

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.

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.

Trespass Laws of Interest to Agriculture
602 California Penal Code

Unwanted and unwelcome people on farms, ranches, dairies and other agricultural enterprises are becoming increasingly common.

Prevention of agricultural crime, terrorism and diseases often depends upon preventing such "visits." The State of California has a number of trespass laws that may apply to our agricultural settings. For enforcement and prosecution of such laws, specified conditions or situations must be present. Refer to California Penal Code 602.

Remember, when confronted with a trespass situation, be very careful if you approach the trespassers and call the Sheriffs Office. Make sure you post "no trespassing" signs at all entry ways and a minimum of three signs every mile along your property borders. Make sure the signs are visible and well maintained.

SELLING-BUYING-OR POSSESSION OF
STOLEN UTILITY WIRE IS A CRIME
496A California Penal Code

Pacific Gas and Electric Company will pay a reward for information leading to the identification of persons selling, buying or possessing stolen utility wire.

Resources:

California Rural Crime Prevention Task Force
www.crcptf.com
P.O. Box 245 c/o Robin Valencia
Sutter Creek, CA 95685

This crime prevention information
brought to you by the

Sonoma County
Sheriff's Office

Steve Freitas
Sheriff-Coroner



2796 Ventura Ave.
Santa Rosa, Ca 95403

Phone: 707-565-7398
Fax: 707-565-6930
www.sonomasheriff.org

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency.....	9-1-1
Dispatch (Non-Emergency).....	565-2121
Business Line (Non-Emergency).....	565-2650
Crime Prevention.....	565-7398
Abandoned Vehicles.....	565-7395
Graffiti Removal	565-7397
Guerneville Sub.....	869-0202
Sonoma Valley Sub.....	996-9495



Sonoma County
Sheriff's Office

Crime Prevention Unit

Rural Crime

Don't Let Your Guard Down Just
Because You Live in the Country



Commitment to Duty and Tradition - Sense of
Team - Organizational Efficiency - Effective
Enforcement of the Law - Community Oriented
Philosophy

Don't let your guard down just because you live in the country

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.

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 about anything that makes you uneasy or suspicious.



Check the doors and locks

Make sure outside doors - in your home and outbuildings - are solid wood or metal and have dead bolt 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 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.

Check the outside

Thieves hate bright lights. Install outside lights and keep them on at night.

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.

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.

Protect equipment and livestock

Operation Identification - marking tools, guns, and equipment with a permanent identification number such as driver's license number - has helped reduce theft in many rural areas.

To help stop modern rustlers, tattoo all livestock (usually on the ears). Although it's easier to use eartags or neck chains, these can be removed. Mark young stock soon after birth. Take regular counts of all livestock.

Secure gas pumps, gas tanks, storage bins, and grain elevators with sturdy padlocks or dead bolts.

Keep guns locked 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 rotor, distributor, or battery.



Guard your crops

Store harvested crops in protected and locked locations.

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.

Take a stand

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 percent of farm machinery deaths, and young people raised on farms often operate these machines at early ages.

Owner Applied Numbers (OAN)

The OAN System consists of ten characters, which identify the state, county, and business. The coded identification number allows local law enforcement to identify stolen property and contact the owner. OAN's are stamped in several locations on heavy equipment and other agricultural tools.