

Rural Crime

Agricultural crime is a serious concern to farmers. If you are a victim of rural crime, this can have a substantial emotional and financial impact on you, your family and farm business.

Keeping your farm secure

On your farm you may have valuable livestock, expensive equipment and vehicles. There are some simple things you can do to increase security on your farm, making it harder for thieves to get access to your land, livestock and equipment.

Keeping your house and farm secure

To keep your house and farm secure, there are some general things you can do:

- invest in good locks for doors and windows
- be aware of people or vehicles coming and going and report any suspicious activity to the police
- keep a register with photographs and descriptions of animals, tools, equipment, vehicles and any other valuables
- contact the Police Service for Northern Ireland (call 101) or your local Police and Community Safety Partnership (PCSPs) for crime prevention advice
- find out if a Farm Watch scheme or a Rural Text Alert scheme, operates in your area

Security around the farm

Farms can cover large areas of land and it can be difficult to make them completely secure. There are things you can do to make your farm more secure:

- check fencing, hedges and walls regularly - they should be robust and well maintained
- restrict access to your yard with locked gates and security barriers - the fewer ways in the better
- fit alarms to storage sheds and other buildings
- consider installing a CCTV system to your yard, sheds and any other vulnerable areas
- invest in good lighting for your farmyard

Keeping livestock, vehicles and equipment secure

- In order to keep these assets secure you should:
- regularly check fields with livestock
- keep hedges, fences and gates in good repair
- keep sheds and stockyard gates closed and locked
- always tag your livestock

- take photographs or videos of valuable animals with the brand and/or ear tags clearly visible
- keep a recent and accurate record of all your livestock
- lock away tools and equipment not in use
- mark vehicles, tools and machinery with your house number and postcode or your Business Identifier number
- secure or immobilise vehicles, plant, trailers and machinery when not in use
- remove machinery and vehicles from fields overnight
- keep valuable vehicles and machinery in a securely locked shed
- always remove keys from parked vehicles
- consider fitting an electronic vehicle marking system or tracking device

Where to get help

If you wish to report a crime you should call the PSNI on 101 or Crimestoppers Rural Crime Reporting Line: 0800 783 0137

For crime prevention advice:

Find your local Policing & Community Safety Partnership: 028 9040 8500