



Farm Security Assessment



www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk



Introduction

The Farm security assessment provides a set of recommendations for farm owners and managers to improve security.

The farm self assessment looks at the physical security and management processes of the farm and is intended to serve two purposes; as a guide identifying opportunities for security improvements and advice based on national good practice.

The rural geography presents unique challenges. By implementing low cost commonsense security practices, rural related crime can be avoided and reduced.

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This form is to be used as a voluntary guide only, some of the listed questions and suggestions may not be relevant to all farm operations

General security: Controlling access to Farms				
Question	Yes	No	Action	Advice
Are unscheduled visitors and contractors questioned by management and / or farm staff?				Encourage family members and employees to report suspicious people, vehicles or activities to you.
Are employees trained to recognise and report: Suspicious individuals and abnormal activities Boundary breaches, suspicious materials / devices, and misplaced equipment				Walk around buildings and along fence lines to look for signs of trespassing and unusual activity. Be aware of unfamiliar vehicles. Report suspicious people, vehicles and activities to police and other appropriate agencies Consider recording incidents in an incident/ occurrence book
<i>Do employees report unusual or suspicious events?</i>				<i>Call 999 in an emergency when a crime is being committed, Call 101 for non-emergency crime or to give information to Police</i>
<i>Is there a two-way voice communications between Farm management and employees?</i>				<i>Communicate suspect activities, individuals and incidents with staff</i>
<i>Dogs can be a deterrent to intruders</i>				<i>If you are using your dog as a guard dog..Please refer to “The guard dogs Act”</i> http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1975/50/contents
Are you aware of local crime and suspicious activities in your area? Do you get information of local crime and suspicious activities in your area?				Sign up to Country Watch messaging and receive up-to-date information relating to rural crime and suspicious activities, vehicles and individuals as well as crime prevention advice and initiatives. www.thamesvalleycountrywatch.co.uk Receive Country Watch signage from your local Neighbourhood Policing team

Access control: Controlling access to Farms.				
Question	Yes	No	Action	Advice
Can visitors, emergency services and members of the public easily locate and identify your farm				Identify your property with three-inch reflective letters / numbers on your mailbox, Gate post or other prominent location. Reception or office entrance should be clearly identified and signposted from the entrances onto the site.
Are access points securely gated?				Powered sliding or hinged gates with remote or keypad control access control help restrict access to property by unauthorised vehicles. The buried or gate-back arm mechanisms for folding gates of modest size are available. "Agriwheel" gate is designed to speedily open and close large farm gates up to 8.5m Consider using vehicle detecting system designed to detect moving cars and other vehicles as they pass through a gateway
Are access points protected with lighting and CCTV?				CCTV, motion detection lights or other electronic monitoring devices at access locations
Are appropriate "No Trespassing" or "Private Property" signs displayed at vulnerable boundaries and gated access points?				Define ownership by posting and maintain "No Trespassing" and 'Private Property' signs at boundaries and access points Signs that identify areas that are not open to public access can act as a reminder that unauthorised persons could be challenged

Home Security: Burglaries can be prevented by taking simple security measures to prevent and reduce burglaries occurring.				
Question	Yes	No	Action	Advice
Have you assessed the security of your home?				Carry out a free and anonymous on-line home security assessment by visiting The Crime Prevention Website and follow the advice sent to you (approved by Thames Valley Police) www.thecrimepreventionwebsite.com/
Do you have a visible intruder alarm?				Get at least three quotes and specialist advice from companies that supply alarms. Use companies registered with either the National Security Inspectorate (NSI) or security Systems and Alarm Inspection Board (SSAIB) www.nsi.org.uk or www.ssaib.org Talk to your insurance company about the alarm companies it recommends before you decide which best suits your needs. The system should meet European Standard EN50131-1
Are external doors fitted with 5 lever mortice locks?				5 lever mortice locks should be to British Standard BS3621 or BS 8621, Fitting locks to UPVC, wooden or metal doors is a specialist field – seek advice from a locksmith. www.locksmiths.co.uk/ If enhanced security doors are required use PAS24:2012 Consider fitting laminated glass to door windows
Are window locks fitted to ground floor windows and those near flat roofs and drain pipes?				If enhanced security window frames are required use PAS24:2012. Consider fitting laminated glass in vulnerable ground floor windows and windows accessible from flat roofs
Are shotguns and firearms kept on the farm?				Firearms and ammunition should be secured as recommended by the police Firearms officer.
Are cash, jewellery and documents secured within an insurance rated safe?				The insurance company will recommend an insurance rated Safe suitable for protecting your cash, Jewellery and documents Fit a safe which complies with the official insurance ratings standards: these will be preceded by the letters 'BS EN & LPS' and are European Standards that have been adopted by the UK
Are valuable personal items Identified and registered on the national database Immobilise?				Register valuable items at www.immobilise.com . This is a national property database to which the Police have a search facility. This is a free service. Once registered the owner of a device can be verified.

Out buildings: Storage areas, out buildings and Barns, tool storage				
Question	Yes	No	Action	Advice
<p>Out buildings security: Are there places where individuals could hide or conceal themselves from view?</p>				<p>Remove obstructions and places of concealment near your buildings. Vegetation should not provide hiding places for offenders when considering building new barns or out building , where possible these building s should be located where they will benefit from natural and formal surveillance (CCTV)</p>
<p>Lighting and surveillance: Are doors illuminated externally at night by PIR sensor lighting?</p>				<p>Install adequate lighting to permit work and deter theft or other crimes. Motion activated PIR lighting add an element of surprise and alerts staff and owners that activity has been detected in a area Place CCTV, motion detection lights or other electronic monitoring devices in strategic locations. Put exterior lights on motion sensors or control them with photocells that turn them on and off according to the amount of natural light available. Manual switches and timers are less effective, but use them if you have them</p>
<p>If out buildings, storage area / barns cannot easily been seen from your home or by neighbours is the facility viewed by CCTV?</p>				<p>Consider installing CCTV to provide formal surveillance to the most vulnerable areas of the property. Consider installing an audible and monitored intruder alarm system. Get comprehensive advice from a reputable security company that conforms to national standards: - National Security Inspectorate (NSI) - Security Systems and Alarm Inspection Board (SSAIB)</p>
<p>Do external and internal lighting levels support CCTV image and recording needs?</p>				<p>Lighting is an important addition to CCTV. Flood lighting is not always the most appropriate form of illumination. Consideration must to be given to ensure that lighting does not adversely affect the CCTV system.</p>

<p>Doors and window security: Are doors designed to prevent or delay forced entry by use of portable hand tools or ramming by vehicle?</p>			<p>Many barn doors operate on rollers. Reaching this level of security may be difficult. However, pull up bollards could be considered to prevent vehicle from being removed by intruders</p>
<p>Can out buildings be securely locked? (Only available to authorized personnel)?</p>			<p>Consider using security locks. These locks require owner authorisation before duplicate keys can be cut. Use the same brand-name locks for everything to make it easier to detect unauthorized locks. Periodically look for signs of tampering. 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)</p>
<p>Are windows or other openings in out buildings protected with steel bar/ mesh (or any other appropriate security material or product)?</p>			<p>Any protection for windows needs to be well maintained and appropriate to the risk in that particular area</p>
<p>Alarms: If you have alarm systems fitted are these set at night or when not in use?</p>			<p>This is particularly important for the protection of valuable equipment, tools and agricultural machinery. This must be considered in conjunction with the external door and window alarms Specialised alarms are available for farming needs integrating field and perimeter alarms http://www.alarmsforfarms.com/See above.</p>

Tools				
Question	Yes	No	Action	Advice
Are tools secured in a secure building or part of building?				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
Is the area where tools are kept protected by an alarm?				Consider protecting the building where tools are kept with an alarm Specialised alarms are available for farming needs integrating field and perimeter alarms http://www.alarmsforfarms.com/ See above
Are valuable tools Identified and registered on the national database Immobilise?				Registered tools on the national database www.immobilise.com include your postcode and property name or number. Consider 'Post coding' and marking tools and equipment using the premises postcode and house number or first three letters of the property name
Are tools easily identified as belonging to your farm?				Use property marking to mark the outer covering of tools. Popular options include overt visible permanent marking that the tools belongs to your Farm (painting or CRE-mark type product), or UV marking and DNA products

Metal theft: The theft of metal from rural businesses, and building is a national problem, driven by increasing price of metal on world markets

Question	Yes	No	Action	Advice
Do you regularly / immediately remove unwanted scrap metal from yards and storage areas?				Obvious scrap will attract thieves. Obvious scrap encourages trespassers into yards on the pretence of removing scrap whilst having a good look around at farm security and potential targets. Regularly remove unwanted scrap using unauthorised licensed dealers.
Are building roofs protected?				Remove any easy access onto building roofs Store ladders out of sight and in a secure place Apply forensic grease to any vulnerable roof areas Selecta DNA Grease Apply anti-climb paint to drain pipes and roof guttering Anti climb paint is available from a variety of suppliers which can be found by searching the internet

Fuel: Theft of red diesel from farms can be a problem. Large tanks holding thousands of pounds' worth of fuel in unprotected areas could be an easy target				
Question	Yes	No	Action	Advice
Do you check the oil level in your tank regularly?				
Are Fuel tanks located behind the garage, shed or some other secluded area where they can no easily to observed?				Consider erecting a metal cage round your tank with a secondary lockable access hatch to the filler cap Consider some defensive planting. This is nature's way of helping to reduce crime. Thieves will not wish to force their way through or over a prickly hedge
Is your fuel tank protected by an alarm?				Alarm: External PIR sensors Alarms are available these detect unauthorised activity in the area around your tank Diesel Level & Theft Alarm: Monitors the level of fuel in the tank and if it detects a sudden fall in the fuel level sounds a loud audible warning at the house

Quad bikes, tractors and agricultural machinery protection and security:

Agricultural Plant machinery and ATV's theft is not opportunist in nature; thieves tend to identify and target vehicles. Preventing plant theft can be achieved by following simple but effective crime reduction actions

Question	Yes	No	Action	Advice
Do vehicles have a unique/single key?				
Are vehicles left in fields overnight?				Consider securing valuable vehicles in locked barns or yards over night or when not in use.
Are agricultural vehicles kept in secure barns over night?				Block valuable vehicles in with other vehicles. If not possible, consider chaining them together securing them to a floor-mounted securing point Specialised alarms are available for farming needs integrating field and perimeter alarms http://www.alarmsforfarms.com/ See above
Are vehicles and trailers fitted with tracking devices? Consider GPS and VHF tracking systems, Tracker				Location and tracking systems use Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to locate stolen vehicles. Information is directed to PC, laptop or mobile phone. This will enable companies and police to locate vehicles See Thatcham (website address) for more information.
Have vehicles been fitted with an immobiliser?				There are different types of immobilisation devices on the market, ranging from mechanical to diesel systems. These devices isolate hydraulic, electrical and fuel systems, preventing the vehicle from being moved. See Thatcham for more information.
Are agricultural vehicles Identified and registered with the DVLA or if not appropriate, with a property register such as CESAR?				A machine registered with CESAR : Unique identification tamper-evident registration stickers: Radio-frequency identification (RFID) transponders. Forensic liquid DNA painted on to the machine in a number of locations. Placed on the Datatag secure database which gives the police and other official agencies access to the registration information.
Are mechanical locking systems available / used?				Mechanical locking systems can be simple to fit and can be applied to different areas of the machine, including vehicle tracks, hydraulic breakers, buckets and posthole borers.

Field Security: Field security has and will remain a problem for some as members of the public are not always sensible in the use of gates				
Question	Yes	No	Action	Advice
Are hedges, fences and gates in good repair?				Keep ditches, fences and hedges maintained and in good condition.
Are locks, fences and gates in good condition? Do you regularly check for tampering? Do you have control of keys?				Install and maintain gates and locks, and use them whenever possible. Never leave keys in vehicles or equipment; Keep the number of key copies to a minimum Tag and code keys. Keep them in a secure place; Recover keys and change locks when employees are fired or leave.
Are lanes and driveways gated to prevent easy access to your home and buildings?				Keep field gates and gate locks in good condition. Field gate hinges should have capping hinges so they cannot be removed easily Construct gates so they can't be disassembled by simply removing a couple of bolts or spot welded Consider using large tree trunks, rocks ditching and bunding to protect unauthorised access points on to land.
Do the Police know which land belongs to you?				Consider identifying your land boundaries to police. When reports of animals straying on the highway are received this information would help police with correct contact details and ownership of stray animals

Livestock:				
Question	Yes	No	Action	Advice
Where possible are sheep grazed away from accessible secluded roads?				This may help deter rustling Check the security of boundary fencing/hedging and make regular checks of fields where animals are kept to ensure fences are not breached
Are fields gated and padlocked to prevent intrusion?				Ditches form a natural barrier Cattle grids should be removable and locked out of position when not in use. Use locking posts to obstruct large openings to yards
Is your livestock identifiable ?				Where possible photograph valuable livestock and stud animals, record specific markings front back and from each side. Ear tags, horn brand, freeze marking or tattooing can help to identify livestock to make animals more easily identifiable
Do have CCTV surveillance of your livestock?				The CowCam is a high-tech solution to remote monitoring of livestock with images sent to a portable or fixed monitor

Wild life crime:				
Question	Yes	No	Action	Advice
Are wildlife crimes reported to police?				Report all Suspicious individual events and vehicle to police Are the suspect/s alone or in a group Are they trespassing? Do they have equipment with them? Do they have dogs or firearms with them? Where are they going? Where have they been? What do they look like? Have they any vehicles? What are the number plates and vehicle models? Can you safely get a photograph
Are incidents of hare coursing reported to police?				The Hunting Act 2004 made hare coursing illegal Report all Suspicious individual events and vehicle to police – see above For further information about policies and regulations, please visit the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) (opens new window)
Are incidents of poaching reported to police?				Poaching (hunting or fishing) is illegal. It may be illegal because: The game or fish is not in season The poacher does not possess a licence The hunter used an illegal weapon for that animal The animal or plant is on restricted land The right to hunt this animal is claimed by somebody The means used are illegal (e.g. baiting) The animal or fish is protected by law or has been listed as an endangered animal.