



## PRESS RELEASE

### CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

The Dumfries and Galloway Region has recently experienced a number of thefts from farm and rural properties, from Langholm in the east right through to Portpatrick in the west, and in particular thefts of quad bikes are of concern.

A farmer's capital is spread over many acres in the form of stock and equipment, much of which is portable and so is easy to steal. The ease of access to most farms makes total security impossible – but there's a lot you can do to reduce the risks, which doesn't all involve extra expense.

#### FARMWATCH

The main aims of Farmwatch are to:

- Reduce opportunities for crime and vandalism
- To foster community spirit
- To encourage greater vigilance
- To help people to protect themselves and their property
- Improve two way communication between the farming community and the Police
- To improve the local environment by improving local and home security

Farmwatch schemes are operating in many areas and have proved successful in reducing rural crime. Your local Crime Reduction Officer can give you advice.

#### FARM SECURITY

Try to secure or immobilise vehicles, **especially quad bikes** or equipment when not in use. If it is possible remove machinery from fields, especially near roads.

Identify your property by;

- Keeping a record of the serial number, chassis and model numbers of machines
- Use metal engravers to mark tools and equipment with your postcode followed by the first two letters of your farm's name.
- Consider physical crime prevention measures for **quad bikes** and other farm vehicles.
- Do not leave them unattended with keys in the ignition. This may affect the outcome of any insurance claim made in relation to the stolen vehicle.
- There are a number of products on the market which would deter persons from stealing such vehicles, i.e. Data tag, Quadloc, Smart Water etc.

This press release has been prepared in accordance with the Lord Advocate's Guidelines

TELETEXT- for BORDER TV area please

Public Information Office  
Tel: 01387 242 253  
Media Voicebank: 0871 550 0080  
e-mail: media2@dg.pnn.police.uk

[www.dg.police.uk](http://www.dg.police.uk)

- Always keep tools and small pieces of machinery locked away. Do not leave them lying about.

Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary offer free crime prevention advice/surveys. If you require such a service please contact your local Crime Reduction Officer on 0845 600 5701.

**Graeme Wellburn**  
**0498**  
**14.10.09**

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