

Preparing for and Handling Suspicious Individuals, Activists and Drones

Tips for Preparing for Trespassers

Take These Immediate Actions

- Alert all of your employees to the situation and advise them to be on the lookout for these individuals near or on your property. Direct your employees to notify you immediately if they see any suspicious individuals near the dairy.
- Contact your local law enforcement officials to alert them to this situation and ask about filing a Will Serve Trespass Letter for your dairy with their department.
- Ensure that all of your employees have signed a “See it? Stop It!”/ Cow Care employee agreement that states that they are obligated to immediately contact their supervisor if they witness a deliberate act of animal abuse, neglect, harm or mishandling.
- **Ensure that you are continuing to uphold the best management practices outlined in the FARM (Farmers Assuring Responsible Management) program** <http://nationaldairyfarm.com>

Tips for Dealing with Trespassers and Activists

If You Encounter Suspicious Individuals on Your Property

- **DO** report to local law enforcement immediately.
- **DO** learn who they are and what their concerns are in a **respectful manner**.
- **DO NOT** be combative. Remember, they may be videotaping you.
- **DO NOT** have a large group approach these individuals, as this may escalate the situation and bring more attention to their cause. Also avoid gathering a large group of observers, even from a distance.
- **DO** notify them that they are on private property and ask them to leave. **DO NOT** use force.
- **DO** write down their vehicle’s license plate number.
- **DO** film the activists and their drones – you are legally allowed to do so. Be aware that they will always have cameras/recorders present – even hidden.
- **DO NOT** touch or shoot drones, even if they are flying over your property – that’s **ILLEGAL**.
- **DO** let local law enforcement handle the situation if activists refuse to leave.
- **DO** contact your dairy cooperative, state/regional trade association to alert them of the situation.

Keys for Dealing with Activists

- **Don’t Be Used**
 - Animal rights activists have a strategy to reach their goals. They want to gain attention for their cause, gain supporters and receive funding through donations from the supporters to whom they appeal.
 - What are their methods to reaching their goals? They appeal to the emotions of their followers, create controversy, document and record it for promotion and publication through media.
- **Don’t Be Used In Their Methods**
 - They need you to lose your cool, get emotional, angry, speak out and act out. The larger the crowd, the bigger the spectacle. That is free publicity. The more comments and shares on Social Media the more attention they receive. They do not care about reason.

Tips for Dealing with Drones

If You See a Drone Flying Overhead on Your Property

- **DO** report to local law enforcement immediately.
- **DO NOT** use force or touch/shoot the drones. The FAA classifies Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) – or drones – as aircraft. In some jurisdictions, willfully shooting at an aircraft is punishable by up to 20 years in jail. The FAA has jurisdiction above ground, and local authorities can only take action if the drone is peeking into your house.
- **DO** take photographs and videotape the drone, if possible.
- **DO** try to get any serial numbers you can find on the drone (if you can get close enough), because the FAA requires owners of drones between .55 lbs. and 55 lbs. to register their crafts.
- **DO** approach any vehicles that may be near your property to learn who they are and what they're business is near your property in a **respectful manner**.
- **DO** film the activists and their drones – you are legally allowed to do so. Be aware that they will always have cameras/recorders present – even hidden.
- **DO** contact your dairy cooperative, state/regional trade association to alert them of the situation.

Steps for Addressing Drones on Your Property

- **DO** contact local law enforcement to begin a dialog and ask for their recommendations. The technology is outpacing the law, so local/state law enforcement have likely never faced these situations before.
- **DO** post “no trespassing” signs on your property.
- **DO** register your home as a ["No Fly Zone"](#) for participating drone manufacturers. It's been reported that this ability for business addresses is coming soon.