



Policing a county like Suffolk which is made up of many rural areas and farming communities brings some very specific and unique challenges. With the distances involved and the isolated nature of some communities, we rely heavily on the public providing us with information, remaining vigilant and playing their part to help prevent rural crime.

Rural crime is an area of great concern to us. Our Safer Neighbourhood and Community Safety Teams work closely with local communities and have been successful in setting up Farm Watch schemes around the county, which helps people get involved and become the eyes and ears of their local area.

Suffolk Police would like to offer some crime reduction advice to assist the farming community over this very busy harvest period.

Because of the long hours of day light and work needed to be done, farm vehicles have little respite and are in constant use, however, if you are leaving your farm vehicle unattended,

- Don't leave any farming equipment too far out of view or in fields, instead if possible lock them away in out buildings, or at least put them near to out buildings and nearer to occupied areas.
- Don't leave keys or any valuables within any of these vehicles
- Security mark valuable equipment and plant machinery
- A number of items of new farming machinery such as tractors are now fitted with CESAR, which provides a number of security features to reduce the risk of such vehicles being stolen. If your vehicle is of an older model and does not have these security features, were you aware that if you club together with other farmers and can have 10 items of farm machinery at the same location, each vehicle can have a £50 discount on the cost of this security feature installed. Subsequently the cost of this process would then pay for itself after one year, as the NFU offer a further discount to farmers for this process, which is Home Office approved. You can visit their website using this link: <http://datatag.co.uk/cesar-agriculture.php>
- Hay and straw should be removed as soon as possible after harvesting and should be stored separate from other buildings, particularly those housing fuels, agrochemicals and machinery. It should, on the advice of the Fire Service, be in

stacks of reasonable size, spaced at least 10 metres apart and not near livestock housing.

Finally...

Landowners should remain vigilant in relation to the potential for illegal raves to be set up on their land. Any activity, which may lead them to suspect a rave is being organised on their land should be reported to police straight away and extra care should be taken to ensure that property entrances are secure wherever possible.

The police need to be informed of:

- Any information that an illegal rave is taking place
- Any sightings of vans, lorries or large numbers of vehicles gathering near woods, rural car parks or near to disused buildings/warehouse
- Sightings of fliers advertising raves
- Broken padlocks on access gates, to areas where a rave may take place.

Please use the following link to pass useful information to Suffolk Police about any incident.

<http://www.suffolk.police.uk/safetyadvice/reportacrime/tellthepolice.aspx>

DO NOT USE THIS LINK IN AN EMERGENCY OR IN A SITUATION THAT REQUIRES AN IMMEDIATE POLICE RESPONSE WHEN YOU SHOULD RING 999.

Police Direct Team