

## Rural crime

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The researchers suggested most farm and rural canines are not trained guard dogs — just barking burglar alarms. "Many property-oriented criminals are not frightened by barking dogs, especially if they are aware no one is home to hear them."

And, it was found that those country folks who make a practice of locking their doors every time they leave their homes are more likely to be burglarized than those who don't lock.

The researchers reported the practice of locking doors does not prevent a professional thief from opening a house or building, but it will discourage an amateur.

So why then would 60 percent of those surveyed people who locked their doors be more likely burglary victims?

One hypothesis of the research team is that those people who lock their doors live in a higher risk situation than those who still feel it is not necessary to lock all the time.

Nevertheless, G Howard Phillips, director of Rural Crime Prevention at Ohio State, recommends rural families take more precautions.

"People who live in an area with problems need to take the same precautions as anyone else," he said. "They need to lock up valuables, like tack and other horse and livestock equipment. They need a secure place for tools. They need to learn to lock windows and doors — and use secure locks."

"The trouble is most of the buildings on farms were built in the days when people didn't have to lock. Buildings were built to dry grain, and keep livestock out of the cold — they weren't built for locking."

"The nature of farming and rural living in general makes locking up a difficult task because of the distance of outbuildings, the frequency of use of equipment and the inconvenience of carrying keys for locking and unlocking purposes."

"But now, there is more affluence in the rural community. Farmers own stereos, coin collections, televisions, high-priced cattle and equipment."

"And gasoline tanks, the most frequently broken into, are only locked by thirty-three percent of the rural residents. A greater number lock their automobiles (39 percent), but less than ten percent lock their farm equipment and barns."

Phillips suggested farmers identify their property.

"Tractors, in most cases, are unlicensed. Anyone can write a bill of sale and go several counties over and resell the tractor. You need to mark your tractor in at least two spots, one in a primary marking location, and the other in a spot known only to you. That way, even if the primary ID is removed, law enforcement groups will have your out-of-the-way engraving of your state's abbreviation and your social security number as a means of identification," he said.

Phillips also recommended farm machinery not be left along roads. If it is necessary to leave a piece of equipment away from the farm buildings, he suggested parking it near a neighbor's place.

"Even if the burglars aren't interested in the whole machine, they'll steal the batteries and tools."

Phillips also recommended all livestock be marked. This type of identification can take many forms, he noted, from the simple ear tags (temporary and easily changed) to tattooing, ear notching and freeze branding (a more permanent marking).

The latest rustler in the age of wood burning stoves and fireplaces is the timber thief. Phillips recommended woodlot owners locate and maintain records of valuable trees, including their location, diameter at 4 1/2 feet above the ground, height to first branch, and what species of tree it is.

Along with these records, he suggested a record be kept of any distinguishing characteristics on the tree's bole — or better yet, take a picture of the tree.

He noted trees could be marked with a paint stripe down one side if the tree's appearance wasn't important — starting as high up as possible and running

down to the ground. The paint should be unable to be washed off and should soak into the bark, he said.

For those trees where appearance does matter, Phillips recommended using phosphorescent paint. Using an artist's brush, he said, apply a unique identifying mark — and keep a record of each mark used.

Phillips also suggested working with neighbors, letting them know where the valuable trees on your property are, keeping each other posted on vacation schedules, future timber sales, and farm boundaries so no timber could be cut down on someone else's property by 'mistake'.

He added that close-knit neighborhoods can be each other's eyes and ears. Various rural communities are banding together to form neighborhood watches — noting any abnormal occurrences or unfamiliar loiterers and using C B S to keep everyone on the alert.

Ohio State's Phillips also recommended the following steps can be taken to lessen the chances of property crime:

- Make your home look occupied,
- Lock all outside doors before you leave or go to bed,
- Leave lights on or a radio playing when you go out. If you're going to be away any length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers so your lights turn on at dusk and go off at bedtime.
- Keep garage doors and other sheds closed and locked,
- Don't allow daily deliveries to accumulate when you're gone,
- Arrange to have your lawn cut in summer and walks shoveled in winter if you're going to be away for an extended period of time.

Rural crime — it's on the rise. But by following the advice of the Ohio State experts, farmers and rural residents can take steps to make life tougher for vandals, thieves and burglars.

## NPPC says pork promotion made difference

DES MOINES, Ia — Market prices for hogs during the last quarter of 1980 remained higher than most analysts predicted, announced the National Pork Producers Council.

The broad range of explanations offered by market analysts show that no one really knows the reason why market prices have followed this trend.

Other explanations, such as those received by NPPC, credit pork producers and their promotion programs with making the difference.

"I think that the continuing NPPC effort to stimulate pork demand is the reason that demand is greater than expected," stated Olin Andrews, Jr., president of Farmers Hybrid Companies, Inc. "In any event, every 220-pound market hog being sold in December returned to the pork producer \$17.60 more than could be expected. A good return for a 20 cent checkoff."

The Wall Street Journal reported Hog raisers, still

smarting from the price effects of their venture into record production, have been pushing pork this year.

Radio advertisement pushed pork during the 1980 World Series, for example, and hundreds of producers spend two days or more in their local supermarkets trying to persuade consumers to choose pork. Those developments, plus higher demand, increased stockpiling of pork in cold storage and a recent drop in hog slaughtering have led to a jump in hog prices, which are 30 percent higher than a year ago.

And Dick Hummel, Economist and Market Analyst, stated:

"We think the increased daily amount of retail activity directly attributable to the pork producers promotion is responsible for this (movement of pork)."

We believe this equates to a minimum of \$3 per hundred weight, more likely \$5 per hundred weight and it is theoretically possible even \$7 per hundred weight increase in hog prices for the

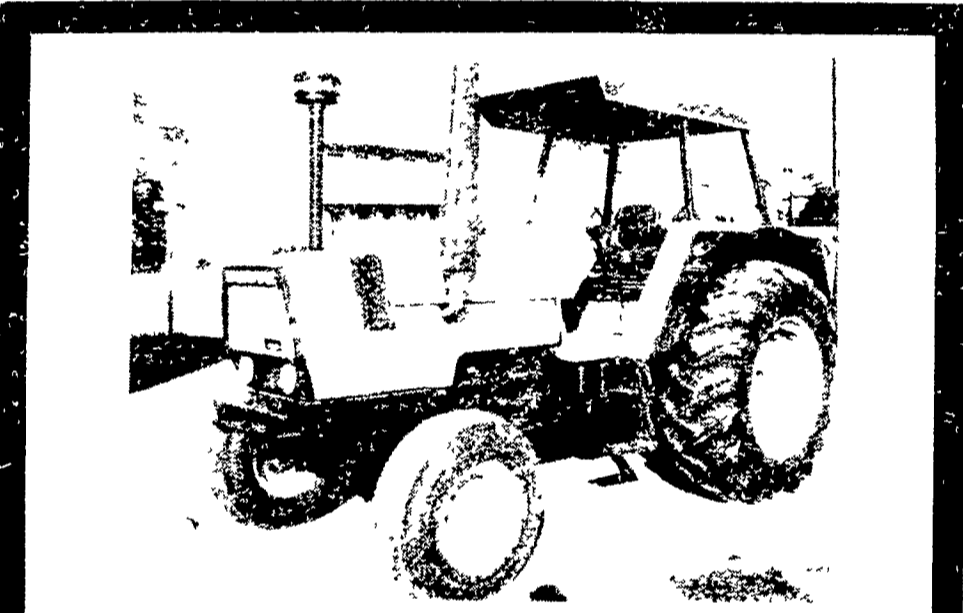
hog producer for the last quarter of 1980."

T.A. Hieronymus, University of Illinois economist commented,

"On the basis of partial information, pork production for the quarter appears to be almost the same as in the fall quarter of 1979. Production is in line with expectations based on the large pig crop from March through May."

"The price of hogs averaged \$47 per hundred weight during the period, compared to \$36.60 for the same period last year. That is an increase of 30 percent."

Pork producers can chalk 1980 up as a landmark year, said Orville Sweet, NPPC's Executive Vice President, they have far exceeded the expectations of anyone in positive progress, while carrying the government on their backs.



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## Grain workshop rescheduled

DOVER, Del — The grain marketing workshop originally slated for January 16 at the Sheraton Inn in Dover has been rescheduled for February 10.

According to University of Delaware extension crops marketing specialist Carl German, topics to be covered during the day-long session include: weather and its implications for farmers this year, the outlook for oilseeds such as soybeans, the outlook for Delmarva-

grown feed grains; and marketing alternatives for 1981.

There will also be a marketing strategy question-and-answer session.

The workshop is sponsored by the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service. It will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. For further information see Delaware county extension agent or call German at 302/738-2511.

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