

Small Farm Security



You are the key.

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

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?”

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- 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:

Robert D. Halman

County Extension Director/ Agriculture Agent
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Adapted from: Pamela King, Maryland Cooperative Extension 2006

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