Rural Watch

Working together with the rural community

Crime prevention advice for
Poultry theft

Poultry theft can be a problem for many farmers. Thieves steal poultry for a number of reasons, and unless caught in the act, they rely on people not being able to identify their property and prove ownership.

Things to consider:

- If possible, keep your poultry where they are not visible from the road or public rights of way

- Join our Rural Watch scheme to be kept up to date on incidents in the area – display signs that you are in a watch scheme

- Have a good quality padlock and/or alarm on your coupe and the shed where you keep feed and bedding. As well as your birds, the feed, bedding and metal containers are all prime targets for thieves

- Security lighting with passive infrared (PIR) sensors are a good deterrent and a way to let you know if someone is on your property. PIR security lighting is also available with a built in camera which will record any movement

- Electric fencing can deter potential offenders, as well as being a deterrent for foxes and other pests. Remember to display a visible sign warning that an electric fence is in operation and take precautions to protect the battery which powers it

- Geese and guinea fowl can act as a natural alarm system as they are very vocal if someone enters the premises

- Take photos of your birds, especially any distinguishing marks, and any expensive equipment you may have

- There are a number of ways to mark your poultry which will act as a deterrent, and help identify stolen birds and prove ownership

  Ways to tag poultry include:

  - Wing tagging (similar to ear tagging in sheep)
  - Permanent tattooing
  - Spray or mark plumage with vegetable dye
  - Closed rings on the birds legs
  - Wing stamping

- Call 101 to report to the police any suspicious activity, vehicle or person near your property, providing as much information as possible (go to Report incident sheet)

- ALWAYS report a theft, no matter how small, it may be linked to a pattern of crime or similar incidents in your area, the police cannot help if they don't know about it

CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE
101
IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

Leicestershire CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER for Leicestershire

Leicestershire Police
Protecting our communities