Lincolnshire Horsewatch

Lincolnshire Horsewatch is a scheme which exists to connect all horse owners and riders with the intention of improving our security and communication. We aim to reduce rural and equine crime and much can be achieved through general awareness and a little effort from each individual.

We are part of the National Horsewatch Alliance supported by most Police Forces.

The Lincolnshire area is covered by a number of local groups, each run by a co-ordinator who acts as your first point of contact. To become a member of Horsewatch either complete one of our application forms or e-mail:

PCSO Nicole Page at nicole.page@lincs.pnn.police.uk

Sally Howard at sally@bransbyhorses.co.uk

You can find more information at www.ukhorsewatch.org.uk where application forms and other information can be downloaded. Don’t worry if you live outside the Lincolnshire area, we will pass your details on to the Horsewatch group nearest to you.

Crime prevention measures you should take yourself:

PROTECT YOUR HORSE

Unless your horse can be easily identified he will be nearly impossible to tell apart from thousands of others. Make sure you have a good selection of summer and winter photographs from all angles and a correctly completed passport drawing.

You should also ensure your horse can be positively identified by anyone. Even if he only escapes from the field there must be a way to trace him back to you.

Passports are a legal requirement for all horses, ponies and donkeys. They must accompany the animal on all road journeys and be on hand for DEFRA inspection.

Any equine offered for sale that does not have an accurate passport should be regarded as suspicious and avoided.

Freeze branding is a visible mark that allows easy identification and can quickly be linked to the registered owner, usually by phone.

It is a lifetime identifier that is supported by a registration pack, transferable to subsequent owners. A freeze brand can also be read from a distance, even if the horse cannot be caught.

There is an excellent record of recovery for freeze branded equines, unmarked they are sometimes never found.
Microchips contain a unique number but they rely on the correct scanner being available to read the chip. This registration number then has to be checked on a database before an owner can be traced. Unfortunately they are not a visible deterrent against theft.

Hoof branding usually involves a home post code but has to be regularly repeated by your farrier. It can also be difficult to read from a distance or if hooves are muddy.

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Saddles, tack and rugs are regularly stolen so they must be clearly identifiable. A visible mark will be a deterrent to thieves and any stolen items that are recovered can be returned to you. Even if it is recovered, unidentifiable property is either returned to the thief, auctioned or destroyed. Your home postcode is always the most recognisable mark to use.

Tack marking usually involves stamping leather saddles on the nearside, under the flap. For synthetic saddles the near side stirrup bar is engraved. This convention is simple to follow and easy to explain to anyone checking for identifying marks.

Saddles can also be micro chipped or coded with smart water. Although these are good secondary methods they are not immediately visible and need a scanner or database to check ownership. Postcode other property by either stamping or engraving it. Work on the principle that if it is stolen and not marked you will never see it again. Even just a few rugs, head collars and grooming kits can add up to a loss of hundreds of pounds.

Rug marking can protect your rugs. Identify them with either your home post code or the horses’ freeze brand number. Try to use a permanent method such as a two part epoxy paint that soaks into the fabric or iron on adhesive lettering.

Trailer and lorry marking should include adding your postcode the roof, usually with self adhesive vinyl lettering. This makes them easy to see from the air or road bridges and can be difficult to remove. Mark other parts such as breast bars, partitions and panels. The more you mark the harder job it is to remove so the deterrent is greater, as is the chance of recovery.

Make sure you always use a wheel clamp and hitch lock on a trailer. Fit the wheel clamp to a rear wheel and if possible chain the hitch to something solid. Lorries should have an immobiliser and fuel cut off fitted. Often they will be towed away to have simple security devices, such as battery switches, removed elsewhere. Fit a tracker if you can. Do not leave tack or other property in the lorry as it is easy to steal or will simply go missing with it.

PROTECT YOUR YARD OR STABLES

Make sure your yard does not attract unwanted visitors or thieves. Try not to advertise your location with road signs or livery adverts. If you have a drive up to the stables install a gate at the road end to deter casual callers. All gates must have a heavy duty lock and chain with their hinges secured to prevent them being lifted off.

Install security lights up high and add grills to prevent them being smashed. An alarm will also need protection so it cannot be disabled or have the wiring cut. Leave your phone number with any neighbours and ask them to contact you if the lights or alarm come on. Do not label the tack room door, it makes it too easy for thieves to find. Horsewatch can provide yard security signs to advise that property is marked as a deterrent to theft. Lock away all tools and wheel barrows. Tack is often wheeled away across fields in the barrow left on the yard and the tools simply attract unwanted interest. Never leave head collars hanging outside for thieves to lead your horse away with.
You can find more details about other local watch schemes and neighbourhood policing on the Lincolnshire police web site at [www.lincs.police.uk](http://www.lincs.police.uk) or you can email gainsboroughruralnorth.npt@lincs.pnn.police.uk

CLA regional chief Helen Woolley said: “Householders or builders with rubbish to dispose of can be persuaded by people offering to do the job for cash in hand. "These cowboys often take the waste and dump it. "Fly-tipping is a major problem for farmers and land managers all year but the Spring/Summer holiday season has traditionally been particularly bad. "Many landowners are afraid of reporting fly-tipping incidents for fear of being fined or incurring heavy costs when they have done nothing wrong." For more info or to become a member of the CLA: [www.cla.org.uk](http://www.cla.org.uk)
Fighting Rural Theft

Farming usually features high in the news in Lincolnshire, but unfortunately it isn’t often for good reasons. But there is help at hand as NFU Mutual, the rural insurer, has launched a multi-pronged initiative to tackle soaring farm machinery thefts.

The large rural insurer has joined forces with the police, machinery manufacturers and a high-technology security database to make it harder for organised gangs to steal and export farm machinery and has re-issued its guidelines to help farmers and rural dwellers combat the threat of theft, too.

The initiative comprises:

Funding for the Plant and Agricultural National Intelligence Unit (PANIU)

Set up earlier in 2009 by the police, PANIU co-ordinates the activities of the UK’s Police forces against criminal networks engaged in plant and agricultural vehicle theft. The unit has identified tractors as the second most targeted item of plant (behind mini excavators); telehandlers also consistently appear in the top five. John Deere, Massey Ferguson and JCB are among the most regularly targeted manufacturers. In its first nine months, PANIU has already recovered hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of equipment and made many arrests.

CESAR plant and agricultural vehicle security and registration scheme

Construction Equipment Security and Registration (CESAR) registration of plant and agricultural vehicles combines a unique identification technology by Datatag fitted to the machine with a 24-hour database which can be accessed by UK and foreign police forces. CESAR can be fitted to any agricultural vehicle.

Approved Security Devices

For the first time, NFU Mutual is offering premium discounts to farmers who fit approved security devices to agricultural vehicles. The discounts apply to a range of immobilizers and locks approved by Thatcham – the insurance industry research body.

So what can you do to help protect yourself? Some simple steps could help to protect you and your property

- Remove keys and secure cars, tractors, and other vehicles when unattended
- Use security lighting in yards and drives
- Have the registration number etched on vehicle windows
- Consider approved tracking devices and/or approved immobilisers for more expensive machines/cars
- Physically secure ATVs by means of suitable approved locking devices or heavy duty security chain and padlocks
- Record machinery serial numbers
- Lock up tools and equipment out of sight
- Lock all gates where possible

Lincolnshire Farm and Country Business Watch can help to reduce the impact of crime in our rural areas, but the scheme needs intelligence and that means everyone’s eyes and ears on the look-out for suspicious vehicles or people. Why not get your friends and neighbours to join, too – the more eyes and ears we have to help protect property and people, the more intelligence and information the police have in the fight against crime. Find out more by visiting the Lincolnshire police website and click on www.lincs.police.uk, search Lincolnshire Farm and Country Business Watch.
CESAR® TACKLES SPATE OF TRACTOR THEFTS

CESAR is proving to be a big help in tackling organised crime in rural areas and now the South Lincolnshire Police force is promoting the adoption of the CESAR security and registration scheme after a spate of equipment thefts in their area. PC Dave Sargent, of the local Vehicle Crime Unit, has had 21 tractors reported as stolen, worth over £1.1m, in the past few months, including two £90,000 tractors stolen from a John Deere dealership.

CESAR is widely supported, by amongst others, the Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA), the Construction Equipment Association (CEA), the Home Office, and the British Machinery Insurers Association. CESAR comprises of state of the art identification technology from Datatag and machine registration on the only official security register. This gives each CESAR registered machine a permanent and unique identity, just like a fingerprint, which acts as a powerful deterrent against theft and an invaluable aid in recovery in the unlikely event of theft. Over 30,000 machines are protected by CESAR with more being added to the scheme every month from the major equipment manufacturers.

CESAR is made up of 4 elements. Firstly, the machine is fitted with 4 tamper proof triangular registration plates, which are securely fitted to the machine; with the machines own unique identification number. Secondly, a number of RFID transponders, each the size of a grain of rice, are hidden in the machinery each with its own unique programmed code. Thirdly, the machine has patches of forensic liquid DNA painted on to it in a number of locations. The liquid DNA has microscopic Datatdots® suspended in it which are invisible to the eye. It’s literally impossible for thieves to remove all the tell tail identification traces from a CESAR registered machine. Fourthly, lifetime machine registration, on Datatag’s secure database, which gives the police and other official agencies 24/7 access to the registration information which is an important aid in identification and recovery.

Modern tractors are sophisticated machines, costing from £50,000 to £200,000. There is a huge international market for stolen agricultural equipment, with machines ‘stolen to order’ and shipped abroad with hours of being stolen. Lincolnshire Police is working closely with neighbouring forces and the Plant and Agricultural National Intelligence (PANIU) unit of the ‘Met Police’ to raise awareness of the problem and to tackle the organised criminals.

Statistics compiled by the insurance industry funded PANIU show that CESAR registered machines are 6 times more likely to be recovered in the event of theft than unregistered machines, and 4 times less likely to be stolen in the first place.

PC Dave Sargent said: “Unfortunately agricultural equipment theft is now a very serious issue in our area and we need farmers and the public to be more vigilant to prevent further thefts and to help us catch these organised criminals. If anyone sees a tractor on the road in the evening, possibly in convoy with another vehicle, then please call the police with the registration details”. He went on to say: “Machinery thefts are a huge blow to farmers and the local rural economy as a whole and we need to work together to tackle the problem. However, farmers have a responsibility to protect their equipment and keeping machines locked and the keys safe are simple but effective steps. Our strong recommendation is that farmers fit CESAR to their tractors as this has proven to be a powerful deterrent against theft and it pays for itself with insurance premium discounts”.

Local farmers are taking police advice and to date nearly 200 tractors and telescopic handlers have been fitted with CESAR by local John Deere dealer Bourne Tractors that are actively promoting CESAR to their many customers as well as fitting CESAR to all the new John Deere tractors that they deliver.

As a final benefit to machine owners many of the leading insurance companies, including NFU Mutual, offer substantial insurance premium discounts for equipment fitted with CESAR.

See the web site for more details at www.cesarscheme.org
Arson Task Force

The Arson Task Force continues to work closely with the National Farmers Union and farmers in rural areas throughout Lincolnshire. The NFU is very positive about the partnership and once again has invited the ATF to attend the Lincolnshire Show and provide a display within the NFU marquee.

Arson Task Force Police Manager, Clive Currie said: “Our presence at the show helps to raise awareness of deliberate fire setting on farms and the measures which can be taken to prevent it”.

This year the Task Force will be promoting membership of the Farm Watch Scheme in conjunction with Lincolnshire Police. This is a messaging system utilising communication technology, to provide members with relevant information about criminal activity in their area. The ATF use this useful tool to great effect and have a trained operative who can input information about arson incidents directly on to the system.

The Team look forward to meeting you at this year’s show on June 23 and 24.

You can contact the Arson Task Force at atf@lincoln.fire-uk.org