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Dept. of Agriculture Nears Completion of St. Croix Abattoir Repairs for Reopening

VIDA outlines completed structural updates and expresses optimism for a soon-to-be-announced reopening date, thanking farmers for their patience during the closure.

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The V.I. Dept. of Agriculture has expressed optimism about the ongoing maintenance efforts at the St. Croix Abattoir and anticipates announcing a reopening date soon.

The abattoir was closed on April 29 following a routine inspection that revealed significant maintenance issues, the department said.

VIDA has also provided updates on several completed projects that are essential to the abattoir's reopening. The structural updates include:

- **Repaired Holding Pen Gate:** Ensures secure holding of livestock upon arrival.
- **Repaired Knock Box Swing Gate:** Allows for 360-degree operation and easy handling of carcasses.
- **Repaired Gutting Station Overhead Holding Rail:** Facilitates the easy transportation of carcasses.
- **Installed Air Blower Curtain and Repaired Existing Air Blowers:** Maintains stable and sanitary indoor environments while allowing personnel to enter and exit.
- **Installed Elevating Platform for Rumping Station.**
- **Ordered and Received New Steam Boiler:** Awaiting installation.
- **Completed Installation of New Steam Pipes:** Pending insulation.

“My team and I have been working diligently with the resources that we have to ensure that our employees are confident about their safety and the successful operation of the abattoir,” stated Abattoir Director Curleen Rogers. “Our focus is to serve our community and provide the best possible service that we can to our valued livestock farmers.”