



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 8, 2024

Contact: Paige Manning, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
(601) 359-1163 / cell: (662) 312-5897
Paige@mdac.ms.gov

Hannah East, Marketing Specialist
(601) 359-1179
HannahE@mdac.ms.gov

MALTB Investigation Leads to Arrest of Suspect in Santa Rosa County, Florida

JACKSON, Miss. – The Mississippi Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau (MALTB) investigation assisted the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office (SRSO) in the arrest of 52-year-old suspect Mike Cosse in Santa Rosa County, Florida. Cosse is a suspect in the thefts of agriculture equipment across Mississippi.

An investigation of multiple thefts of John Deere tractors and skid steers throughout the state of Mississippi led to a suspect named Mike Cosse in Florida. MALTB investigators contacted the SRSO to inform them of a Milton, Florida, resident who is a suspect in an ongoing investigation in Mississippi.

On March 1, 2024, the SRSO arrested Cosse after conducting an investigation into the suspected crimes. Cosse is thought to have made over \$100,000 selling stolen equipment since late 2023. Cosse was released from Santa Rosa County Jail on a \$182,00 bond. This is an open and ongoing investigation with additional arrests and charges expected in Mississippi.

To report any stolen agricultural property, please contact the Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau at (800) 678-2660. All Hot Tip Line callers shall remain anonymous.

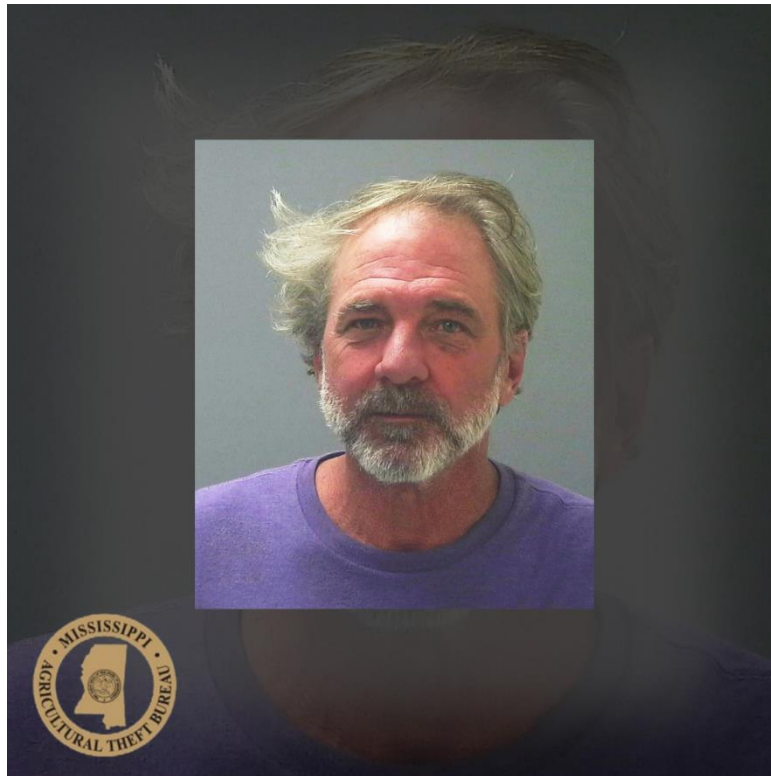
The Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau, the law enforcement division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, enforces state laws pertaining to the theft of cattle, horses, swine, poultry, fish, farm equipment, chemicals, timber and all other farm or agriculture-related crimes. Visit <http://msagtheft.org/> to learn more about the MALTB.

###



**Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau
Dean Barnard, Director
P.O. Box 1609
Jackson, MS 39215
Telephone: (601) 359- 1121
Tip Line: 1 (800) 678-2660**

Photo attached.



The Mississippi Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau (MALTB) investigation assisted the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office (SRSO) in the arrest of 52-year-old suspect Mike Cosse in Santa Rosa County, Florida.