

Under embargo: 1:00am 14th August 2017

Rural crime in North Yorkshire rises by almost 10%

- Rural crime cost the county £1.1m last year
- ATV and quad bikes, tools and 4x4s top thieves' wish-list
- UK statistics show rural theft costs fell 4% in 2016 but have risen sharply in first half of 2017

Rural crime cost North Yorkshire £1.1m in 2016, up 7% from £1m in 2015. The figures form part of NFU Mutual's annual Rural Crime Report, published today, revealing that despite the UK seeing a 4% drop last year, the cost of rural theft has risen sharply in the first half of 2017.

According to NFU Mutual's 2017 Rural Crime Report, early theft claims statistics for the first half of this year show a sharp rise of over 20% nationally, raising concerns that a new wave of rural crime is hitting the countryside.

The items most commonly targeted by thieves across North Yorkshire over the last 12 months were ATV (all terrain vehicles) and quad bikes, tools and 4x4s.

Clare Pybus, NFU Mutual Senior Agent in Whitby, North Yorkshire, said: "Rural crime in North Yorkshire has been on the rise during the last 12 months, as countryside criminals are becoming more brazen and farmers are now having to continually increase security and adopt new ways of protecting their equipment.

"In some parts of the county, farmers are having to turn their farmyards into fortresses to protect themselves from repeated thieves who are targeting quads, tractors and power tools. They are using tracking devices on tractors, video and infra-red surveillance in their farm yards and even DNA markers to protect sheep from rustlers."

The report reveals that being 'staked out' is the biggest worry for country people, followed closely by longer police response times in rural areas, according to the leading rural insurer. Criminals continue to target Land Rover Defenders, quad bikes, tractors, tools and livestock despite increased security on farms.

Philip adds, "The threat of becoming a victim of rural crime, and regular reports of suspicious characters watching farms is causing high levels of anxiety amongst farmers who know their rural location makes them vulnerable to attacks.

"Our advice to people living and working in the countryside is to regularly evaluate your current security measures making improvements where necessary, remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the local police and local farm watch schemes."

For more information and advice on how to beat rural crime in your area download the report at www.nfumutual.co.uk/ruralcrime

---Ends---

Regional cost (rounded to 1 decimal place)

Region	Cost to UK 2015	Cost to UK 2016	%age difference	Up or down
East	£5.4m	£5.6m	3.5%	↑
Midlands	£6.8m	£6.7m	-1.2%	↓
N East	£6.7m	£7.3m	8.9%	↑
N Ireland	£2.9m	£2.5m	-14.3%	↓
N West	£3.6m	£2.7m	-23.8%	↓
Scotland	£2.4m	£1.6m	-32.8%	↓
S East	£6.4m	£5.8m	-9.0%	↓
S West	£5.3m	£5.6m	5.9%	↑
Wales	£1.5m	£1.4m	-7.2%	↓
Grand Total	£41m	£39.2m	-4.2%	↓

Worst affected counties by cost:

	County	Cost to UK 2015	Cost to UK 2016	%age difference	Up or down
1	Lincolnshire	£2,378,820	£2,501,120	5.1%	↑
2	Essex	£1,227,020	£1,816,590	48.0%	↑
3	Cambridgeshire	£1,732,170	£1,608,320	-7.2%	↓
4	Kent	£1,636,790	£1,552,000	-5.2%	↓
5	West Yorkshire	£1,155,540	£1,505,640	30.3%	↑
6	Gloucestershire	£1,106,210	£1,332,690	20.5%	↑
7	Lancashire	£2,129,790	£1,272,720	-40.2%	↓
8	North Yorkshire	£1,061,100	£1,156,220	9.0%	↑
9	Worcestershire	£825,140	£1,069,850	29.7%	↑
10	Somerset	£1,103,990	£1,051,390	-4.8%	↓

Top ten targeted items nationally:

	Item	Last year's position
1	Tools	3
2	ATV/Quad	1
3	Garden Equipment	4
4	4x4s	7
5	Machinery	2
6	Livestock	5
7	Trailers & horseboxes	8
8	Oil/Diesel	6
9	Equine	-
10	Tractors	10

PRESS RELEASE

For further information please contact:

Tim Price

Rural Affairs Specialist

01789 202233

Email: Tim_Price@nfumutual.co.uk

Rebecca Davidson

Senior Press Officer

Tel: 01789 455165

Email: rebecca_davidson@nfumutual.co.uk

Editor's notes:

ISDN line for radio interviews is: 01789 205347.

About NFU Mutual:

NFU Mutual offers a wide range of products, including general insurance, life, pensions, and investments. These products and services are delivered through the agency network, as well as through a direct sales and service centre.

With over 300 offices located in rural towns and villages throughout the UK, NFU Mutual has become part of the fabric of rural life and remains committed to serving the needs of people who visit, live or work in the countryside.



NFU Mutual
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS