



YOLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Inmate Programs
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Coroner's Section
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Field Operations
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Crime Prevention
Department Training
Investigations
Marine Patrol
Patrol
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Cadets
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STARS

Animal Services
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Detention
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Corrections
Inmate Work Programs

Monroe Detention
(530) 668-5245
Corrections
Court Services
Foods Services
Records
Transportation

Press Release

Subject: Yolo County Sheriff's Office reminds Farmers and Ranchers of Free Crime Prevention Program

Contact: Mark Persons, Public Information, 560.406.5172

Date: December 4, 2013

Sheriff Ed Prieto and the Yolo County Sheriff's Office would like to remind Yolo County farmers and ranchers of the implementation of an important crime prevention program. The initiative, known as the Owner Applied Number (OAN) Program, operates as part of the statewide "ACTION" program which is part of the Agricultural Crime Technology Information and Operations Network. Theft of property from the agricultural community is a growing problem throughout the state of California, including Yolo County, and the OAN program has proven to be an effective crime prevention technique.

Under the OAN program, farmers and ranchers are issued a "unique" number which can be stamped, engraved or branded into equipment. The number is maintained by the owner and can be used to identify items. OAN numbers are entered into state and federal computer systems if the item is reported stolen. The Owner Applied Number is used in addition to the equipment serial number issued by the manufacturer, if any.

This important crime prevention program is being offered by the Sheriff's Team of Active Retired Seniors (STARS) at no cost to the property owner. Citizen volunteers who are members of the STARS program, visit farms and ranches by invitation, and apply the numbers to equipment selected by the owner. The number is then provided to the Sheriff's Office if the property is stolen. Law enforcement agencies can then track stolen items through the California Department of Justice (DOJ) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer systems. If a stolen item is identified in the system, it can then be returned to the owner and the information used to prosecute the offender.

"Service Without Limitations"

To date, the STARS have visited 18 Yolo County agricultural businesses and have marked over 2,226 items. Each property owner who participates in the program is given signs for posting, warning that the property is protected by the Owner Applied Number program. Yolo County Organizations which have taken advantage of the OAN program include: Seminis Monsanto, Capay Canyon Ranch, Ron Tadlock Farms, T.A. Hantanoka Farms, Charles Hermle farms, and Rominger Brothers Farms.

Individuals or businesses interested in participating in this free crime prevention program can contact Sheriff's Operation Technician Suzanne Ramalia at 530.668.5298 to schedule an appointment for the OAN program.

Recognizing an increase in rural agricultural crime activity, the Yolo County Sheriff's Office has devoted two full time Sheriff's detectives who are responsible for investigating all agricultural-based crimes. The unit not only investigates vandalism cases as well as machine, metal, fuel and chemical thefts, it continues to forge working relationships with the farming and ranching communities through both personnel contact and local farm bureau membership. To report a crime, contact the Yolo County Sheriff's Office Ag Theft Task Force unit at 530.668.5280.