

A Step by Step Guide to Farm Security



Farmer's Eye

Copyright © 2021 Farmers Eye



Content

Pages

Introduction

2

Brief Introduction about the guide

Step 1

4

Understand the types of criminal

Step 2

6

Connect to the local community

Step 3

7

Look for ways YOU are making it easy for criminals

Step 4

8

Do the paper work

Step 5

9

Learn the key principles of crime prevention

Step 6

10

Survey your property and make a plan

Step 7

14

Take action

Case Study

15

All About Us

16



Introduction

Rural crime seems to be increasing every year, costing farmers more and more. As a farmer you invest a large proportion of your income in expensive items but also use working practises that often make these investments difficult to protect from criminals, who are increasingly aware of their value.

By applying the principles in this guide, you will be able to take steps to protect your hard earned investments. It will put you one step ahead of those who choose to ignore even the simplest actions, which leave themselves open to disruption to their business, that often occurs after a theft. In certain circumstances they may also invalidate any insurance that they might have been paying for.

Every farm is different and what works for one might not work for another. This guide is a step by step process which will provide you with a structure that you can use to apply to your particular farm.

The guide starts by providing background knowledge about farm theft in general, before giving information that will help you to survey your farm and find ways that you can improve your farm security.

Farmers Eye is one of the only businesses in the UK which specializes in the installation of the latest security equipment on farms. We have created this guide based on experience gained during our installations, from advice received from various police forces, and that contributed by our customers – the farming community.

If you have any questions, or perhaps have your own ideas that you would like to add please do not hesitate to contact us by email: info@farmerseye.co.uk.

Please note this guide is aimed to provide information to help fight crime against your property on the farm which in the main is theft. Whilst aspects of it might be applied to other types of crime affecting farmers such as fly tipping or wildlife crime it does not explicitly cover these areas





Headlines from a short period in the summer of 2013.

Warning as burglars hit rural businesses

Suffolk Free Press

11 Jul 2013

Tractor weights stolen from farm

Pocklington Post

10 Jul 2013

Tools stolen from farm machinery company

Stroud News and Journal

5 Jul 2013

Police appeal after vehicle stolen from farm

Horncastle News

4 Jul 2013

Farmers urge vigilance after livestock thefts

Farmers Guardian

4 Jul 2013

Farmer's shock over stolen flock

Oldham Chronicle

3 Jul 2013

Cows escape after farm gate stolen

North Devon Gazette

2 Jul 2013

Fuel stolen from a farm in Hellidon

Daventry Express

1 Jul 2013

Land Rover Discovery stolen from farm near Barnard Castle

The Northern Echo

28 Jun 2013



Step 1: Understand the types of criminal

It's important to try and think like the people who are attacking our farms. To do this we must understand the general types of criminal and the way they operate.

Crime against property on farms can broadly be split into three areas; anti-social behaviour, opportunistic thefts and planned robberies. These categorisations should be applied loosely and one criminal could quickly travel through all the categories. For example, a vandal could whilst on your farm steal something small and also see your quad bike allowing him to plan an attack at a later stage.

Anti-social behaviour

- What is it? Vandalism, arson, releasing of animals or petty theft
- Who does it? Usually bored children. The crimes are not typically targeted at you, but could become so if a grudge develops or being 'chased' turns into a game.
- How do they come to your farm? They usually approach your property on foot or by bicycle, coming via a variety of routes. They won't stick to roads or paths and more often than not will come via an indirect route through your fields.
- When do they come? Usually during daylight hours and more commonly out with school hours or in the school holidays. Less likely to come if the weather is poor.
- How do they operate? They may spend some time on the farm, so will typically be attracted to areas out of view or those areas that are quiet. They look for things to do opportunistically, and once discovering an area/farm with good potential for fun may return regularly. Try and look at your farm from a child's perspective, what looks interesting and fun? Throwing paint cans around, jumping on hay bales, looking at and possibly releasing animals. What would put them off? Scary animals, the risk of being seen, the risk of getting dirty (vandal paint), prickly bushes. See later for specific ideas.

Opportunistic thefts:

- What is it? Theft or damage to your property committed because the opportunity has presented itself. An unplanned crime, that is usually only possible because the actions needed to carry it out are not overtly suspicious.
- Who does it? Any dishonest person who happens to be passing through your farm. This could be a contractor, one of your own workers, dog walkers, or white van man travelling from farm to farm 'looking for straw' or 'asking for directions'.
- How do they come to your farm? These people are on your farm legitimately and therefore approach your farm by designated routes. They would mainly approach your farm in vehicles but in the could also follow footpaths through your property.
- When do they come? These people visit at the normal times when you would expect to see them, as anything else would be immediately suspicious.
- How do they operate? Operating in plain sight, these criminals take advantage of the trusting nature of most farmers. They operate in plain view so it is important to try and limit the opportunities for chance crimes. For example, when a contractor refuels with your fuel to do your job, could they also be filling up their own containers or vehicle?

Planned attacks:

- What is it? This is theft that is specifically targeted at you, and has at least a basic level of planning around the crime.
- Who does it? Dedicated criminals.
- How do they come to your farm? With most planned attacks vehicles will be involved in one way or another, so they will have to use roads or paths. One common exception is the theft of quad bikes, as these are usually stolen by approaching on foot and then driven away usually, across your land.
- When do they come? When they are least likely to be discovered usually the middle of the night, or when they know you are not there.
- How do they operate? Criminals planning targeted attacks will usually know what it is they are coming for, and where it is. As a result it is much harder to defend against. They will be looking to make decent money from a high risk activity so it is usually your high value items they will be looking for. They will often have found the location of the items and be aware of any security measures you have in place by visiting the property previously, possibly posing as traders. This 'reccé' poses a significant opportunity to gather evidence against them if you, your workers or your CCTV system are able to note down or record any suspicious activity on your farm.



Whilst specific deterrents are discussed in a later section of this guide, it is worth noting at this point that relatively easy and simple steps are often effective against anti-social behaviour and the opportunistic theft, for example locking things away or moving them out of sight. Whereas, planned attacks often need a more comprehensive approach, with technology playing a bigger role.

What's at Risk?

- The contents of your home – including antiques,
- Computers, electrical equipment
- Hand and Small Tools
- Fuel – diesel and heating oil
- Machinery and Plant, 4x4s, Quad Bikes
- Chemicals and Fertilizer
- Caravans and trailers
- Livestock
- Scrap metal – gates, roofing lead, drain pipes,
- Gps and other high value electronics and parts found on machinery,
- water troughs
- Stored Grain
- Saddlery and Tack



The NFU Mutual 2011 Rural Crime Survey showed that the top four targets for criminals are Tools, Heating oil/Diesel, Quad bikes and Metal.



Step 2: Connect to the local community.

Modern farming methods mean that farmers are increasingly working alone, or with only one or two employees, rather than the larger numbers that used to work on every farm. Consequently it is becoming much more important to make an effort to be a part of the local farm network so that you can keep up to date with what's happening in your area and also help to fight crime on a community level by sharing information and watching out for each other. Ways to do this include:

- Contacting your local community or rural crime police officer and asking them to come and advise you on farm security.
- Join your local FarmWatch scheme, these are usually operated in conjunction with the local police who will directly inform you of any security news as it happens. If there is not one locally try and get one set up or form a local co-operative to share information between local farmers.
- Use modern media to create a local farming network. Twitter is a great tool for connecting people and organisations who can then provide each other with live security alerts. Lots of the local police officers and forces have their own twitter feeds.
- We have a list of FarmWatch contacts in the resources section of our website at www.selfguard.co.uk





Step 3: Look for ways YOU are making it easy for criminals

Traditionally the farming community has been lucky enough to avoid a lot of criminal activity. Consequently, the level of security awareness amongst rural communities is pretty low, with people regularly leaving keys in cars and property unlocked. Whilst this level of trust is something to be envied, criminals are aware that this is how rural communities live and are increasing encroaching on even the most remote properties. Therefore, a change of mind set has to happen before you start spending money and time on more complicated security measures. If you are reading this guide it is likely that this change is already in progress however in our experience it usually only happens after a significant event.

- Acknowledge that your property is at real risk
- Take sensible security precautions including locking your home when it's empty and do not leave keys in your vehicles, don't leave valuables on show and close windows. Your insurance may not payout if you don't take these basic precautions.
- Be suspicious, trust your instinct; if someone visiting your farm, or something on your farm, does not feel right, let others know via the methods we discussed previously (Twitter, Local Police contact, Farmwatch) or call the non emergency police number 101. (When sharing images of others online be aware of the data protection act)
- Don't let any crime go unreported. Police resources have to be allocated where needed. If you let a crime go unreported it decreases the likelihood of police resources being at a level appropriate to the number of crimes taking place in the countryside. Additionally the thief might strike you, or a neighbouring farm, again in the future.
- Don't be part of the problem by participating in the black market that provides the buyers for the items that are being stolen. People will only steal things if there is a market for them, so if someone offers you really cheap tools or machinery, don't buy them and if it feels suspicious report it to the local police.

“

At Farmers Eye when we are installing security equipment on farms we are nearly always told “...I won't be there, just let yourself in its always open..”

”



Step 4: Do the paper work

In the event that you do experience a theft it is important to have the correct paper work in place so that disruption is minimised and to increase the likelihood of you getting either the item returned or an insurance payout.

- Check your insurance is at an appropriate level for your farm and business. Be sure to read the small print and ensure there are no surprises.
- Make a list of all your major items, both in terms of value and the impact on your business if they were to disappear. Note serial numbers, date of purchase, take a photograph, note any marking you have used on the property.

Read your insurance small print:

“

“...We recently had a major farming insurer try and win our business by beating our existing insurance premium. Delighted at the new price we swapped to them, only to discover AFTER a theft that they had beaten the quote by removing theft cover and we were no longer insured, so that small saving cost us several thousand pounds...”

”

A Farmers Eye Customer.





Step 5: Learn the key principles of crime prevention

Before you start planning your security measures it is useful to consider some of the accepted principles used by most security and law enforcement agencies used to prevent crime. This background understanding may help to spark your own ideas for protecting your farm and your particular way of working.

1. Target Hardening – Making targets more resistant to attack or more difficult to remove or damage. (e.g. locks, fences, strong doors, alarms)
2. Target removal – Permanent or temporary removal of vulnerable persons or property. (e.g. Move diesel tank indoors)
3. Remove means to commit the crime making sure that material capable of being used to help an offender commit a crime is not accessible. (E.g. lock up ladders or tools that could help the criminal)
4. Reduce the pay off – Reducing the gain for the criminal if a crime is committed. (make it difficult to sell the items, by marking them with Smart Water etc)
5. Access control – Restricting access to sites or buildings (Locks, alarms, no entry signs, gates, thorny bushes, aggressive animals, landscaping)
6. Visibility & Surveillance – Making sure that offenders would be visible if they carried out a crime. (Lighting, CCTV, placing items so you can see them from house)
7. Environmental design: making physical changes to the design of your property to help prevent crime. (chopping down bushes, ditches)
8. Rule setting – The introduction of procedures and codes of conduct, which can help to prevent crime. (Refuelling log books)
9. Increase the chance of getting caught – Anything that slows down an offender or increases their risk of being caught (Alarms, Smart Water, Marking with postcode)
10. Deflection – Diverting potential offenders from committing crime. (less relevant but an example would be the local council preventing vandalism by opening a youth club)

deter detect delay.



Step 6: Survey your property and make a plan

Using the background information provided, tour your property with the mindset of a criminal. Look for ways they can enter your property and for the things they might be interested in stealing or damaging. Then look for ways that you could apply the key crime prevention principles.

Approach the survey in a structured manner, for example start at the perimeter of the premises and work your way into the centre of the farm, considering all principles at each key approach route or vulnerable item that you find. The police call this the onion peeling approach.

The following sections will give you things to consider and ideas you could implement in each key area. These ideas are also summarized in the checklist included with this guide, which could be used to structure your survey.

General Ideas:

The approach routes: Think about the approaches people can use to visit your property; both by foot and by vehicle. Clearly signpost footpaths and driveways so people don't have an excuse to stray from defined routes. Look for any opportunity for theft along these routes. For vehicular access consider ways to make it difficult for a criminal to approach your farm unseen, use gates, concrete blocks or landscaping to dictate the routes that vehicles must take on your property.

Gates should be locked at night or alternatively automatic gates can be used to help control access to your farm. This could be useful in preventing those 'suspicious' vans that turn up offering services whilst possibly 'recceing' your farm. Additionally if you have two or more routes for vehicles onto the farm, consider shutting some off, this will make it easier to protect the main route with gates or even CCTV.

Ensure that gates, fences and hedges are well maintained to help prevent alternative routes in. Gates can be locked and the hinges capped to prevent them being lifted off the post. Remember combination padlocks or universal keys can help to make locking up less of a nuisance.

If you have vulnerable approach routes think of ways to make them less so. Automatic lights, prickly hedges, cutting down of bushes that provide cover from view, keeping noisy or aggressive animals in the vicinity (including geese, bulls, and llamas) or using CCTV and alarm systems to alert you to visiting people can all help.

Your home / main office:

Get window locks, lock the doors when you leave the house, get an intruder alarm fitted. Whilst we would ALWAYS recommend locking an unoccupied house if you really don't want to be bothered with keys whilst you are working outside during the day, then you could consider an alarm that can easily be set with a key fob. Often these alarms can also text you, so during the day you can simply activate the alarm leave the property unlocked but receive an alert if someone enters.

Farm yards:

Tidy up, have a place for everything and everything in its place. Opportunistic thefts are often only possible because things are left out and about. The crime often goes undiscovered because we don't really know where things are. Planned thefts are often put into action because criminals can see what's available. Start with the items of most value/risk and begin to choose an appropriate place to store them. Then you can think about way to secure that area. Move high value items in vulnerable areas to less vulnerable areas. For example, if your oil is kept out in the open but not in sight of the main house or office consider moving it so it is easier to monitor and harder to target. Noisy dogs are often useful to alert you of visitors to the farm.

Sheds and barns:

Sheds and barns should have their doors and windows in a good state of repair and preferably locked, as this is an effective deterrent to vandals and opportunists. The locks do not necessarily need to be expensive, but it is recommended to put them on all sheds and barns so it is less straight forward to enter. Remember that an expensive high security lock will only be as strong as the item to which it is attached, make sure that the door is in a good state of repair and unlikely to break quickly. If someone specifically targets a barn then even the best locks are unlikely to keep the criminals out, so in our opinion it is not always necessary to get the strongest or most expensive locks. There is often a reluctance to lock things up due to the hassle BUT with universal keys or combination locks the hassle can be lessened. It may be possible for you to choose just one barn or storage area for all of your 'at risk' items. You then could then focus most of your security effort towards this area. Within this barn you could install secure areas, such as cages, cargo containers or more strongly secured rooms. Additionally, if it is just one barn you could easily make use of an alarm.



Routines & Procedures:

Have a security routine at the end of each day when you can put things back in secure locations, lock up / close open doors and look for things that are not right. Additionally introduce procedures to help with security, for example a log book for fuel withdrawals might help you spot when fuel is going missing.

Lighting:

Improve the lighting around your farm, 80% of reported rural crime happens at night. Lighting, especially automated security lighting, can have a deterrent effect and also alert you to visitors when it comes on. For general lighting, we have found that 'dusk till dawn' 70W sodium lights give a great light output and have low running costs.

Signs:

Consider the use of signs such as CCTV in operation, beware of the dog / bull and similar signs as well as the use of dummy alarm bell boxes or CCTV cameras. This strategy will be most effective against anti-social behaviour and the opportunist, but be aware a committed criminal will probably be able to recognise dummy cameras and will either know you do not have a dog OR be happy that you warned him of the risk. Equally, they will almost certainly do some sort of research and know the security precautions taken on your farm. As mentioned previously other signs (Reception, No Entry, Footpath) can also be used to keep visitors on the right track giving them less excuse to be in vulnerable areas for a recce.

CCTV

At Farmers Eye, we specialize in installing CCTV and alarm systems on farms. Farmers who contact us have usually already had some kind of incident and want to take action immediately to stop it from happening again. They hope that the installation of CCTV will be the answer to all of their security needs, by being both a deterrent and also as a means to collect evidence that the police can use to catch the thieves. We believe that CCTV can provide a great aid to securing your property but can also offer more than just a deterrent or passive recording device. When considering CCTV for your farm consider the following points:

- install CCTV as well as, not instead of, taking the basic security precautions such as locking your home and taking keys out of your vehicles.
- Remember that whilst the evidence gathering capability of your cameras will be limited (i.e. if the thieves wear a hoodie or remove licence plates whilst committing the crime) the presence of cameras is more useful in deterring opportunistic thefts and the recording of any pre-theft reconnaissance visits. These are often carried out during the day and may appear quite innocent, prior to the thief returning later on kitted out wearing hoodies.
- Lighting is critical for the performance of CCTV at night as manufacturers' claims for night vision are nearly

always overstated. Lighting could be provided via security lights that come on via motion sensors and/or low wattage dusk till dawn sodium lights.

- Modern CCTV systems can be monitored using your phone / computer from anywhere in the world, giving you eyes on your farm even when you are not there.
- Installing your cameras alongside other alarm equipment turns your CCTV cameras into a pro-active system. The alarm goes off and sends you a text message or email, you look at your cameras from anywhere with an internet connection and then take action if necessary. Most systems are reactive: you look at the cameras after the event which often might be too late.
- Farms are businesses and as such if you install cameras you must register with the Information Commissioners Office as a 'data controller'. If you fail to do so it might make even the best images unusable as the system is likely to be unlawful. (more information can be found at www.ico.gov.uk)
- Try to find ways to make you cameras provide extra functions for you. For example could they also provide livestock monitoring (calving/lambing), monitoring grain dryers or providing a safety overview for lone workers?

Other Technology:

New technology is changing almost daily and can be a real asset when trying to improve the security on your farm. As with CCTV don't skimp on basic security measures whilst spending money on technology. For the biggest impact install the technology onto a farm already well secured using traditional methods previously mentioned. You could consider:

- Intruder alarms can offer extremely cost effective solutions, especially if used to secure a building that contains all or most of your high risk items. They can be configured to include safety features such as smoke and fire protection. Additionally, whilst we would always recommend using locks on doors and gates, an alarm could offer a solution on a working farm where this is impractical.
- Driveway Alarms could be installed as part of an intruder alarm system or as independent devices. These can be used to alert you to visitors to your farm. But remember that intruders may not use the main routes in, so their effectiveness can be improved by cutting down the number of routes into your farm.
- Automatic gates can be used to cut down on undesirable visits to your farm, whilst allowing you to go about your work relatively unhindered.
- You could also consider wireless diesel/oil tank level monitors.



Specific targets:

Metal (including gates):

- Put hinge caps on gates to prevent lifting.
- Have a farm tidy and take any scrap metal to the recycling yourself – you will be surprised at how much money you make and it will remove the possibility that someone will sell it for you.
- If you have any big expanses of valuable metal such as a lead roof or copper pipes try and reduce access, make it difficult to get to the roof – plant prickly bushes (Pyracantha or Berberis), remove things people can use to get onto the roof (wheelie bins, water butts, ladders etc)
- Don't leave things around to help them move the metal such as wheel barrows, the longer they take the more chance you have of catching them
- Use PIR activated security lights close to the metal roofs or the access route to the roof.
- CCTV and alarm systems (See previous section)
- Consider applying anti-climb paint to drainpipes and roof guttering (it should only be applied above 2.4 metres from the ground and must be accompanied by appropriate clear signage).
- Use forensic security-marking products (e.g. SmartWater) to mark metal goods and link thieves to a crime scene. Signs that warn of forensic marking are a good deterrent and should be prominently displayed.
- Mark gates using paint or a welder to make them unique to your farm.
- Lock gates with good quality chains or padlocks to make them more difficult to steal.

Livestock

- Regularly check fields where animals are grazing.
- Keep your hedges, fences and gates in good repair. Ditches can be used to form an obstacle.
- Gates can be locked and fitted with capping hinges so they cannot be removed easily.
- Most livestock will require a vehicle to move the stolen animals. Look at ways of restricting vehicular access on your farm, for example lockable removable bollards could help restrict access. Licence plate reading cameras can also be employed in suitable areas.
- Animals in barns and yards can easily be protected using CCTV; this has added advantages during lambing and calving.
- Ear tags, branding, tattooing and photographs can be used to help police identify animals in the event of their theft.

- Horses can have a microchip implant placed under the animal's skin which can prove ownership. If a lost or stolen micro chipped animal is found, this information will be revealed by passing a scanner over the microchip, allowing the animal to be reunited with its owner.

Oil and diesel

- –Consider moving your fuel tanks to a more secure location either indoors or out of sight or to a position that you can see it from your farm house or office. (Some of our customers have put them inside a locked cargo container).
- If you can't move the fuel tanks can you shield them with strong fencing, or prickly plants, Note: this is a bit double edged as you may keep thieves out but equally the hedges might also offer cover for the criminals.
- Use of security lights or low wattage dusk till dawn sodium lighting.
- Remember fuel can be stolen directly from vehicles, often damaging the fuel tank and putting the vehicle off the road for a period of time. (See advice for vehicles below.)
- Lock pumps and if possible the electrical isolation to pumps. Even though pumps are often noisy criminals will mask this noise at night with something like a cushion.
- Prevent 'staff' theft by having a system in place for monitoring the use of fuel. If you know how much you usually use, then you will notice when your usage goes up.
- Consider CCTV or alarms for your tanks, this can be used to alert you to theft and also make it more difficult for staff or others to covertly fill their own vehicles or containers.

Fertilizer & Other Chemicals

- Chemicals and fertilizers should be kept out of sight and preferably locked up, for health and safety reasons as well as security. If you are storing your fertilizer in an open sided barn cover it with a tarpaulin.
- Do not store fertilizer or chemicals where ordinary members of the public have access.
- Procedures and log books help you to keep track of chemicals and fertilizers thereby making it easier for you to discover when things have gone missing.
- Be sure that any security measures you introduce do not override any health and safety measures that should be in place.
- Regularly check your chemicals and fertilizer to ensure no one has tampered with them.



Small Hand tools

- Have a locked tool store and put things away after use, or do this as part of your night time routine.
- Consider making a secure cage or structure for smaller items which should be sited within a secure and alarmed building.
- Create a tool inventory with the make and serial number of power tools.
- Mark or stamp easily removed items with your postcode (if other farms share your postcode add something else like your farm name). You could weld, engrave, paint or use a U/V security pen to mark the equipment.

Quad Bikes & Other Vehicles

- Never leave your keys in your vehicle and remember to lock it. If this is difficult then make it part of your lock up routine last thing at night.
- Quad bikes, trailers and horse boxes are particularly vulnerable so try and store them inside a locked area. A cargo container with a protected lock would be ideal for a quad bike.
- Use wheel locks, high quality chains and locks, secure mobile items to something solid that cannot be moved or broken easily.
- Trailer tow locks could be used OR obstacles put in place to prevent access to the towing eye.
- Increase the chance of recovery with GPS trackers, and marking. Thieves will often take quad bikes, hide them in the undergrowth somewhere and wait; if the vehicle is not recovered then they will return for it.
- If you have already had one quad bike stolen be aware that thieves will often return when you replace it.

Plant & other machinery

- Keep machinery and plant stored out of sight, and where possible secure them inside a garage or similar building.
- If you have to leave equipment in a field over night, try and leave it out of sight from the main road.
- Leave plant in a manner which makes it difficult to steal, booms extended, pins missing etc
- Perhaps build a metal caged storage area, ideally inside a building. Or create a landscaped area with one exit and entry that could be secured.
- Lock small items to each other with quality chain and locks.
- Try and mark the equipment to make it obviously yours, weld your postcode on to it, and perhaps paint the postcode in large letters on the roof. One farmer even suggested painting all of his equipment bright pink!
- Record any serial/chassis numbers and take a photograph.
- For high value items consider joining the CESAR scheme, this scheme offers equipment registration and security using Datatag hi tech security markings that acts as a powerful deterrent to theft and an invaluable aid in recovery.

Saddlery & Tack

- Tack, saddles and other accessories should be kept locked up and not left around stables.
- Mark them so that they are identifiable to you, this especially important in shared stables.
- Consider an alarm in the tack room.



Step 7: Take action

Take action using the information and plans gathered. This is often easier said than done on a busy farm, but most of the actions mentioned are relatively inexpensive and quite easy, for example erecting CCTV signs will cost next to nothing. Some choices will be a balance between good security and how the farm works, for example some gates you might be able to lock, and others will be used to often, but try and use your ingenuity to come up with a solution.

Before you spend money on expensive technology do the simple things first. There is no point in having an expensive CCTV system if the keys to your 4WD are kept in it over night. It should be remembered that no single action will make your farm secure it is more likely to be the implementation of many small and easy actions.

Make a note of all the steps you wish to take and slowly work through them all. At the end of this guide we have included a checklist that you can use as a basis for conducting your survey and making your plan. Remember to re-assess your security every year to take into account changes on your farm.

Call out: Nearly all of our customers have come to us AFTER they have had a loss, so don't wait and take action now. Even the smallest steps can have a big effect

NOW



LATER





Case Study

Background:

The Pritchard* family farm on the outskirts of one of Scotland's largest cities and over recent years they have suffered as a result of this proximity. Groups of youths have visited the farm on a number of occasions causing vandalism and despite having been confronted by the police on occasion they seem to have no fear. In 2011, the family also had some livestock stolen, with no clue left as to who the culprits might be.

Over Easter 2012, Mr Pritchard was physically threatened by members of the same group who were responsible for the vandalism and it was at this point that the family decided that something had to be done to address their various security issues, in order to reduce the likelihood that they would be victims of this, now dangerous, crime spree.

The challenge

As with most farms the Pritchard farm had multiple possible entrances, as well as lots of high value articles spread about the farm. The farm received regular visits from both bored kids and white van men. Being a 'one worker farm' when at home or out on the farm Mr Pritchard could only monitor a small proportion of the farm.

The Solution

The Pritchard's key changes included:

- Storing as much of the valuable equipment as possible in one securable location. Any items of machinery which was not practical to lock up was moved so visitors to the farm could not easily see it.
- Tidying their farm, by recycling the scrap metal lying around, removed theft temptation but also made them £3000.00 which paid, for the majority of enhancements.
- The diesel tank was moved inside a shed and out of sight.
- Locks were added to the most vulnerable areas.
- Inviting local police round who complimentarily marked his items with 'Smart water'.
- Warning signs were erected.
- CCTV was installed to monitor all entrances, their livestock and particularly valuable machinery. An alarm system was also installed that alerted them by text if visitors came to the farm.
- They also considered automatic gates but in this case they proved unworkable.

The results

We have had no problems since making the changes and they have certainly given me peace of mind. Even just the prevention of one tank of diesel being stolen makes the cost and the effort worth it, additionally having taken action I no longer feel helpless against the things that were happening to us.





In Conclusion:

This guide is intended to provide ideas to help you protect your farm, farm house and business from the rise in rural crime. Every farm is different and not all of the ideas will be relevant, but the important thing is to:

- 1. Acknowledge that you may be at risk**
- 2. Think about what you have that is in danger**
- 3. Assess your attitude to that threat**
- 4. Take action.**

All about us

Farmer's Eye was founded in Oct 2010 and since then we have specialised in providing Livestock Camera systems, Security Camera and Alarm systems exclusively to farms and farmers. We support farmers throughout the whole of Scotland and the rest of the UK. With great customer service being our number one aim, we tailor all of our products to YOUR farm and YOUR particular needs. Give the team a call today if you need any advice and we can help you find the best fully installed OR self-installed kit that's perfect for your farm.

01382 217 37

www.farmerseye.co.uk

www.farmerseye.co.uk
01382 217 37



Farmer's Eye

Copyright © 2021 Farmers Eye