

WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 2023

RACV AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH LAUNCH FARM CRIME PREVENTION TOOL

How safe is your farm? That's the question RACV and Neighbourhood Watch want Victorian farmers to answer as part of the new *How safe is my farm* initiative.

The latest figures from the [Victorian Crime Statistics Agency](#) (see below) show more than 2,000 offences were committed on Victorian farms in 2022, with theft – including theft of firearms and livestock – accounting for over 60 per cent of crimes.

How safe is my farm is an Australian-first Neighbourhood Watch initiative, developed with Victoria Police and supported by RACV, that helps Victorian farmers identify what they can do to reduce the risk of crime on their properties.

It includes an online tool that asks a series of questions about security and gives users a personalised report on how safe their farm is.

Victoria Police will be attending [Wimmera Field Days](#) – a showcase of the latest developments in farming practice – to promote *How safe is my farm* on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch. The event will be held from 7 to 9 March at Longerenong near Horsham in western Victoria and will have over 400 exhibitors.

[Dr Alistair Harkness](#), Co-Director of the Centre for Rural Criminology at the University of New England and one of Australia's leading experts in rural crime, said thefts from farms have enormous social and economic impacts.

"It can be costly, disruptive and mentally straining so the best way to avoid becoming a victim of farm crime is to do whatever possible to prevent offending from happening in the first place," said Alistair.

"That's why the innovative *How safe is my farm* tool from Neighbourhood Watch is invaluable. It lets farmers conduct an audit to see where vulnerabilities might exist and to think carefully about what crime prevention measures might be implemented to improve safety and security.

"For farming communities, it is important to keep an eye out for each other, report crime and suspicious behaviour when it does occur, and prevent crime occurring in the first place by implementing measures on farms to deter offending."

CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Victoria, Bambi Gordon, encourages all Victorian farmers to take the online tool and find out how secure their property is.

"Back in the day, we left doors open and didn't expect that we could be a victim. Times have changed. But on the upside, we know that theft is often opportunistic. If we can remove the opportunity, we can prevent crime from occurring," Ms Gordon said.

"*How safe is my farm* is an Australian-first tool that teaches farmers how to do the simple things to secure their properties".

To use the tool and find out more, visit howsafeismyplace.com.au/farm/.

How safe is my farm is an extension of the [How safe is my place](#) suite of resources, including a comprehensive online quiz and an interactive home security app launched by RACV and Neighbourhood Watch in 2022, all created to help Victorians determine how safe their home is from burglary and what they can do to improve overall security and safety.

RACV is the largest home insurer in Victoria and also provides [RACV Farm Insurance](#) for small hobby farms or horticulture businesses, designed to protect crops, livestock, farm machinery and more.

Victorian Crime Statistics Agency										
Farm crime and stolen livestock										
Year ending September 2022										
<i>Offences Recorded (no.)</i>										
Offence Subdivision	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Arson	220	192	208	286	197	233	214	198	108	100
Property damage	240	247	228	330	262	264	344	376	368	256
Burglary/Break and enter	315	324	385	581	539	512	631	562	499	413
Theft <i>(including firearms and livestock)</i>	941	921	910	1224	1320	1760	1728	1872	1490	1251
Deception	12	7	9	144	18	87	73	162	42	36
Grand Total	1728	1692	1740	2565	2336	2856	2990	3170	2502	2056

-ENDS-

Further information

Since 1903, [RACV](#) has been one of Australia's most trusted brands and is the largest member organisation in Victoria.

RACV is proud to provide exceptional experiences for our Members and customers through a range of products and services across motoring and mobility, home, energy and leisure. These include Emergency Roadside Assistance, Motor Insurance, Home Insurance, Home [Trades](#) and an increasing range of options in the cleaner energy space, such as RACV Solar. We have nine resorts across Australia and a range of domestic and international holiday packages, tours and cruises from our trusted travel partners.

Media enquiries

RACV Media

Phone: 0417 041 398

Email: media@racv.com.au