

LARRY FINCANNON

Sand Springs

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+1-918-289-2432

Order them and they will come!!

Shipping Season



PRICES

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Pure trio..... | \$1100 |
| Pure pair..... | \$800 |
| Pure cock..... | \$500 |
| Pure hen..... | \$400 |
| Pure stag..... | \$400 |
| Pure pullet..... | \$350 |
| Cross stag untrimmed | \$125 |
| Trimmed stags..... | \$150 |
| Cross cocks..... | \$200 |

**PRICES
DO NOT
INCLUDE
SHIPPING**

Randy Herron Gamefowl's Post

Randy Herron Gamefowl · Follow
October 18, 2023 · 🌐

1300 for a trio 900 pair 500 stag 400 pullet shipped in USA or to a broker....

77 likes · 13 comments

Like Comment Share

Most relevant ▾

Gordo Cereceres
David Vaden Sanchez said he's gona gift me a trio of your blacks
1y Like Reply

Author
Randy Herron Gamefowl
Gordo Cereceres okay I give you his at his dads.
1y Like Reply 🙄

Reply to Gordo Cereceres...

Ted Minoza
Very reasonable price sir
1y Like Reply


Lansii Magsino
Can I buy stags from you sir?
1y Like Reply

Author
Randy Herron Gamefowl
Lansii Magsino sure can
1y Like Reply 🙄

Lansii Magsino
Randy Herron Gamefowl Im from Philippines sir 😊
1y Like Reply

Guess Farm
November 28, 2012 · 🌐

Dink shipping for me Mexico city



ADDENDUM 1: COCKFIGHTING BUSTS IN TEXAS

1. Lynn County (May 2023)

Six men were arrested and faced felony charges after authorities busted an illegal cockfighting ring east of Wayside. The charges were elevated due to organized criminal activity. Additionally, 67 class C misdemeanors were issued to spectators.

2. Polk County (July 2023)

Deputies responded to reports of a cockfighting event in Leggett, resulting in the arrest of twelve individuals and the seizure of 31 roosters. Evidence indicated ongoing illegal bird fighting activities at the location.



3. Potter County (February 2024)

Authorities uncovered a large-scale cockfighting event involving approximately 170 roosters and around 50 spectators. Three individuals were arrested: Ivan Guadalupe Herrera-Lopez and Salvador Sanches Chavez on cockfighting charges, and Juana Sanchez Gonzalez for possession of a controlled substance. Six individuals unlawfully present in the U.S. were detained and handed over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Thirteen of the roosters had to be euthanized due to severe injuries.



4. Harris County (February 2024)

The Harris County Precinct 1 Constable's Office responded to reports of an active cockfighting ring in northeast Harris County. Upon arrival, deputies observed 20-30 individuals fleeing the scene; several were detained. The property owner was arrested and charged with misdemeanor cockfighting for permitting the activity on his premises. Authorities seized 115 roosters and hens; eight roosters were found deceased, and some sustained severe injuries.



5. Navarro County (February 2024)

Deputies disrupted a cockfighting event in progress in Purdon, discovering a fighting ring, live and deceased birds, and related paraphernalia. The property owner was arrested, and attendees faced potential charges, as spectating cockfights is a class C misdemeanor in Texas.

6. Bexar County (May 2024)

Deputies executed a bust on a cockfighting operation in south Bexar County, seizing 200 roosters, firearms, and narcotics. Paul Morales, identified as the renter of the property, was arrested and faced felony charges related to gambling on cockfighting. Approximately 50 attendees were interviewed and cited with class C misdemeanors for their presence at the event.



7. Smith County (September 2024):

Authorities arrested two brothers, Kerry and Michael Jones, after discovering a suspected dogfighting operation on their property. Officials seized 52 dogs, many exhibiting injuries consistent with dogfighting. Equipment such as treadmills modified for dog training was also found.



8. Kaufman County (December 2024)

Authorities seized nearly 140 animals, including 34 adult dogs and 10 puppies, from a property suspected of hosting dog and cockfighting activities. Many dogs were underweight and bore injuries suggestive of fighting. Equipment associated with animal fighting was also recovered.



9. Harrison County (May 2024)

Jesus Allen Stephens was indicted on federal charges for organizing and hosting a large-scale dogfighting event in November 2021. The indictment included charges of possessing dogs for fighting purposes and participating in dogfighting ventures.

10. Van Zandt County (October 2024)

The Van Zandt County Sheriff's Office seized 74 birds from a property near Edgewood where a cockfight was actively occurring. Two individuals, Keith Stuart Cumbee and Rufus Shane Herron, were arrested and charged with cockfighting and cruelty to non-livestock animals. A judge Animal Wellness Actionrded custody of the birds to the SPCA and ordered the defendants to pay restitution.

11. Texas/Oklahoma (January 2025)

Two Texas cockfighters were arrested in southeast Oklahoma with one apprehension in Atoka County and the other in Murray County on the Chickasaw National Recreation Area — also resulted in the seizure of 10 fighting roosters.

A Grand Prairie, Texas man was arrested following a traffic stop in Atoka, Oklahoma and officers found four fighting roosters, several pairs of cockfighting gaffs, and blood spots in his van and on the boxes being used to transport the roosters. Khai Hong Nguyen, 51, told officers that he was taking the animals to sell. Nguyen was charged with felony Possession of a Training Bird used for fighting and has previous convictions in Texas for cockfighting and money laundering and an active warrant for possession of illegal controlled substance.

Two days prior in nearby Murray County, National Park Service rangers with the Chickasaw National Recreation Area arrested J.C. Lewis Jr. of Newcastle, Texas, for speeding and possessing birds for fighting. Six fighting roosters were seized and Animal Wellness Action assisted in locating a sanctuary for the rescued roosters.

12. Texas/Oklahoma (March 2025)

On the same day, Animal Wellness Action and SHARK (Showing Animals Respect and Kindness) investigated, documented and reported two cockfights that occurred on both sides of the Red River — one in Murray County, Oklahoma and one in Martin County, Texas.

In Oklahoma the cockfight was broken up by a single deputy but no arrests were made. In Martin County, Texas law enforcement made no attempt to interrupt the cockfight or make arrests.

13. Titus County (March 2025)

SHARK and Animal Wellness Action documented the presence of an animal fighting venture in Titus County with hundreds in attendance on March 15, but the Titus County Sheriffs' Office failed to request a search warrant to enter the cockfighting complex.

Sheriffs' deputies responded in force when alerted to the illegal animal fighting derby at the home of Tim Thompson, but the cockfighters locked the gate upon the arrival of deputies, requiring the law enforcement officers to obtain a warrant to enter.



14. Ellis County (March 2025)

Acting on tips from concerned citizens, SHARK and Animal Wellness Action investigated an illegal cockfighting derby in Ferris, Texas and alerted local authorities in real time, causing the cockfighters to scatter and shut down their fighting derby. Animal Wellness Action and SHARK documented the massive gathering and the fighting venue with the use of drones.

After Sheriff's deputies and Animal Control arrived on scene, cockfighters began fleeing, leaving behind vehicles, masses of dead birds, and also live birds. According to the sheriffs' office, **no one was apprehended initially**, but investigators documented the crime scene late into the night and intend to bring charges.

15. Hunt County (March 2025)

For the fourth time in the month of March, acting on tips from concerned citizens, Animal Wellness Action and SHARK investigated a series of illegal cockfighting derbies in northern Texas.

In this latest case near Wolfe City, the groups gathered video evidence and alerted the Hunt County Sheriffs' Office to the staged animal battles in real time. Hunt County sheriffs' deputies responded in force, arresting 21 individuals, and seizing 67 birds at a major derby with approximately 100 attendees.



16. Parker County (April 2025)

Parker county officials raided an illegal cockfighting operation, which resulted in the arrest of nine people. Around 40 people immediately fled into the woods upon the officers' arrival. Deputies also seized 96 live roosters, 50 gaffs or "slashers," a box trailer, six vehicles, and \$15,550, believed to be illegal cockfight earnings.

17. Titus County (July 4, 2025)

After failing to get the Titus County Sheriff's Office to obtain a search warrant to break up a cockfight in progress at the Thompson Pit in March, Animal Wellness Action and SHARK returned on July 4 and obtained inside-the-pit video of a derby in July — evidence which was compelling.

The Titus County Sheriff obtained a search warrant and arrested “cockfighting kingpin” Timothy C. Thompson, 52, and two family members were arrested on one count of cockfighting and four counts of cruelty to a livestock animal, all state jail felonies.

According to reports, Thompson was running a major cockfighting complex, with a fighting arena, cockhouses, and as many as 500 fighting birds on his property.



18. Kaufman County (July 5, 2025)

Investigators with Animal Wellness Action and SHARK documented two separate cockfighting events in Kaufman County, providing evidence (drones, photos, videos) to the Kaufman County Sheriff's office for further action.

19. Henderson County (July 13, 2025)

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office raided a major cockfighting operation near Athens. Authorities disrupted an illegal cockfighting event attended by an estimated 200-300 people, many of whom fled the scene on foot through nearby woods.

ADDENDUM 2:

COCKFIGHTING BUSTS IN OKLAHOMA

1. Carter County (June 2023)

On June 19, 2023, Carter County Sheriff deputies busted a large cockfighting event that was taking place near Ratcliff City. The event, billed as the Asian Gaff Championship, attracted several Vietnamese American cockfighters from Texas. Nearly 200 people were inside a barn when deputies arrived on scene. Among those charged was Chance Campo, District Director of the Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission.

When deputies arrived to investigate they observed a cockfight in progress and wounded fighting roosters being carried out of the cockfighting pit. 60-80 cockfight attendees ran into the woods via a back door. Cocaine was found in one of the cockfighting trailers confiscated. Eleven people faced charges connected with the cockfighting event - seven of them for felonies. On February 22, 2024, Chance Campo's charges were dismissed with court costs. All of the felony cases were reduced to misdemeanors and minor fines. In addition, a number of cockfighting trailers and cash were seized at the cockfight and forfeited. One of the trailers was registered to Ricky Adams of Duncan, Oklahoma. His wife, Stacey Jo Adams, was elected to the State House of Representatives in November 2024.

2. Marshall County (June 2023)

In June 2023 Hermino Mendoza, 61, of Ft. Worth, Texas, and Jamie Bell and Jackson Bell of Marshall County were charged with possessing birds for fighting. Jackson Bell and Jamie Bell were also charged with keeping a facility for cockfighting, facilitating cockfighting and instigating a cockfight.

Mendoza and a truck following him struck cattle on Highway 199 early on the morning of June 6, 2023. When Marshall County deputies arrived on the scene they found fighting roosters and cockfighting gaffs in Mendoza's truck. Mendoza said he was taking the roosters to a nearby location owned by the Bells called "the Chicken Ranch" where deputies had previously investigated cockfights.

At the Chicken Ranch investigators found substantial evidence of cockfighting; a cockfighting pit with feathers scattered around the ring, cockfight betting cards, syringes containing unknown substances, photos of cockfights, many gaffs, and numerous cages of fighting roosters. Officers also found 13 cockhouse trailers.

Despite overwhelming evidence, on June 21, 2024 prosecutors reached plea deals with Jackson Bell and Jamie Bell. The four felony counts against each were dismissed in return for the Bells each pleading no contest to one misdemeanor count of outraging public decency. Each was given a one-year deferred sentence, fined \$1,000 and ordered to perform 25 hours of community service at a rate of 10 hours per month.

As of February 2025, satellite photos show the Bell's Chicken Ranch still has hundreds of fighting roosters and rooster huts visible on their property. Mendoza pleaded guilty in November 2024 to a reduced misdemeanor of disturbing the peace. Sentencing was deferred until Nov. 8, 2025. He was placed on probation and ordered to pay \$1,000 to a local nonprofit organization as well as a \$500 fine.

3. Oklahoma County (April 2023)

The McCloud Police Department arrested Eli Grino for driving under the influence in April 2023. During the arrest, an officer noticed fighting spurs as well as wooden transport boxes for roosters inside Grino's car. Grino told deputies he had roosters "used for fighting." Authorities then went to Grino's home in Newalla

and found a large number of roosters tied to stakes in the backyard and alerted Animal Welfare and obtained a search warrant. Police found cockfighting paraphernalia such as gaffs and knives and other evidence of cockfighting.

Grino faced nearly 60 felony counts related to cockfighting. The charges included possession of birds with the intent to engage in a cockfight, cruelty to animals and keeping a place equipment or facility to be used in permitting cockfighting. In September 2024, 56 of those charges were summarily dismissed in Oklahoma County Court. A judge ruled that prosecutors failed to prove probable cause in the animal cruelty charge and the charge of keeping a place, equipment or facility to be used in permitting cockfighting. Thus, only one remaining charge is left. During the hearing Grino stated that most of his roosters are sold to buyers in the Philippines and in Mexico. Eli Grino's Facebook accounts still have posts from as far back as 2013 featuring him pictured with cockfighting derby awards.

4. Carter County (April 2024)

On Saturday April 20, 2024, acting on a tip from SHARK and Animal Wellness Action, Carter County Sheriff's Office busted a cockfight near Wilson. Upon arrival at the address, deputies observed numerous vehicles fleeing the scene through a wooded area and engaged in a high-speed highway pursuit with Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) helping with a felony stop, followed by one arrest of a Texas man. Deputies obtained a search warrant and returned to the scene where they found a cockfighting pit, bleachers, gaffs, knives and remains of roosters.

District Attorney Melissa Handke charged the owners of the cockfighting pit, Catlin and Darline Gravitt, with two felonies: Keeping place equipment or facilities for cockfighting and Owning, possessing, keeping or training bird(s) for fighting. This case was dropped by the District Attorney in August 2025. The District Attorney dropped the felony eluding charge against Gustavo Barcenas Sr. and Alberto Barcenas and refiled as a misdemeanor.

Anthony Devore, the President of the Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission distributed several social media posts attacking the sheriff and prosecutors for "harassing chicken farmers" for "just owning chickens."

5. Cleveland County (January 2024)

A Norman Fire Department response to a barn fire led to the discovery of a cockfighting pit and operation in a rural part of Cleveland County in January 2024. Norman Animal Welfare were called in to look for puppies which were in the barn but discovered the pit in an adjacent barn. A search warrant was issued, and 77 roosters were seized and relocated to a rehabilitation site.

Officers found a square cockfighting pit and gaffs and other equipment used for cockfighting as well as video of the owner fighting the roosters in the pit located at the residence.

The pit owners were charged with three felony counts of cockfighting and one felony count of possessing a firearm after conviction of a felony. The defendants failed to appear for a court hearing on January 30, 2025.

6. Murray County (March 2025)

On Saturday, March 1, 2025, Animal Wellness Action and SHARK reported a large cockfight event in progress in a large tent near Sulphur, Oklahoma to the Murray County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office sent one deputy to the site of the cockfight to investigate. A few minutes later approximately 80 participants in the cockfight could be seen driving slowly out of the location followed by the deputy's vehicle. As soon as the cockfighters left the location our investigators entered the tent that housed the cockfight and documented the pit and the evidence left behind by the fleeing cockfighters. Our investigators took the evidence to the Sheriff's Office. The deputy who had gone to the site informed our investigators that his

office knew who the landowner and the cockfight organizer were and that he had gathered video evidence on site. The deputy said the land was on Chickasaw tribal land and that the case might be turned over to the Chickasaw Lighthorse Police. A subsequent check with the Chickasaw Lighthorse Police found that they have no record of the reported cockfight.

Three days later, our investigators observed and documented the cockfight organizer taking down the tent and removing the evidence. Calls to the Sheriff's Office failed to get them to stop the removal. To date, there have been no arrests or prosecutions.

7. Logan County (May 2025)

On Saturday, May 31, 2025, The **Logan County Sheriff's Office** intervened in a large-scale illegal cockfighting operation that resulted in nine arrests, and the seizure of more than 50 roosters. Investigators say a woman, who became upset after learning her family members were heading to a cockfight, called the sheriff's office with the tip that led investigators to a rural property near Guthrie, Oklahoma.

The sheriff's deputies arrived to find several vehicles and a barn at the end of the driveway. At least 20 people immediately ran out of the barn, into the woods. Nine people who remained, including the pit owner, were arrested.

A search of the property uncovered several dead and wounded roosters, a cockhouse trailer, gaffs, and other cockfighting paraphernalia. In addition to the animals, deputies seized 28 vehicles, the trailer, and the cockfighting tools. Investigators also located drugs used to inject the birds. Prosecution is pending.

8. McIntosh County (May 2025)



On May 24, 2025, Animal Wellness Action received an anonymous tip about a cockfight in McIntosh County and went to the site and documented a cockfight in progress. Our investigators entered the cockfight undercover and documented not only the cockfight but the participation by at least one officer of the Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission. Approximately 100 people, including children, were participating in or observing the cockfights. Our investigators went to the McIntosh County Sheriff's Office to report the cockfight still in progress and to give them copies of the evidence. The Sheriff's Office responded that the

fight was on Cherokee tribal land, and they reported it to the Cherokee Marshal's Service. Our investigators called the Cherokee Marshals and were told it was being investigated. Back at the cockfight, our investigators continued documenting the scene, and Animal Wellness Action awaited the arrival of law enforcement. Our investigator documented illegal animal fights, betting, and the sale of gaffs. No law enforcement arrived.

Animal Wellness Action subsequently visited Cherokee Marshal's headquarters and delivered video evidence to them and requested their presence at the next scheduled cockfight on June 7, 2025. Our investigators were at the cockfight on June 7 where they videoed the president of the Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission participating in the cockfighting. The president and vice president of the Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission have been charged with cockfighting and await trial. The owner of the pit, a Cherokee tribal citizen, has not been charged to date.

9. Mayes County (May 2025)

During May Animal Wellness Action received a tip about a cockfighting pit near Maize, Oklahoma. On Saturday, May 31, 2025, Animal Wellness Action went to the location and found a large cockfight event in progress. Our investigator entered the cockfight and documented animal fighting, illegal betting, and dead and dying roosters. Approximately one hundred people, including children, were participating or observing the cockfighting. Our investigator called the Mayes County Sheriff's Office to report the cockfighting. An officer came to the gate of the property but told our investigator by phone that he could not enter private property.

The cockfighters spotted the officer at the gate and stopped the cockfights. The cockfighters waited until the officer had left before they left. The organizer told the crowd not to worry, "I am big in Mayes County. I've been doing this a long time and everyone knows what I do. If they cannot see a cockfight they cannot come in." This case is under investigation.

