

FARM SECURITY SELF-ASSESSMENT



FIRST PRINCIPLE

norfolk.police.uk/firstprinciple
suffolk.police.uk/firstprinciple

Top Tips

Good practice is often better than expensive security products

Make security a principle part of your daily routine

Make sure your staff are aware of their responsibilities

Carry out regular self-assessments and make gradual improvements

PREVENT CRIME

PROTECT COMMUNITIES



NORFOLK
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Our Priority is You



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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 almost 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 that conforms to Secured by Design standards.

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.

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.

Find out if your insurance company offers free etching to cab windows.

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 number to call to report in.

Livestock

Agricultural livestock and game birds are an easy target for thieves. Regularly check fields and pens where these are kept.



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 use locking posts to obstruct large openings to yards.

Consider using CCTV allowing livestock 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-marking, 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 lighting.

Consideration should be given to the installation of sensor style lights, which activate automatically when movement is detected within range.

We also recommend installing dusk to dawn lighting to provide a low level of ambient light throughout the night.

Security lighting should be checked and maintained in good working order.

Consider using light timers to turn lights on/off when not at home.

Lights should be situated high up to avoid them being damaged and disabled by intruders.


Fertiliser

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

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. More information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/secure-your-fertiliser/secure-your-fertiliser>

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.



Farm Watch Schemes

Farm Watch 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 Farm Watch 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.

Farm Watch 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. A good way to do this is to join your local Farm Watch. 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 Norfolk or Suffolk 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.

Do



- Make a record of vehicle make, colour and registration number of visiting vehicles. Note the 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



- Buy machinery, trailers, tractors, quads, ride-on mowers, etc. from cold callers.
- 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.

Outbuildings

Make sure all outbuildings are in good repair and that there are no holes or weaknesses around the shell of the building that an offender could exploit.



Fit good quality hasp and staple bolts to the doors, fitted with either coach bolts or non-tamper screws with good quality closed shackle padlocks.

For extra security if the door is strong enough fit a hollow metal hood over the lock and hasp so that offenders cannot easily access this area.

Alarm any outbuildings that have valuable items, the alarm can either be a standalone one, or if there is a strong Wi-Fi signal for the area you can either install a piggy back alarm from the main house, or fit magnetic contacts on the doors.

Prevent roller shutters from being lifted with further security, either through securing them to a key lock anchor post, or by putting pin locks on the inside.

Farm Security Self-Assessment		Date
Areas to Consider	Advice	Areas For improvement Use this space to make a note of any areas of improvement you need to consider
Is there adequate signage on the farm?	<i>Consider the messages you need to provide i.e. private property, no access, who to contact in an emergency.</i>	
Do you have a system for recording who is on the farm at any one time?	<i>Maintain a booking in and out system for employees and visitors.</i>	
Are employees required to report strangers on the farm?	<i>Provide some form of training for all staff on how to identify strangers and how to approach them.</i>	
Have employees been instructed on how to approach strangers or unauthorised visitors?	<i>Employees should be given guidance on how to approach people and ensure their own safety.</i>	
Do you have a secure store for keys and is this used for all the farms keys?	<i>Knowing where your keys are is essential and all staff should be required to return keys at the end of the day wherever possible</i>	
Are there two-way communications between employees and management?	<i>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.</i>	

Are you able to lock down your farmyard – i.e. can access points be securely gated?	<i>There are many options so consider your needs carefully.</i>
Are access points covered by alarms, CCTV and or lighting?	<i>This is a specialist installation and will only be useful if images are of appropriate quality.</i>
Are all external doors fitted with 5 lever mortice locks?	<i>5 lever mortice locks should be to British Standard BS3621 or BS 8621. UPVC, wooden or metal doors is a specialist field – seek advice from a locksmith. If enhanced security doors are required use PAS24:2016. Consider fitting laminated glass to door windows in vulnerable locations.</i>
Are shotguns and firearms kept on the farm?	<i>Firearms and ammunition should be secured as recommended by the police Firearms Licensing Officer.</i>
Are valuables appropriately secured within the house / office?	<i>Insurance companies will recommend an insurance rated safe suitable for protecting your cash, jewellery and documents.</i>
Are valuable items identified and registered on the national Immobilise database	<i>Register valuable items at: https://www.immobilise.com/This is a national property database to which the police have a search facility. This is a free service.</i>

<p>Are valuable items marked with a recognised property marking system?</p>	<p><i>DNA liquid is the preferred method such as that produced by Smart Water or Selecta DNA.</i></p>
<p>Is there adequate lighting around farm outbuildings and are lights visible from the residential area?</p>	<p><i>The type of lighting very much depends on the situation and could be either dusk to dawn or PIR.</i></p>
<p>Are measures in place to prevent outbuilding doors from being rammed or entered by force?</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p>
<p>Can outbuilding doors be securely locked?</p>	<p><i>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. Implement a system for checking facilities at the end of the day to ensure they are secured.</i></p>
<p>Are windows to outbuildings able to be secured with steel bars/mesh or similar?</p>	

<p>If you have a field or perimeter alarm system are these set at night?</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p>
<p>Are tools secured in a secure building or specific area within a building?</p>	<p><i>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</i></p>
<p>Are tools easily identified as belonging to your farm?</p>	<p><i>Popular options include overt visible permanent marking that the tools belong to your farm (painting or CRE-mark type product).</i></p>
<p>Is unwanted metal promptly removed from yards and storage areas?</p>	<p><i>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 authorised licensed dealers.</i></p>
<p>Have vehicles with catalytic converters been security marked or protected?</p>	<p><i>Guidance notes and information on how to avoid theft can be obtained from the police website. See Related Links below.</i></p>

Are levels in fuel tanks regularly monitored?		
Are fuel tanks situated in areas with good visibility?	<i>If fuel stores are hidden, they are easier to tamper with. Ensure good natural surveillance.</i>	
Have fuel tanks been adequately protected with fencing?	<p><i>Consider erecting a metal cage round your tank with a secondary lockable access hatch to the filler cap.</i></p> <p><i>Consider some defensive planting. This is nature's way of helping to reduce crime.</i></p> <p><i>Thieves will not wish to force their way through or over a prickly hedge.</i></p>	

First Principle: Related links

Check out all of our Crime Prevention information using the following links or by using the QR code to take you to the First Principle Pages Alternatively go to our website at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/> and look in the 1st Principle A-Z of Crime Prevention.

Allotment Security
Anti-Social Behaviour
ATM Security
Beach Hut Security
Boat Security
Building Site Security
Business Security
Caravan Security
Caravan Storage
Card Security
Catalytic Converters
Church Security
Cold Callers
Commercial CCTV
Counterfeit Banknotes
County Lines Advice
for Landlords
Cyber Crime
Cycle Security
Dangerous Dogs
Dog Fouling
Dog Theft
Domestic CCTV
Domestic Violence
Farm Security
Fraud Prevention
Grooming
Hate Crime

Heating Oil
Home Improvements
Home Security
Home Security for
Tenants
Horses and Stables
Keyless Vehicles
Key Safe Security
Lock Snapping
Mopeds and Scooters
Motorcycle Security
Neighbour Disputes
Occupiers Liability
Personal Security
Power Tool Security
Products Brochure
Rural Crime
Security Alarms
Sheds and Garages
Social Media
Social Media for
Parents
Suspicious Behaviour
Shoplifting
Taxi Driver Safety
Vehicle Security
Windows and Doors



Other Links you might find helpful

Ask the Police
Secured by Design
Sold Secure

Crimestoppers
0800 555 111

Victim Care
0300 303 3705