

**AGRICULTURAL CRIME
PREVENTION TIPS:**

- Brand fruit tubs and tires with I.D. numbers.
- Place Identifying numbers on equipment and machinery and keep a record.
- When leaving fruit trailer in the grove, back them in with their tailgates together to prevent theft and fruit dumping.
- Install a hidden in-line fuel cut off or kill switch on tractors and grove equipment.
- Keep fences in good repair and place "NO TRESPASSING" "AG ID" signs in visible locations.
- Brand cattle and keep records of your livestock.
- Secure any items, tools and equipment that is easy to carry.
- Keep barns and storage area locked and well lit at night.
- Install gates where they cannot be taken off the hinges.
- Limit access to your properties and check them frequently.
- Report any suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office immediately.

Detective Joseph Santos

jsantos@desotosheriff.org

(863) 491-6735

Detective Matthew Plymale

mplymale@desotosheriff.org

(863) 491-6755



EMERGENCY 9-1-1

Non Emergency (863) 993-4700

**South West Florida Crime
Stoppers**

1-800-780-TIPS

Local Tips 863-491-6767

**DESOTO COUNTY
SHERIFF**



**"AGRICULTURE WATCH"
PROGRAM**



Sheriff James F. "Jim" Potter

208 E. Cypress Street Arcadia, FL 34266

Phone: 863-993-4700 Fax: 863-993-4712

EMERGENCY 9-1-1

In the wake of a number of high profile cases, that have had a direct impact on the agriculture industry, the Sheriff's Office recognized the need to allow deputies immediate access to landowner information to enforce a "zero tolerance" stance for crimes committed against agriculture. The "Agricultural Watch" Program has been embraced by the Florida Sheriff's Association as a model program on a statewide basis.

The program was developed as a means to identify ownership of agriculture properties in Desoto County. The program consists of a "No Trespassing" sign listing the property/business AG ID number. The code number displayed provides deputies on patrol instant access to owner information and agent agreements.

Application Process

1. Provide a street address or a map outlining the property or the plot number for your property, obtained from the Property Appraisers Office.

2. Provide a caretaker's name and phone number (the owner or a personal representative of the owner).

3. Turn in the information to the Desoto County Sheriff's Office

- Mail information to the Sheriff's Office.
- Submit at www.desotosheriff.org
- Deliver to the Sheriff's Office

Please make all attempts to keep the Sheriff's Office informed of any lease and or contact information changes.

<i>Farm / Grove Name:</i>

<i>Owner</i>

<i>Farm / Grove Address</i>

<i>Owner's Phone Number</i>
(____) _____
<i>Caretaker</i>

<i>Caretaker's Phone Number</i>
(____) _____
<i>Parcel I.D. / GPS (If address not available)</i>

<i>Secondary Contact Person</i>

(____) _____
<i>Brand / Marking / Tag</i>
