

Norfolk & Suffolk Crime Prevention

Guidance Note

Farm Security



Farm Security

Farms are spread over many acres with stock and equipment often portable and easy to steal. Most farms are easy to get to, making total security impossible - but a lot can still be done to reduce the risks:

Implements and tools

- When possible, lock tools and small items of machinery inside a secure building.
- To prevent the theft of batteries, tools and accessories, avoid leaving tractors and other farm implements in fields.
- Keep valuable machinery away from public roads when not in use.
- Consider making a secure cage or structure for smaller items which should be sited within a secure and alarmed building.
- Record the make and serial number of power tools - an up-to-date inventory is vital.
- Mark or stamp easily removed items with your postcode, followed by the first two letters of your farm's name, or other identifying marks. Alternatively use a forensic property marking system such as Smart Water or Selecta DNA.

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Vehicles

Four-wheel drive vehicles, trailers, caravans and quad bikes can all be a target for thieves. There are many anti-theft devices available such as alarms, immobilisers and tracking systems.

- Lock your vehicle and use security devices. Trailers and horse boxes are particularly vulnerable.
- Where possible, secure them inside a garage or similar building.
- Mark them and make them unique - use large letters on the roof. Record serial/chassis numbers and photograph them.

Fuel thefts

Pumps should have locking devices and/or isolator switches and, where possible, they should be housed in a secure location. Tanks should be fitted with an approved security device.

Field gates

- Field gate hinges should be of the capped or inverted type to prevent easy removal.
- Make regular checks to see if they have been tampered with. If you believe they have been tampered with, contact your local police via 101, the 24-hour Police non-emergency number.
- Mark gates to make them unique to your farm.
- Gates that are locked with good quality chains or padlocks are more difficult to steal.
- Consider signage to set rules about who is permitted to enter or a phone No to call to report in

Livestock

- Grazing animals are an easy target for thieves. Regularly check fields where animals are grazing.

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- Keep your hedges, fences and gates in good repair. Ditches form a natural barrier. Fit field gates with capping hinges so they cannot be removed easily.
- Cattle grids should be removable and locking posts, to obstruct large openings to yards, used.
- Consider using CCTV allowing animals to be watched in barns or yards from the comfort of your home. This can be useful during busy times like lambing season.
- If livestock is stolen, it's important you give police an accurate description. Ear tags help police to identify stock. Freeze-branding, hot-branding or tattooing with your postcode can also help.
- Take photographs of particularly valuable animals.

Landscaping

Trees and shrubs around buildings should be trimmed to reduce hiding places and to increase visibility to and from the main residence.

Overhanging branches should be trimmed to prevent people using them to access other parts of the farm, e.g. using a tree to get to an upper level of the house.

Lighting

Security lighting should be installed around the perimeter of farm buildings and farmyard to provide effective illumination during the hours of darkness. Consideration should be given to the installation of sensor style lights, which activate automatically when movement is detected within range. Security lighting should be checked and maintained in good working order. Consider using light timers to turn lights on/off when not at home.

Fertiliser

Inorganic nitrogenous fertilisers can be misused by terrorists as an ingredient in a homemade explosive, particularly ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate based fertilisers.

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When large amounts of fertiliser are being delivered to farmers and growers across the UK, anyone who handles or stores fertiliser should consider its security to prevent it from falling into the wrong hands.

Storing your fertiliser in an enclosed secure barn or covering it with a tarpaulin in an open-sided barn may seem basic, but can be effective. Similarly, closing and locking a gate that gives access is cheap, quick and will deter some (but not all) offenders. It is also important to be aware if any of your fertiliser has been stolen or there has been an attempt to steal it. Putting measures in place will make it much easier to discover such a theft or attempt, enabling you to notify the police.

Do not

- Store fertiliser where there is public access.
- Leave bags of fertiliser in the field overnight.
- Store fertiliser near to, or visible from, the public highway.
- Sell-on ammonium nitrate fertiliser. This is an offence without the property certification (detonation resistance certificate).

Do

- Retain and file all fertiliser delivery notes.
- Wherever possible, and with regard to HSE safety guidance, store fertiliser inside a locked building or compound.
- Fully sheet fertiliser when stored outside and regularly check to ensure that the stack has not been tampered with.
- Carry out regular, frequent stock checks.
- Report any unexplained stock discrepancy or loss / theft to the police immediately.
- Purchase your fertiliser from a Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme (FIAS) approved supplier.

Please report ANY suspicious activity at or near your premises – it may prove to be a missing part of a bigger picture.

Farmwatch

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Farmwatch schemes encourage everyone in the farming community to be vigilant and to report anything suspicious to the police. It also encourages them to pool their knowledge – people who live in the farming community have specialised knowledge which even the police may find it hard to achieve.

The main aims of Farmwatch are to:

- Reduce opportunities for crime and vandalism; Strengthen community spirit so that everyone can play a part in protecting their property;
- Improve two-way communication between farmers and the police;
- Reduce fear of crime;

Farmwatch schemes are operating in many areas. Your local SNT can give you advice.

Be Alert

Keep up to date on the current crime trends in your area. Again, a good way to do this is to join your local Farmwatch. Encourage employees to be security conscious, and lookout for strange vans or cars –a registration number may give the police a vital lead.

Register with Police Connect. You can receive the latest crime information and intelligence on your phone or computer which will enable you to be more aware and vigilant. You will find Details on the Police Website.

Insurance pays

It is very important to have adequate insurance cover. It pays to have full cover against loss of vehicles, equipment and livestock, etc, as well as for the contents of your home and other buildings. Advice from your insurance company is free – whether it's about insurance itself, or on ways to make your farm more secure

Visitors

DO's

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- Make a record of vehicle make, colour and Registration Number. Number of strangers when they call to your farm
- Note the general description of caller(s) height, accent, gait, nationality, hair colour, eye colour tattoos, etc..
- Contact your local Police Station as soon as possible if you are suspicious.

DO NOT's

- Buy machinery, trailers, tractors, quads, ride-on mowers, etc. from strangers
- Pay cash for goods
- NOTE: NO RECEIPT - NO GUARANTEE REMEMBER: If you are in possession of stolen goods you may be liable to prosecution
- Don't hide spare keys outside.
- Don't leave ladders or other climbing aids lying around outside

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Security Self-Assessment

A common sense approach to security can result in crime being avoided or reduced.

The security self-assessment looks at both physical security and management practices and provides a basis for security improvements to be put in place.

This form is to be used as a voluntary guide only, some of the listed questions and suggestions may not be relevant to all farm operations. If you would like someone from the police to help you with the Self-Assessment please use the contact details at the bottom of this page.

Areas to consider	Advice	Potential areas for improvement
Is there adequate signage on the farm?	Consider the messages you need to provide. I.e. private property, no access, who to contact in an emergency	
Do you have a system for recording who is on the farm at any one time?	Maintain a booking in and out system for employees and visitors.	
Are employees required to report strangers on the farm?	Provide some form of training for all staff on how to identify strangers and how to approach them.	
Have employees been instructed on how to approach strangers or unauthorised visitors?		
Do you have a secure store for keys and is this used for all the farms keys?	Knowing where your keys are is essential and all staff should be required to return keys at the end of the day wherever possible.	
Is there two way voice communication between employees and management?	This can be essential for isolated staff and other lone workers. Mobile phones should be checked for reception in all areas of the farm. Alternatively look at a radio link for employees	
Are you able to "lock down" your farmyard – i.e. can access	There are many options so consider your needs carefully.	

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points be securely gated?		
Are access points covered by Alarms, CCTV and or lighting?	This is a specialist installation and will only be useful if images are of appropriate quality.	
Are all external doors fitted with 5 lever mortice locks?	5 lever mortice locks should be to British Standard BS3621 or BS 8621, Fitting locks to UPVC, wooden or metal doors is a specialist field – seek advice from a locksmith. If enhanced security doors are required use PAS24:2012 Consider fitting laminated glass to door windows in vulnerable locations.	
Are shotguns and firearms kept on the farm?	Firearms and ammunition should be secured as recommended by the Police Firearms Officer.	
Are valuables appropriately secured within the house / office?	Insurance companies will recommend an insurance rated safe suitable for protecting your cash, jewellery and documents.	
Are valuable items identified and registered on the National database “Immobilise”?	Register valuable items at www.immobilise.com This is a national property database to which the Police have a search facility. This is a free service. Once registered the owner of a device can be verified.	
Are valuable items marked with a recognised property marking system?	DNA liquid is the preferred method such as that produced by Smart Water or Selecta DNA.	
Is there adequate lighting around farm outbuildings and are lights visible from the residential area?	The type of lighting very much depends on the situation and could be either dusk to dawn or PIR.	
Are measures in place to prevent outbuilding doors from being rammed or entered by force?	Many barn doors operate on rollers. Reaching this level of security may be difficult. However, pull up bollards could be considered to prevent vehicles from being removed by intruder.	
Can outbuilding doors be securely locked?	Consider using security locks. These locks require owner authorisation before duplicate keys can be cut. Use the same brand-name locks	

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	<p>for everything to make it easier to detect unauthorized locks. Periodically look for signs of tampering.</p> <p>Use hasps that fold over the screws/bolt heads when locked, which prevents access to the screws/bolt heads. Locks are only as good as the hasps to which they are attached. Use coach bolts in preference to screws when appropriate.</p> <p>(Implement a system for checking facilities at the end of the day to ensure they are secured)</p>	
Are windows to outbuildings able to be secured with steel bars/mesh or similar?		
If you have a field or perimeter alarm system are these set at night?	This is particularly important for the protection of valuable equipment, tools and agricultural machinery. This must be considered in conjunction with any external door and window alarms.	
Are tools secured in a secure building or specific area within a building?	Consider outbuilding security. Lock tools away in secure building or part of building when not in use. Invest in a secure storage tool cage or box.	
Are tools easily identified as belonging to your farm?	Popular options include overt visible permanent marking that the tools belongs to your Farm (painting or CRE-mark type product	
Is unwanted metal promptly removed from yards and storage areas?	Obvious scrap will attract thieves. Scrap can encourage trespassers into yards on the pretence of removing it whilst having a good look around at farm security and potential targets. Regularly remove unwanted scrap using unauthorised licensed dealers.	
Have vehicles with catalytic converters been security marked or protected?	Guidance notes and information on how to avoid theft can be obtained from your local police station.	

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Are levels in fuel tanks regularly monitored?		
Are fuel tanks situated in areas with good visibility?	If fuel stores are hidden, they are easier to tamper with. Ensure good natural surveillance.	
Have fuel tanks been adequately protected with fencing?	Consider erecting a metal cage round your tank with a secondary lockable access hatch to the filler cap. Consider some defensive planting. This is nature's way of helping to reduce crime. Thieves will not wish to force their way through or over a prickly hedge.	
Are fuel tanks alarmed?	External PIR sensors Alarms are available these detect unauthorised activity in the area around your tank.	
Do you have a policy for securing fuel bowsers away from the farm complex?	Bowsers left in field are vulnerable and this situation should be avoided wherever possible.	
Do vehicles have a unique single key?		
Are any vehicles left in fields overnight?	Consider securing valuable vehicles in locked barns or yards over night or when not in use.	
Is agricultural machinery kept in secured barns overnight?	Block valuable vehicles in with other vehicles. If not possible, consider chaining them together securing them to a floor-mounted securing point	
Are vehicles and trailers fitted with tracking devices?	Location and tracking systems use Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to locate stolen vehicles. Information is directed to PC, laptop or mobile phone. This will enable companies and police to locate vehicles	
Have vehicles been fitted with immobilisers?	There are different types of immobilisation devices on the market, ranging from mechanical to diesel systems. These devices isolate hydraulic, electrical and fuel systems, preventing the vehicle from being moved.	

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Are agricultural vehicles identified and registered with the DVLA or if not appropriate with a property register such as CESAR - www.cesarscheme.org	A machine registered with CESAR or marked will be easier to recover and harder for a criminal to alter / hide the identity of.	
Are Fences, Hedges and Gates in a good state of repair?		
Are locks regularly checked for tampering?	Try to make this a regular routine for all members of staff.	
Are lanes and tracks gated to prevent alternative access to the farm house and yard?	Keep field gates and gate locks in good condition. Field gate hinges should have capping hinges so they cannot be removed easily. Construct gates so they can't be disassembled by simply removing a couple of bolts or spot welded Consider using large tree trunks, rocks or ditch and bund to protect unauthorised access points on to land.	
Do the police know which land belongs to you?		
Where possible is livestock grazed away from accessible secluded roads?	This may help deter rustling. Check the security of boundary fencing/hedging and make regular checks of fields where animals are kept to ensure fences are not breached.	
Are fields secured to prevent intrusion?	Ditches form a natural barrier. Cattle grids should be removable and locked out of position when not in use. Use locking posts to obstruct large openings to yards.	
Is your livestock identifiable?	Where possible photograph valuable livestock and stud animals, record specific markings front back and from each side. Ear tags, horn brand, freeze marking or tattooing can help to identify livestock to make animals more easily identifiable.	

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Do you have CCTV coverage for livestock?	The CowCam is a high-tech solution to remote monitoring of livestock with images sent to a portable or fixed monitor.	
Are wildlife crimes reported to the police?	Report all Suspicious individual events and vehicle to police.	
Are incidents of Hare Coursing reported to the police?	The Hunting Act 2004 made hare coursing illegal Report all Suspicious individual events and vehicles to the police.	
Are incidents of Poaching reported to the police?	Poaching (hunting or fishing) is illegal. It may be illegal because: The game or fish is not in season The poacher does not possess a licence The hunter used an illegal weapon for that animal The animal or plant is on restricted land The right to hunt this animal is claimed by somebody The means used are illegal (e.g. baiting) The animal or fish is protected by law or has been listed as an endangered animal.	
Does your farm have a lockdown protocol at the end of the day?	Even a basic routine can add protection to your farm. A simple check list at the end of the day can ensure that you have not left opportunities for thieves.	

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