

TESTIMONIAL IN HONOR OF MR. HANS LAWAEZT

Recipient of the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor

It is an honor for me to share a few words about Mr. Hans Lawaetz, owner of Annaly Farms. While Mr. Lawaetz's service to the Virgin Islands spans agriculture, sports, conservation, and community leadership, I can speak most directly to the lasting impact of his work within our local livestock industry.

As Director of the St. Croix Abattoir, I have seen how Mr. Lawaetz supports local livestock farmers by providing a dependable market for their livestock. Animals raised by local farmers are slaughtered and inspected at the St. Croix Abattoir, and the meat is then made available to the community through Annaly Farms.

His support has helped promote livestock farming as a viable business and encouraged local farmers to continue raising livestock. Through Annaly Farms, members of our community have access to locally raised meat, while our farmers have an outlet for the livestock they work hard to raise.

Mr. Lawaetz has also been an invaluable private-sector partner to the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture. On numerous occasions, he has assisted the Department with acquiring replacement parts needed to repair machinery in the abattoir. This partnership has helped reduce operational downtime, maintain productivity, and protect the essential slaughter services upon which our livestock farmers depend.

What Mr. Lawaetz has helped build through Annaly Farms is more than just a business. His contributions demonstrate the importance of a strong partnership between the public and private sectors. He has helped create an important connection between our farmers, the abattoir, and the community. His continued support strengthens our local economy, promotes livestock production, benefits the agricultural sector, and helps ensure that locally raised meat remains available to our people.

His commitment to agriculture reflects his lifetime of service to the Virgin Islands. On behalf of the St. Croix Abattoir, I congratulate Mr. Hans Lawaetz and thank him for his continued support of our farmers, livestock industry, and the people of the Virgin Islands.

Respectfully submitted,



Curleen Rogers
Director, St. Croix Abattoir
Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture