

# FACT SHEET

## ON-FARM TRESPASS



Victorian  
Farmers  
Federation

## BACKGROUND

With the increase in trespass on Victorian farms in recent years, particularly by animal activist groups, the VFF has prepared this guide to assist farmers in the event of someone trespassing onto your property.

Information provided by Victoria Police and Agriculture Victoria has been used to prepare this document.

## THERE IS AN INTRUDER/ TRESPASSER ON MY FARM

If you believe persons are intruding or trespassing on your farm, please follow these steps:

- 1** Ensure your family and any workers are safe and remain calm.
- 2** Ask the intruders/trespassers to leave your property. If they refuse to leave, do not engage with them any further. Contact Victoria Police on 000 immediately.
- 3** Wait for the police and ensure you, your family and workers remain in a secure place
- 4** If it is safe to do so, take note and record any critical information that may assist police.

**!** If life or property is in danger, or if trespass is occurring on your property, contact Victoria Police immediately on 000.

Once the intruders/trespassers have left, you should undertake a property check:

- Check animals – are they safe? Has there been any theft? Do you need to call the vet?
- Are there any hidden cameras on your property? If so, leave them for the police to collect as evidence.
- Check fences and boundaries – are they secure?
- Check locks and gates – are they secure?
- Check animal feed and water sources – is there any sign of tampering?

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### I suspect someone has trespassed on my farm - but they are no longer there.

If a suspected crime has occurred (including where surveillance devices are discovered) and persons are no longer on the property – contact Victoria Police via the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

### I am concerned about a biosecurity risk and/or the welfare of my animals.

If there is concern about the risks to the biosecurity of the property or animal welfare:

- During business hours, contact **Agriculture Victoria** on **1300 502 656**
- After hours, contact the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline** on **1800 675 888**

### How can I prevent trespass?

New laws introduced in Victoria mean that persons illegally entering an agricultural premises may be liable for an offence under the Livestock Management Act 2010 and Livestock Management Regulations 2021. The significant fines that apply under these laws act as a strong deterrent to farm trespass.

In order to prosecute a person under these laws, farmers must ensure they comply with the regulations which includes the requirement to have a biosecurity management plan and display warning signs on all farm entry points.

The VFF strongly recommends that all farmers use these regulations to protect their businesses. Full details on how comply with the regulations, including signage requirements, are available on the Agriculture Victoria website:

[www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/livestock-health-and-welfare/about-the-livestock-management-act/changes-to-the-livestock-management-act-2010](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/livestock-health-and-welfare/about-the-livestock-management-act/changes-to-the-livestock-management-act-2010)

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Trespass is a crime like any other. Often trespassers will commit other offences such as theft and vandalism whilst on your property. You should prepare your property to try and prevent these crimes or mitigate the impact. Victoria Police has resources to assist your preparation including a Farm Security Checklist:

[www.police.vic.gov.au/farm-and-rural-safety](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/farm-and-rural-safety)

### **I have been contacted by the media following a trespass event.**

The VFF recommends that you avoid engaging with media if your property has been subject to trespass. This is to help ensure you, your family and business are not subjected to further targeting. If you receive requests from media, we recommend you refer these requests to the VFF.

### **I am unhappy with the Police's response.**

You should contact the VFF directly for further assistance if you feel Victoria Police has not responded in an adequate manner. The VFF works closely with the Farm Crime Coordination Unit to improve Victoria Police's response to farm and rural crime. Whilst we cannot guarantee your complaint will result in a satisfactory outcome, we can help ensure the complaint is dealt with by the appropriate police in command.

### **i KEY CONTACT**

**For further information please contact:**

**VFF Policy and Advocacy**  
Victorian Farmers Federation  
[policyteam@vff.org.au](mailto:policyteam@vff.org.au)