



RURAL CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE GUIDE

FMG
Advice & Insurance



New Zealand
POLICE
Nga Pirihimana O Aotearoa

Supported by:



THIS RURAL CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE GUIDE SETS OUT TIPS AND ADVICE FROM THE NZ POLICE AND FMG, TO HELP PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY AND FAMILY FROM THEFT.

Theft and burglaries occur more often than you might think. In the last five years FMG has paid out over \$21 million in burglary and theft claims, with an average of over 1,500 claims being paid every year – that's over 28 per week! The following insights might also surprise you:

- In approximately 60% of burglaries, entry is gained through an insecure window.
- If your neighbour has suffered a burglary recently, your chances of being burgled in the near future increase dramatically.
- The most common items to be stolen are chainsaws, tools (drills, pliers etc.), small machinery (compressors, welders etc.), fuel, and farm bikes and bike parts.

ON AVERAGE THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY **54,000** REPORTED BURGLARIES IN NEW ZEALAND EVERY YEAR.

THAT'S ONE EVERY 10 MINUTES AND
MANY MORE GO UNREPORTED.

The following information is designed to help you better manage your on-farm security risks and includes a checklist to share with your family.

HOME SECURITY

Effective security measures are the greatest deterrent to burglary and theft on your property. You can make your house a hard target to thieves by following the security tips below:

- Install automatic timer or sensor lighting around your property including at both the front and rear of your house. Mount them high enough to prevent criminals from being able to remove the bulb or cover the sensor.
- Leave curtains partially open so your home looks occupied.
- Leave a light on in the living room or a bedroom when going out at night to give the impression that someone is home.
- Always fully close windows when you leave your home. Do not rely on security stays as these can be forced!
- Do not leave valuable items outside your home overnight.

TOP TIP:

Photograph and register the details and serial numbers of your important assets and possessions such as technology, antiques, family heirlooms and jewellery at www.snap.org.nz – a website set up by the New Zealand Police to help identify the owner of stolen items they recover and make it harder for criminals to on-sell stolen goods. This list can then also be forwarded to FMG following a loss to assist in processing your claim.

VEHICLES

- Remove keys and lock vehicles when not in use.
- Where possible leave refuelling for the next day.
- Ensure vehicle storage areas are well lit, and if possible close to your home.
- Do not leave valuable items and equipment in vehicles overnight.
- Avoid leaving tractors and other vehicles in boundary paddocks, or unattended for any extended period of time.

TOP TIP:

Park vehicles with fuel caps close to the wall or another vehicle to restrict access to fuel tanks.

SECURITY WHILE YOU ARE AWAY

- Never announce travel plans or indicate that you will be away in public, on social media or through answer machine messages.
- Have a trusted neighbour, friend or family member regularly check in on your property. Get them to:
 1. Clear your mailbox and entrances of mail, packages and junk mail.
 2. If rubbish collections are operating in your area, put your rubbish out on your collection day.
 3. If possible have them occasionally park their car in your driveway.
- Don't hide spare keys in mailboxes, under doormats, above doorways or anywhere visible from the entry. These are the first places that criminals will look for easy access.

PERIMETER & OUTBUILDING SECURITY

- Keep gates locked and ensure that they can't be taken off their hinges.
- Lock buildings when they are not in use.
- Display signs promoting crime prevention measures such as monitoring agencies and ensure employees know that security measures are in place.
- Regularly check the condition and security of boundary fences and gates.
- Where possible cut back bushes and trees around buildings to reduce the opportunity for offenders to be concealed.
- Ensure external doors to buildings are fitted with locks.
- Ensure your RAPID number is clearly visible so the Police can find your farm as quickly as possible if an incident were to happen.
- Consider installing a hotwire on top of your boundary fences and gates to help restrict access and minimise potential points of entry.
- Visit the NZ Police Rural Crime Prevention website www.police.govt.nz/rural for more resources.

TOP TIPS:

Refer to the handy checklist inside this guide to improve on-farm security.

*Always report any suspicious activity to the Police. If you don't feel comfortable about this, you can always ring the anonymous **Crimestoppers** hotline on **0800 555 111**.*

FIREARMS

Firearm ownership and licensing comes with a responsibility for safety, not only when out hunting, but at home as well.

- Upgrade wooden firearm cabinets to steel gun safes that are securely bolted in place.
- Security measures should be able to withstand at least 10 minutes attempted forced entry by thieves using common tools such as hammers, crowbars and screwdrivers.
- Store ammunition separately to firearms.
- Do not leave firearms in a vehicle that is unattended at any time.
- The NZ Police and FMG recommend installing trigger locks on firearms and secure these in a safe.
- Following use make sure that the firearm is unloaded, including both magazine and chamber.
- Record firearm serial numbers with SNAP.
- Report firearm theft to the Police immediately.

TOP TIP:

Never carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle at any time.

QUAD BIKES, TRAILERS & TOOLS

Quad bikes, trailers and tools such as chainsaws are expensive to replace, so it makes sense to reduce theft by taking a few extra precautions.

- Remove keys from unattended tractors and quad bikes—storing them out of sight from the outside of buildings.
- If you are unable to store quad bikes in a secure building, we recommend using a padlock or anchor and chain the bike.
- Avoid leaving tools and equipment unattended in paddocks or near public roads.
- Mark or engrave tools, vehicles and other farm property with an identifying feature such as your farm name.
- Record details and serial numbers of high-value assets and note on SNAP.

FUEL

- Ensure fuel tanks are secured and locked to restrict theft and tampering.
- Install security lighting that lights up fuel tanks and fuelling areas.
- Keep an inventory of fuel consumption so any thefts can be identified quickly.
- Install fuel tank locking devices on all petrol and diesel tanks on your property.

ALARM SYSTEMS

Alarm systems can be the difference between a burglar only having seconds in your property before they are detected, or having minutes or hours to ransack your property. Quality professionally installed home security alarm systems cost around \$1,000.

- Place alarm monitoring stickers around all sides of your home.
- Install alarms in buildings that contain high value farm property and assets.
- Consider installing operational cameras around key buildings.
- Dummy cameras can also act as a deterrent to thieves.
- Consider installing an infrared point-to-point perimeter security alarm system across the main entrance to your property.

TOP TIP:

Get smoke alarms installed with your burglar alarm.

TACK AND SHEARING EQUIPMENT

To avoid the loss of expensive tack and shearing equipment:

- Where possible keep tack locked in a secure storage facility.
- Mark or engrave tack so that it can be identified as your property.
- Photograph and register it on SNAP.
- Store shearing equipment such as hand pieces, combs and cutters in locked cupboards.

LIVESTOCK

Nationally stock theft or rustling is estimated to cost the rural community \$120 million a year in lost income, with many instances of stock theft believed to be going unreported.

- Report suspicious behaviour and thefts to your local police station to assist them in their investigations.
- Where possible lock stockyard gates and loading ramps.
- Regularly check paddocks where herds are grazing.
- Padlock field gates and fit capping hinges so they can't be easily removed.
- Keep up-to-date records of livestock sales, purchases, earmarks and ear tags.
- Keep hedges, fences and gates well-maintained.
- Record stock thefts or attempted thefts on the Agri HQ livestock theft web page (www.agrihq.co.nz/home/livestock-theft) which maps nationally each report they receive.
- If you hear about unregulated killing and sale of meat in New Zealand you can confidentially call the MPI Food line on 0800 693 721.

TOP TIP:

Assist the authorities in catching stock rustlers by reporting stock thefts (or attempted thefts) to your local police station and register it on the Agri HQ livestock theft page.



WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP

FMG has taken the hassle out of finding quality providers by compiling a list of FMG's preferred suppliers who can help provide a personalised fire and security protection plan for your property and family.



Oritain can help prove that any stolen stock, meat or wool came from your property and therefore help prove your ownership. You can call Oritain on (03) 489 0086.



For added security and identification of your property consider purchasing a SelectaDNA property marking kit. SelectaDNA is a property marking system which utilises synthetic DNA (microdots) invisible to the naked eye that allows marked property to be linked back to the registered owner. You can call SelectaDNA on 0508 362 362.



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**Call 111 in an emergency. For non-urgent incidents contact your local police station.
Contact FMG on 0800 366 466 for insurance and risk advice, and to make a claim.**

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Healthline 0800 611 116

Doctor

Locksmith

Electrician

Police Station

Fire Station

Vet

TOP TIP:

Exchange your contact details with your neighbours, and discuss any suspicious behaviour with them.



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SECURITY CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to see how secure your property is.

THE RURAL CHECKLIST

Your Rural Community

- Have you exchanged phone numbers with your neighbours and discussed how you can alert and assist each other?
- Have you completed your Important Contacts List included in this guide?
- Is there a rural support group in your area that you can be a part of? If not, can you help create one?

Perimeter

- Is your property number or Rural Address Property Identification displayed at the front of your premises?
- Are your boundary fences and gates in good condition and secure?
- Are trees and bushes cut back where possible to reduce the opportunity for offenders to be unseen?

Buildings

- Are your external doors to buildings maintained and fitted with locks?
- Are your external windows maintained and secure?
- Are your sheds, storage areas and outbuildings regularly secured?
- Are keys for buildings and agricultural equipment secured out of view?

Security Tools

- Is there an alarm fitted to any appropriate buildings or sheds?
- Is there sufficient exterior lighting around your farm buildings and outbuildings?

Tools & Equipment

- Is your property identifiable and recorded (includes household effects to farm machinery) e.g. serial numbers marked or engraved? For more information on serial number identification see www.snap.org.nz
- Are your tools, machinery and equipment placed in a secure area following use?
- Is your shearing equipment and machinery stored away securely following use?
- Are your grain, hay and seed bins locked away when not in use?
- Are chemicals, fertilisers and other dangerous goods stored in locked areas?
- Are fuel tanks dipped, secured and locked to restrict tampering and theft?

Animals

- Can you lock stockyard gates and loading ramps?
- Do you maintain records of your livestock including sales, purchases, earmarks and ear tags?

Firearms

- Are firearms secured, and is storage compliant with the requirements of the Arms Act? For more information see www.police.govt.nz/advice/firearms

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