

# WELCOME TO



# FARM WATCH

Farm Watch is designed to encourage people who live and work in the countryside to be vigilant, share their knowledge and reduce opportunities for crime and vandalism by reporting anything suspicious to the police. Intelligence is a vital tool for the police in the fight against crime and the public can help by providing information no matter how trivial in nature it may seem.

## **Why is there a need for a Farm Watch scheme?**

In the past the rural community suffered very little crime, but now the criminal has access to all kinds of vehicles and is looking for softer targets it means that the country areas are being visited by more criminal elements looking for the opportunity to commit crime. As there cannot be a police officer in every village it has become necessary to enlist the help and support of the general public in the rural areas. By co-operating with each other we can help to prevent many crimes from happening in the first place, thus making your community a safer and more crime free area in which to live and work.

The Lothian and Borders Police Wildlife Officer has a particular interest in any intelligence, which will assist in reducing crime against any wildlife species. That officer carefully monitors and acts on any information to detect and prevent these type of offences.

## **What are the main aims of the Farm Watch scheme?**

1. To reduce local opportunities for crime and vandalism.
2. To reinforce the community spirit so that everyone can contribute towards the protection of their property by mutual cooperation and communication.
3. To introduce early warning systems in farming and countryside areas.
4. To improve the intelligence flow between rural businesses and the police.

## **What are the advantages of a Farm Watch?**

1. A reduction in crime and the fear of crime impacting on the community.
2. Suspicious people and vehicles can quickly be reported to the police and other members of the countryside communities.
3. Information and advice can be quickly and efficiently circulated between the police and the rural community.
4. A crime vigilant community in partnership with the police will create a safer environment.

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## How to Watch?

The public are at greatest risk from crimes such as burglary, auto-crime and vandalism. These happen at all levels of our society, but can be really reduced by an effective watch scheme. The first role is to observe any suspicious activity calmly and discreetly. The very existence of a Farm and Watch scheme in your area will act as a deterrent to many criminal types. But where someone is determined to take a risk it is **not** the intention that members deliberately attempt themselves to scare off the suspect in order to prevent crime. Remaining calm and discreet gives you the best possible chance of gathering the information and reporting what you see quickly and accurately. In non-emergency situations please report suspicious activity immediately on 0131 311 3131 explaining that you are a member of Farm Watch.

**There are of course some situations, which are more urgent than others, where a 999 Emergency call is essential.**

Farm Watch members are registered on our system. This makes it possible for any police officer to send messages direct to members throughout the Scottish Borders. The messages will inform members of activities of a criminal nature and those of a general interest to the community to assist in crime reduction. There is no charge for the use of this service. Messages can be received by e-mail or text message.

## WHO TO CONTACT TO JOIN?

You can contact Farm Watch by

Email – [gdiv.community.safety@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gdiv.community.safety@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

Phone – 01835 825058

Mail – G Division Safer Communities (Farm Watch)  
Scottish Borders Council HQ  
Newtown St Boswells  
TD6 0SA