



Crime Prevention Advice for the Rural Community

The PSNI in partnership with NFU Mutual are providing crime prevention advice to our rural community in relation to security around farms. By reading this leaflet you will hopefully reduce the possibility of being a victim of crime.

So what is being targeted by criminals? - Trailers, quads, horse boxes, power washers, tools and farm equipment.

When are the thefts taking place? - Most thefts occur during the hours of darkness – **WHY?** - Less chance of being observed / detected, the general public are not about, there are less police about and it is easier to see other vehicles/persons approaching them.

However! - Most farms and outbuildings are 'cased' during daylight hours by 'unauthorised callers' using various plausible excuses.

How do we know this? – Following thefts door to door enquiries have supplied this information.

What action can you take to thwart the criminal?

Gates– restrict access to your yard – gates should be fixed, secured, not easily removed, and secured by a good locking mechanism which is shrouded against bolt cutter attacks

Yard security-

1. **Boundaries** - Fencing, hedges and walls should be robust and well maintained.
2. **Lighting** - Illuminate the areas covered by CCTV. Lighting can be an extremely effective tool to deter and detect a potential thief – modern equipment sensed – audible warning lighting.
3. **Alarm / CCTV**- Consider alarms and CCTV for those areas which are vulnerable.
4. **Outbuildings**- Consider using one building with enhanced security features, close to the farm dwelling for storage of tools and smaller machinery items, cover windows, security lighting, revised locking systems, internal alarm etc.
5. **Property Marking** - There are many form of property marking: - UV marker pen – (postcode and house number), Smart water products/kits, thief beaters covert and overtly property etching, micro doter data tag marking on machinery and trailers, stencil of farm group or registered number permanent heavy duty marking with welder or grinder, soldering iron is effective for making plastic areas and record any obvious damage or repairs.
6. **Keep a register** noting make, serial number, colour and any unusual features. The register should have the following headings – description, property mark, location, serial number and value.
7. **Photograph** machinery and tools, in order to get an idea of scale have someone stand beside large items like quads and trailers. Use a ruler for small items.

What else can I do?

1. Watch out for your neighbours and their property, hopefully they will do the same for you.
2. Report any suspicious or untoward activity to your local police IMMEDIATELY

For any further advice please contact your local crime prevention officer: 0845 600 8000