



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Corporal Wendy McGinnis
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

Re: \$87,000 of Farming Equipment Recovered

Date: July 28, 2011

Case#: 2010-13414, 2010-30471, 2010-16037, 2010-28028, 2010-17395, 2009-27747, 2009-15886

Suspect: Francisco Rivera-Ocasio W/M DOB 01/17/1967

On 07/21/2011, Francisco Rivera-Ocasio was arrested at his residence located at 14307 Amero Lane in Spring Hill on two outstanding warrants from Marion County.

Rivera-Ocasio has been the subject of an on going joint investigation involving Hernando, Sumter, and Marion Counties. He has been stealing heavy equipment to include tractors, farming equipment, and trailers for the last two years. Detectives Jason Jernigan and Brent Stentz have been able to link Rivera-Ocasio to at least 7 reported cases locally and several more Dealing in Stolen Property cases in Marion County. These cases spanned from 2009 till present.

The majority of the stolen equipment has been recovered in Marion and the victims have been notified.

Francisco Rivera-Ocasio has also been charged with one count of commercial burglary for case number 2009-27747. Marion County charged the Rivera-Ocasio for Dealing in Stolen Property involving Hernando County cases 2010-13414 and 2010-16037.

“It is exciting to see a joint operation have such a successful outcome” said Sheriff Al Nienhuis “without the commitment and teamwork of every agency involved this criminal would likely still be committing crimes against our agricultural community.”

Below are the property recoveries and their monetary totals.

2010- 13414-----	2010 Kubota RTV	<u>valued at \$15,000</u>
2010- 30471-----	Kubota zero turn lawn mower and trailer	<u>valued at \$6,000</u>

2010-16037-----	2009 Kawasaki Mule	<u>valued at \$11,000</u>
2010-28028-----	2007 John Deere front end loader	<u>valued at \$12,000</u>
2010-17395-----	2005 Kubota tractor	<u>valued at \$17,000</u>
2009-27747-----	Polaris Ranger ATV	<u>valued at \$12,000</u>
2009-15886-----	2008 Kubota tractor	<u>valued at \$14,000</u>

Total recovery value \$87,000

Rivera-Ocasio is currently being held at the Hernando County Jail on a \$40,000.00 Bond.