

24 June 2008

Review insurance as crime wave hits agriculture

With the current crime wave hitting agriculture in this region, farmers should take steps to make sure they are adequately insured, urges land agent Chris Purllant, of Brown & Co's King's Lynn office.

"Nationally, thefts of tractors and farm machinery is currently running at over £3million a year, with kit often being stolen to order by organised gangs," he says.

Stolen tractors, diggers, trailers and quad bikes are apparently being shipped overseas as far as Australia, while thefts of red diesel are also on the increase with tanks on farms all too often an easy target.

Rather than simply renewing the same insurance policy year on year, Chris Purllant recommends farmers take the time to review their vehicle and buildings cover, warning that many may be currently underinsured.

"Raw materials and labour costs have increased dramatically in the last few years, as have the value of crops and diesel tanks," he says. "Soaring prices on the garage forecourt are resulting in an increase in thefts of red diesel from farms in this region. Incidents have been reported where thieves have damaged tanks in the process leading to diesel spillages which are costly to put right," he warns.

He urges farmers to remain extra vigilant, to take extra steps and implement measures to ensure their machinery, equipment and tanks are stored securely and, for peace of mind, take the time to review current insurance policies to ensure they are adequate.

For further information, or for a full insurance review, farmers can contact Chris Purllant on 01553 770771 or email chris.purllant@brown-co.com.

ENDS

PROPERTY & BUSINESS CONSULTANTS – LONDON, UK & OVERSEAS OFFICES

For further information, please contact
Chris Purllant

Brown & Co

01553 770771

chris.purllant@brown-co.com

Sue Jupe

SMJ Communications

01603 614319 / 0780 390 6356

sue@smjcommunications.co.uk

Notes to editors

Brown & Co is a firm of independent rural property, land and business specialists operating from nine offices in the East of England, London, Poland and St Lucia.

Specialist services include:

- Land Agency
- Residential Agency and Lettings
- Commercial Property
- Agricultural Business Consultancy
- Estate Management
- Planning and Development
- Building Services and Surveys
- Auctions
- Overseas Consultancy Services
- Dispute resolution.