Guard Your Crops

- Store harvested crops in protected and locked locations.
- Consider marking grain, hay, or similar crops with nontoxic confetti that is easily removed by storage or processing facilities.
- Keep a record of your valuable timber. Mark each with a paint stripe.
- Keep storage areas neat and well-organized so that any theft will be noticed immediately. This also warns potential thieves that the owner is watchful.

Check employees' references. Before they start, talk about your crime prevention measures.

Help Your Neighbors

- Get together with others in the community to start a Neighborhood or Farm Watch group. Involve all ages, and work with law enforcement. Recruit from churches and civic groups. Use CB radios or cellular phones to patrol and report suspicious activities to the sheriff or police.
- When you go away, stop delivery of your mail or newspapers or ask a neighbor to pick them up. You want to create the illusion that someone's at home and following everyday routines. Have neighbors check your property and return the favor when they leave on business or vacation trips.

Take a Stand!

- Ask equipment dealers and farm suppliers to display crime prevention information.
- If your school district doesn't have an alcohol, drug and crime prevention curriculum in place, help start one.
- Check out recreational opportunities for teens – work with schools, 4-H, or Future Farmers to fill the gaps, both after school and on weekends.
- Educate young people about the hazards of operating farm machinery and being around livestock. For example, tractors are involved in 69% of farm machinery deaths, and young people raised on farms often operate these machines at early ages.

KENTUCKY STATE POLICE

KCPC

Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition

RCPI at EKU

www.kycrimeprevention.com

COPS

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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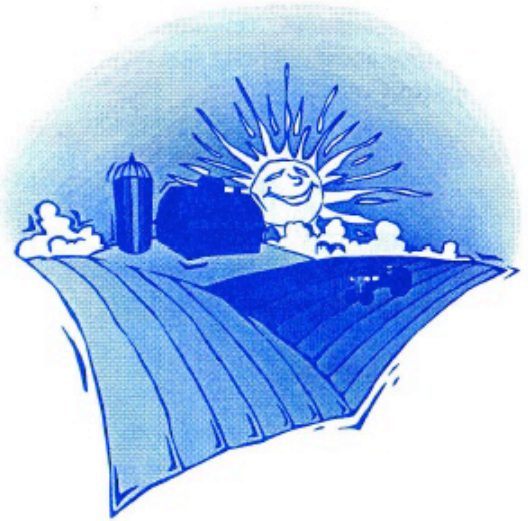
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN

Just Because You Live in the Country



Rural Crime Prevention Tips

Rural communities have their own unique crime problems – like theft of crops, timber, livestock, and expensive farm equipment. Vandals do more than break mailboxes, they can destroy crops and fields. Alcohol and drug abuse problems plague rural youth as well as those in the suburbs and cities. And of course, crimes like burglary, rape, assault, and auto theft happen in rural areas, but less frequently than in cities.

Invest some time and money in prevention now. What's the payoff? Better security around your property, less worry about crime and your family's safety.

Be a good neighbor – when you're out and about, keep an eye on neighbors' homes, livestock, and equipment. Tell them and the sheriff of police about anything that makes your uneasy or suspicious.

Check The Doors and Locks

- Make sure outside doors – in your home and outbuildings – are solid wood or metal and have deadbolt locks.
- Use the locks!
- Secure sliding glass doors with commercially available locks or with a broomstick or wooden dowel in the track to jam the door in case someone tries to pry it open. Insert screws in the upper track going into the fixed frame, to prevent anyone from lifting the door from its track.
- Secure double-hung windows by sliding a bolt or nail through a hole drilled at a downward angle in each top corner of the inside sash and part way through the outside sash. Secure basement windows well.

Check the Outside

- Keep your house, driveway, barns, and other buildings well-lighted at night. Use timers that automatically turn on outside lights when it gets dark.
- Consider motion sensors that set off lights or alarms.
- Prune back shrubbery that hides doors, windows, lights, and would-be burglars.
- Keep your fences in good repair. Secure all access roads with gates or cables stretched between posts cemented in the ground. Make them visible with flags or streamers.
- Warn thieves that you're on the alert with "No Trespassing," "No Hunting," and other signs around your property.

Mark Equipment and Livestock

- Operation Identification – marking tools, guns, and equipment with a permanent identification number such as driver's license or Social Security – has helped reduce theft in many rural areas. Work with law enforcement to determine the best methods and, make it a community project.
- To help stop modern rustlers, tattoo all livestock (usually on the ears). Although it's easier to use ear-tags or neck-chains, these can be removed. Mark young stock soon after birth.
- Take regular count of all livestock.

Protect Your Equipment

- Secure gas pumps, gas tanks, storage bins, and grain elevators with sturdy padlocks or deadbolts. Keep small equipment – like mowers, bikes, snowmobiles – locked in a barn or garage. Keep guns locked and unloaded in a secure place away from curious children and would-be thieves.
- Never leave keys in vehicles or farm equipment.
- Always lock your trucks and other vehicles when they're not in use. And don't leave tools in the open back of a pick-up truck or in an unsecured truck bed toolbox.
- Don't leave major equipment in a field overnight. Lock it in a barn or shed near the house, or park where it can be seen from your house or a neighbor's.
- If machines must be left out for long periods of time, disable them by removing the motor, distributor, or battery.