

8 TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR FARM SECURITY



Producers have a lot at stake when it comes to personal property, and their property is often spread across multiple locations, in different buildings or in different fields. You cannot be everywhere at once, but there are still things you can do to be proactive.

- 1. Install a camera.** A picture, or even a video, of suspicious activity, is valuable evidence. Place your camera somewhere where it will not be noticed by a perpetrator, and set it up so that it captures the angle you want. Consider buying a camera that is motion-detected, which will save on recording time and the amount of video you need to review if there's ever an incident.
- 2. Use ample lighting.** One of the simplest things you can do is install and maintain good lighting. Security lights and motion-detected lighting can make a big difference, but make sure your lights are working and functioning properly.
- 3. Post warning signs.** If you want to restrict access to your property, make sure a sign is posted, and in a highly visible way. This includes signs regarding hunting, trespassing, biosecurity, dangerous dogs, etc. A sign can be a good defense, especially if someone chooses to ignore the sign.
- 4. Carry enough insurance.** The right amount of insurance will differ with each farm, but you need to consider all valuables as well as the many ways you could be liable and at risk. Keeping a list of serial numbers may help to collect items which may be stolen.
- 5. Protect your computer.** In addition to tangible personal property, you also have your farm records and financial data to safeguard. You should safeguard your computers with the latest virus protection and avoid any obvious security risks.
- 6. Lock your locks, and keep the keys.** A lock is only good if it works, and when it's in use. Keys left in the farm truck, or even the tractor, are asking for trouble. You may need to periodically change your locks and keys, if you've made any changes in your operation.
- 7. Don't advertise your vacation.** Since most robberies take place when people are out of the house, don't make thieves' jobs any easier by telling everyone and their mothers that you'll be away on vacation! It's also a good idea to make sure your house doesn't look uninhabited. Set lights or TV's on a timer, have the post office hold your mail, and ask a friend to come by and pick up the paper. It may sound silly but it could help protect your home from being burglarized.
- 8. REPORT suspicious activity.** If you see something that doesn't look right, let someone know. It could be nothing at all, or it could be a valuable lead that helps prevent a future crime.