

# RURAL CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE GUIDE



**FMG**  
Advice & Insurance



NEW ZEALAND  
**POLICE**  
Ngā Pirihimānā o Aotearoa



# 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. Over five years FMG has paid nearly \$28 million in burglary and theft claims, with an average of over 1,100 claims paid each year – that's over three a day!

Commonly stolen items include:

- chainsaws
- tools (drills, pliers etc.)
- small machinery (compressors, welders etc.)
- fuel
- farm bikes and bike parts.

# ON AVERAGE THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY **114,000** REPORTED BURGLARIES AND THEFTS IN NEW ZEALAND EVERY YEAR.

THAT'S MORE THAN ONE EVERY FOUR 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 at both the front and rear of your house. Mount them high enough to prevent offenders tampering with them.
- 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 and lock windows and doors 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 your important assets and possessions such as technology, antiques, family heirlooms, and jewellery and keep their details and serial numbers in an easily accessible and secure cloud storage account. This is the most effective way to be reunited with your property if it is stolen and recovered. It can then also be shared with Police and FMG following a loss.*

## 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.*

\* Source: NZ Police Crime Snapshot

## 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. put your rubbish out on your collection day if applicable
  3. occasionally park their car in your driveway if possible.
- 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 AND OUTBUILDING SECURITY

- Keep gates locked and ensure that they can't be taken off their hinges.
- Lock buildings when they're 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 [police.govt.nz/rural](https://www.police.govt.nz/rural) for more resources.

### TOP TIP:

*Always report any suspicious activity to Police. Call 111 if it's happening now, or for a non-emergency call 105 or use 105 online [police.govt.nz/use-105](https://www.police.govt.nz/use-105). For anonymous reporting call **Crimestoppers 0800 555 111**.*

## FIREARMS

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

There are new rules around the storage and registration of firearms. If you're a firearms license holder, you now need to register your firearms. Visit Te Tari Pūreke (Police Firearms Safety Authority) at [firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz](https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz) for more information on:

- when and how to register your firearms
- the firearms safety code
- storage and transportation of firearms and ammunition
- the 7 rules of firearms safety
- hunter safety
- where to find a firearms mentor.

Report firearm theft to the Police immediately.

## QUAD BIKES, TRAILERS AND TOOLS

Quad bikes, trailers, and tools such as chainsaws are attractive to thieves. Reduce theft by taking a few extra precautions:

- Remove keys from unattended tractors and quad bikes – storing them out of sight.
- If you are unable to store quad bikes in a secure building, use a padlock or anchor to secure the bike.
- Avoid leaving tools and equipment unattended in paddocks or near public roads.
- Mark or engrave tools, vehicles and other farm property with your driver's licence number.
- Record details and serial numbers of high-value assets.
- Ensure fuel tanks are secured and locked to restrict theft and tampering.

## FUEL

- Install security lighting that lights up fuel tanks and fueling 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.

## CAMERA AND ALARM SYSTEMS

Camera and alarm systems can be the difference between a burglar only having seconds in your property before they're detected or having minutes or hours to ransack your property. Security cameras can also capture details of suspicious people and vehicles, providing crucial leads to Police.

- Position cameras at entry points to your property to allow early detection of unwanted visitors.
- Install cameras around buildings that contain high value farm property and assets.
- Consider cameras with integrated flood lights and alarms as additional deterrents.
- Place clear signage promoting the use of cameras on your property.
- Place alarm monitoring stickers around all sides of your home.
- Dummy cameras and alarms can also act as a deterrent to thieves.

## TACK AND SHEARING EQUIPMENT

To avoid the loss of expensive equipment:

- Keep tack locked in a secure storage facility where possible.
- Mark or engrave tack with your driver's licence number so it can be identified as your property.
- 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 hundreds of millions of dollars a year in lost income, with many instances of stock theft believed to go unreported.

- Report suspicious behaviour and thefts to 111 or 105 or [police.govt.nz/use-105](https://www.police.govt.nz/use-105) to assist police in their investigations.
- Where possible lock stockyard gates and loading ramps.
- Regularly check paddocks where herds are grazing.
- Padlock boundary gates and fit long-pin 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.
- 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 111, 105, or [police.govt.nz/use-105](https://www.police.govt.nz/use-105)*



**USE 105** NON-EMERGENCY  
Ohotata Kore

Call 105 or go online to **105.police.govt.nz**

**CALL 111** EMERGENCY  
Ohotata

For emergencies if life or property are at risk

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Call 111 in an emergency. For non-emergencies call 105 or use 105 online [www.police.govt.nz/use-105](http://www.police.govt.nz/use-105)

For anonymous reporting call Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111.

Contact FMG on 0800 366 466 for insurance and risk advice, and to make a claim.

### TOP TIP:

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



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# RURAL SECURITY CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to see how secure your property is.

## Your Rural Community

- ☐ Have you exchanged phone numbers with your neighbours and discussed how you can alert and assist each other?
- ☐ Is there a Neighbourhood Support, or other rural support group in your area that you can be a part of? If not, can you help create one? Visit [neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz](http://neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz) for more information.

## Perimeter

- ☐ Is your RAPID number clearly visible?
- ☐ 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

- ☐ Are there alarms fitted to all appropriate buildings or sheds?
- ☐ Is there sufficient exterior lighting around your farm buildings and outbuildings?

## Tools and Equipment

- ☐ 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 and ammunition secured, in accordance with regulations and guidance from the Firearms Safety Authority? For more information visit [firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz](http://firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz)