

Homeland



Security

You are the key.

Farm families can help protect themselves and the community from criminals and terrorists.

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How secure is your farm?

Here's a checklist to help you evaluate:

___ 1) Do you have insurance coverage that protects against theft, vandalism, pesticide spills, and/or terrorist attacks on your farm? Ask your insurance agent to walk your farm and assess your risks and review your coverage.

___ 2) Is your 911 emergency address posted in 3-inch reflective numerals on your mailbox or a post on the county road?

___ 3) Do you have a permanently installed, well-hidden mailbox or lockbox that serves as an emergency information box for emergency personnel? Do they know where it is located?

___ 4) Are pesticides and farm chemicals stored in one location? Are they secure? Do you have an inventory?

___ 5) Have you approached your local fire department about visiting your farm for a safety and security check?

___ 6) Have you asked a professional law enforcement officer to help identify security issues?

___ 7) Do you have a farm map with the contents of each building listed?

___ 8) Have you identified vulnerable areas on the map – ask yourself “What would someone want to steal, damage, or contaminate?”

___ 9) Do you have appropriate areas locked and/or gated? Are the locks, fences and gates in good condition? Do you check for tampering regularly? Are keys well controlled?

___ 10) Do you have lighting in the right places?

___ 11) Do you have a prioritized list of contact names and numbers, in case you are away from the farm or incapacitated during an emergency? Does your family and workers have the list?

___ 12) Do your family members and employees know what to look for and what to report to the authorities to ensure farm security?

___ 13) Have you taken appropriate biosecurity measures to protect animals and crops? Do you have an inventory of your animals? Can you identify them?

___ 14) Do you always lock/secure your vehicles and equipment (sprayers, etc.) on and off the farm?

___ 15) Are your farm records complete, up-to-date and secure? Are your computers properly maintained and secured? Do you have the current computer virus updates?

___ 16) Do you have a well-stocked first aid kit and does everyone know how to use it? When was your last first aid/ CPR class?

___ 17) Do you have fire extinguishers? Are they regularly maintained?

___ 18) Do you have alarms, electronic security or video surveillance cameras, as appropriate?

___ 19) Do you hire employees with security in mind? Do you do background checks?

___ 20) Do you have a farm security plan?

For more information and a do-it-yourself, fill-in-the-blank Farm Security workbook to write a farm security plan, call Maryland Cooperative Extension at 301-753-8195.

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