

What is Farm Watch

Farm Watch is about farmers and landowners working in partnership with each other and the police to prevent rural crime and protect farms.

We all become used to routine activity and if you live and work in the countryside, you may see the same people in the same vehicles going about their business on a daily or weekly basis.

Farm Watch raises awareness, so when the pattern is broken or something out of the ordinary takes place, we want you to pay a bit more attention and to report suspicious behaviour to the police.

Farm Watch is about looking after your own, and your neighbour's property and if everyone looks out for one another, then the countryside across Dorset will be safer and will feel safer.

The Aims of Farm Watch

- To reduce the opportunities for crime in farming and rural communities
- To strengthen community spirit, so that everyone works together and plays their part in protecting his or her property
- To improve two-way communication between the police and the rural and farming community
- To encourage people to report suspicious activity and vehicles immediately
- To reduce the fear of crime

The key to the success of Farm Watch is increased vigilance and communication – both within the rural and farming communities, and between rural communities and Dorset Police.

Crime Prevention Advice

Due to the need for ease of access it is not be possible to ensure total security – but it is still possible to reduce the risks.

Machinery, Tools and Plant

- Where possible, secure or immobilise vehicles and pieces of equipment when they are not in use
- If practical move machinery from fields, especially at night and near roads
- Always keep tools locked out of sight when not in use
- Mark your property using a metal engraver or marking product
- Keep a record of the serial, chassis, and model numbers
- Consider installing tracking devices to tractors and quad bikes

Livestock

- Regularly check fields where animals are grazing
- Keep hedges, fences and gates in good repair

- Ditches form a natural barrier
- Ensure the field gates cannot be taken off the hinges by turning the bottom hinge upside down and/or cap or weld over the tops
- Keep photographs of unusual or valuable animals, and record details of unusual markings or scars

Farmhouses

Because they are often remote and isolated, burglars may target farmhouses at any time of the day, but a few simple security measures can make all the difference.

- Fit British Standard deadlocks to all outside doors and keep doors locked at all times, whether you are at home or out in the yard.
- Fit a security chain to the main door, and a door viewer where possible.
- Consider installing a burglar alarm
- Never leave notes for traders when you are away from the property
- Property mark and record valuable possession, keep photographs of especially valuable items

Outbuildings

Use British Standard locks, and good quality padlocks on doors
Fit metal bars to windows and keep windows covered so that burglars cannot look in to see if there is anything worth taking.
Always lock outbuildings when not in use.
Fit good quality security lighting.

Insurance

Always ensure that your insurance cover is adequate, and check that you are fully covered for vehicles, equipment and livestock, as well as the contents of outbuildings.

Useful Links

Further useful advice can be found from the following websites.

Master Locksmiths Association

www.soldsecure.com

Countryside Online

www.countrysideonline.co.uk

National Farmers Union

www.nfuonline.com

The National Plant and Equipment Register

www.ter-europe.org

Security Products – for vehicle and trailer security products

www.thatcham.com

Message from the Dorset Police Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSA's)

Since the early 70's inorganic nitrogenous fertilisers have been misused by terrorists as an ingredient in home made explosive (HME).

Whilst the concern affects all solid nitrate fertilisers the widespread use of ammonium nitrate (AN) and ammonium nitrate based fertilisers is of particular significance.



The UK currently manufactures or imports about 4 million tonnes of AN and AN based fertiliser annually from a global market totalling 23 million tonnes. Not surprisingly (given the relatively small land mass of the UK) we are by far the heaviest users of AN and AN based fertilisers in the world.

Inevitably this means that the blending, storage, transport and use of fertiliser is common-place creating opportunities for potential terrorists to acquire such material.

At this time of year particularly, 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 preventing it from falling into the wrong hands.

There is no doubt that terrorists will target those things that are easy to obtain. Please report ANY suspicious activity at or near your premises, it may prove to be a missing part of a bigger picture.

www.secureyourfertiliser.gov.uk A website which can give you further information about this campaign.

www.nactso.gov.uk This site will give you more information about the Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSA's) and what we do.

- If you wish to contact the CTSA team for security advice, please call us on **01202 229322** or contact us at ctsa@dorset.pnn.police.uk.
- If you wish to report suspicious activity contact Dorset Police on **101** or the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on **0800 789 321**.

If it is an emergency always dial 999