



CDQAP Resource Advisory: Dairy Robbery and Theft

October 21st, 2021

There have been recent producer reports of thefts from dairies in the Hilmar area. Reported thefts have included vehicle break-ins as well as vehicle and equipment theft. There has also been at least one reported incident of robbery where a dairy employee was lured out to the road to assist with a stalled car and subsequently robbed.

The Merced County Sheriff's office is aggressively pursuing leads, backed with the full support of the Merced District Attorney's office.

The memory of last year's two Gustine dairy robberies, assaults that left one employee dead and another hospitalized, are still fresh. The [assailant](#) in those cases was convicted on a variety of charges including murder, attempted murder, assault and robbery. He was sentenced to life in prison in May.

CDQAP has worked with state and local law enforcement to develop resources specifically addressing dairy security.

Employee Robbery & Assault – A CDQAP newsletter article [Dairy Security Recommendations](#) concisely reviews key education points related to employee safety, including law enforcement advice for employees during and following a robbery. Also covered are mitigation measures that can be taken beforehand to discourage robbery.

Theft from Dairies – California farms lose up to half billion dollars to theft and other rural crime every year. The CDQAP website [Preventing Rural Crime on Your Dairy](#) describes how producers can inexpensively harden their dairy target, including specific advice to discourage the most common thefts. This includes theft of metal (copper wire, aluminum irrigation pipe), farm machinery (tractors, trucks, ATVs, implements), batteries, fuel and solar panels.

Trespass and Drones – Trespass by criminals or animal activists has public relations, animal health and even personal safety implications. The CDQAP website [Dealing with Trespass and Drones on California Dairies](#) covers what you need to know about dealing with uninvited guests.

Industry partners with additional questions related to farm security or other dairy emergencies should contact Dr. Payne at 530-304-9306 or mpayne@ucdavis.edu