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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,800

Sightings has continued to follow developments in the San Luis Valley of Colorado and New

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00:00:06,800 --> 00:00:12,720

Mexico where bizarre livestock mutilations have been plaguing ranchers since 1967.

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00:00:12,720 --> 00:00:19,520

It is an unexplained and gruesome phenomenon that just won't go away.

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00:00:19,520 --> 00:00:25,000

They may call this part of New Mexico God's country, but if you're a cattle rancher here,

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00:00:25,000 --> 00:00:27,120

this is hell on earth.

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00:00:27,120 --> 00:00:31,920

Our livestock death, commonly known as cattle mutilation, continues to occur with alarming

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00:00:31,920 --> 00:00:32,920

regularity.

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00:00:32,920 --> 00:00:37,600

Recently, a sightings team returned to the San Luis Valley to investigate a rash of new

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00:00:37,600 --> 00:00:38,600

reports.

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00:00:38,600 --> 00:00:46,600

Somebody or something is killing these animals and the shock to me was seeing these animals

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00:00:46,600 --> 00:00:50,360

lie there and they look like they were just sleeping.

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00:00:50,360 --> 00:00:58,680

But yet, their tongues were gone, the sexual organs were gone, the blood was gone.

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00:00:58,680 --> 00:01:03,120

Gail Stalen is a New Mexico based livestock mutilation investigator.

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00:01:03,120 --> 00:01:08,000

She has worked on over 50 cases, including eight in 1996 alone.

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00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:12,200

She is now concentrating her efforts in the Taos area where the most recent mutilations

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00:01:12,200 --> 00:01:13,320

have taken place.

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00:01:13,320 --> 00:01:21,080

The authorities right now, I do not believe are handling mutilations in a proper way or

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00:01:21,080 --> 00:01:23,280

let's say a more professional way.

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00:01:23,280 --> 00:01:30,480

What I hope to change is to impose a forensic protocol on the cattle mutilations.

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00:01:30,480 --> 00:01:37,200

I would like to see an organized response from the government to address this issue,

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00:01:37,200 --> 00:01:42,360

to investigate cattle mutilations as a crime scene.

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00:01:42,480 --> 00:01:47,200

John Patternoster made the cattle mutilations a central issue at his recent bid for district

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00:01:47,200 --> 00:01:49,200

attorney of Taos.

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00:01:49,200 --> 00:01:50,960

It's a growing mystery.

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00:01:50,960 --> 00:01:59,160

It's a significant economic impact on the ranchers and they deserve a response.

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00:01:59,160 --> 00:02:04,280

Carlos Trujillo is a cattle rancher in Penausco, a remote town south of Taos.

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00:02:04,280 --> 00:02:08,920

Just before our arrival, Trujillo had found his prize bull dead.

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00:02:08,960 --> 00:02:13,520

Mutilations including the heart had been removed with an eerie surgical precision.

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00:02:13,520 --> 00:02:18,360

Trujillo told local field investigator Michael Abbey that he was dissatisfied with the county

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00:02:18,360 --> 00:02:19,600

inspector's findings.

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00:02:19,600 --> 00:02:22,000

This was not the work of a coyote.

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00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:25,680

I talked to the inspector personally and he said that he was some kind of a predator

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00:02:25,680 --> 00:02:26,680

or a coyote.

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00:02:26,680 --> 00:02:30,440

Well, if I'm coyote, I have knives like that.

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00:02:30,440 --> 00:02:32,160

I mean, we're in a heap of trouble.

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00:02:32,160 --> 00:02:35,840

We're in a heap of trouble.

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00:02:35,960 --> 00:02:40,640

Many local ranchers Trujillo doesn't know where to turn next.

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00:02:40,640 --> 00:02:41,640

It hurts.

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00:02:41,640 --> 00:02:43,560

It hurts in the pocket.

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00:02:43,560 --> 00:02:45,520

The ranchers are frustrated.

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00:02:45,520 --> 00:02:51,400

There's no question about that, about the lack of any kind of a response, a uniform,

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00:02:51,400 --> 00:02:54,840

significant response from government.

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00:02:54,840 --> 00:02:59,560

As part of this investigation, sightings travel to Albuquerque to try and get some answers

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00:02:59,560 --> 00:03:04,840

from John Wortman, the director of the New Mexico Livestock Board, the state agency charged

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00:03:04,840 --> 00:03:07,800

with investigating cattle mutilations.

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00:03:07,800 --> 00:03:12,440

I can't say that we've actually determined a specific cause of death in any of those.

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00:03:12,440 --> 00:03:16,720

Some, we've got a higher probability that maybe they died of natural causes or struck

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00:03:16,720 --> 00:03:22,440

by lightning or were killed by a predator or whatever.

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00:03:22,440 --> 00:03:26,360

Yes, there are some of those that have been reported that we just have no explanation,

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00:03:26,360 --> 00:03:30,520

but that's not to say that there was some deep dark mystery about why they died.

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00:03:30,520 --> 00:03:33,320

We just don't have a reason for why they killed.

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00:03:33,320 --> 00:03:38,680

We haven't been as careful with crime scenes in some of these mutilations as you would

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00:03:38,680 --> 00:03:41,000

like to have if you're going to try to find evidence.

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00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:43,560

And in some of these cases, there's very little evidence there.

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00:03:43,560 --> 00:03:46,160

And when you walk in there and start rolling these animals around trying to figure out

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00:03:46,160 --> 00:03:49,560

why they died, you destroy whatever evidence is there.

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00:03:49,560 --> 00:03:54,680

In those cases that remain unresolved, the Livestock Board believes that a conventional

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00:03:54,680 --> 00:03:57,000

explanation will be found.

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00:03:57,000 --> 00:04:00,760

We think that there are individuals out there that are mutilating for whatever reasons, either

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00:04:00,760 --> 00:04:05,640

ritual activities or vengeance or just pure vandalism.

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00:04:05,640 --> 00:04:11,000

The assertion by the New Mexico Livestock Board that there's cult activity behind these

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00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:17,480

cattle mutilations or malicious vandalism, I have to say is based from my knowledge

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00:04:17,480 --> 00:04:21,400

on insufficient or completely absent evidence.

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00:04:21,400 --> 00:04:24,840

It seems to me that everybody's got a lot of theories, but nobody's got a lot of hard

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00:04:24,840 --> 00:04:26,160

evidence.

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00:04:26,160 --> 00:04:30,360

One prevailing theory connects the mutilations to UFOs.

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00:04:30,440 --> 00:04:35,560

Well, as an official here in response to the aliens are taking our cattle hypothesis, I

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00:04:35,560 --> 00:04:38,920

understand there are people out there that firmly believe that.

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00:04:38,920 --> 00:04:41,800

And I guess I can't prove that that's not true.

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00:04:41,800 --> 00:04:45,480

We have no evidence that would point that direction.

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00:04:45,480 --> 00:04:50,360

And at this point, we're not pursuing that as a possibility of the problem.

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00:04:50,360 --> 00:04:55,400

Eventually, better forensic procedures may help officials cope with mutilations mystery.

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00:04:55,400 --> 00:05:00,360

For now, it's an economic burden for the ranchers and a mystery to the community at large.

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00:05:00,360 --> 00:05:01,560

We don't know.

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00:05:01,560 --> 00:05:07,880

And until we do know from hard evidence obtained at the scene in a forensically responsible way,

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00:05:07,880 --> 00:05:10,120

we're just guessing.

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00:05:10,120 --> 00:05:14,440

Gail Stalen isn't waiting for the wheels of government to turn in her favor.

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00:05:14,440 --> 00:05:19,080

She takes this issue personally and continues to fight the ranchers.

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00:05:19,080 --> 00:05:24,840

I'm going to continue investigating these mutilations because I truly believe that

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00:05:24,840 --> 00:05:27,000

eventually we will find the answers.

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00:05:30,200 --> 00:05:34,920

In November of 1996, John Paternoster was elected district attorney for Taos in the

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00:05:34,920 --> 00:05:36,040

surrounding county.

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00:05:36,040 --> 00:05:41,240

And he's vowed to continue his fight to get to the bottom of the mutilations mystery.