

Metal Theft

If you're farming or ranching in California, there's a good chance you've been the victim of metal theft or know someone who has. From copper wire to brass valves to aluminum irrigation pipe, crooks are attacking at an alarming rate and doing a considerable amount of damage along the way.

The story is a familiar one: A farmer checks his pump in preparation for irrigating and finds that the copper wire has been stripped and there is no way to provide water to the fields. He makes the loop, checking all of the pumps on the property and learns he has been the victim of copper theft at multiple locations. Thieves have stripped the pumps in order to recycle the wire at the local scrap yard. Thieves might get only a few hundred dollars for stolen metal while leaving their victim facing a repair bill of \$1,500 to \$4,000 or more for each pump.

Farm Bureau was happy to sponsor legislation to address this issue and was successful in seeing a series of bills aimed at preventing metal theft signed into law in 2008. We will continue to work with law enforcement and the Legislature to ensure that solutions to metal theft remain a top priority.

Use the form on the following page for junk or scrap metal transfers.

JUNK/SCRAP METAL TRANSFER DOCUMENT

[California Business & Professions Code, section 21606, subd. (a)(5)]

I, _____, acting on behalf of _____,
(Your name) (Farm/Business Name)

Sold Gave
the following item(s):

1) _____,
(Description of item, including type and quantity)

2) _____,

3) _____,

4) _____, and

5) _____

to _____ for the purpose of selling the item(s) for scrap value.
(Peddler's Name)

Please direct any questions about the item(s) to _____
(Individual/Farm/Business)

at _____.
(Address and Phone Number)

Date: _____

Signed: _____