

**Tri-County Crime Stoppers**  
**Week of November 29, 2010**

Report Tips ONLINE at [www.tricountycrimestoppers.org](http://www.tricountycrimestoppers.org)

### **Stearns County Sheriff: Theft of 3 Calves**

The Stearns County Sheriff is investigating another case of calves being stolen. The theft of three calves from 38189 260 Ave, Millwood Twp, occurred during early morning hours on 11/28/10.

- 1) black female calf with tag # 41xkb1980 valued at \$150
- 2) black and white female calf with tag # 41xkb1979 valued at \$150
- 3) calf valued at \$150 with no other information

### **Benton County Sheriff: Attempted Theft by Swindle**

On 11-19-10 the Benton County Sheriff's Office received the report of an attempted theft by swindle from a resident in Foley. The suspect in this case telephoned the victim and stated that the victim had won the Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes. The suspect asked the victim to wire money to a location in Alabama to cover the "shipping fee." The victim in this case did not send any money to the suspect.

The Sheriff's Office does regularly receive complaints from citizens concerning telephone and internet scam solicitations. Generally the best rule to be applied to any of these solicitations is that if it sounds too good to be true it probably is. Anytime you are approached by someone on the telephone or the internet asking you to send them money, regardless of how legitimate or tempting their offer sounds, you should be suspicious. This is especially true if you did not initiate the contact. These solicitations are almost always fraudulent.

Another common scam involves suspects sending checks or money orders to victims, asking them to cash the check or money order and send all or a portion of the proceeds back to the suspect. These suspects sometime claim to be foreign dignitaries that need help moving money, employers offering some kind of work at home job, or prospective buyers who are over paying you for merchandise you have offered for sale. These checks or money orders are virtually always fraudulent, a fact that is discovered by the victim several days after they have cashed the instrument and sent money back to the suspect. The victim is then left to pay back the bank for the full amount of the fraudulent check or money order.

A third type of common scam involves a suspect contacting the victim claiming that a relative is in some kind of trouble in another state or country and needs money sent to them immediately. These claims are again almost universally fraudulent. Anyone receiving such a contact should first speak with other friends or family members to verify the information before sending any money to anyone.

Benton County Sheriff Brad Bennett request anyone who believes they have been the victim of a telephone or internet scam to contact their local law enforcement agency. Victims or others interested in learning more about these scams can also go to the Internet Crime Complaint Center at [IC3.gov](http://IC3.gov) or the Minnesota Fraud Enforcement Partnership at [MNSCAM.ORG](http://MNSCAM.ORG).

### **Stearns County Sheriff: Theft of 2 Calves**

Two calves were stolen from a Melrose Township farm on CR 170, during the early morning hours of November 26, 2010. Both calves were heifers, one being a Jersey and the other a Holstein. It appears that two individuals were involved in the theft.

### **Stearns County Sheriff: Theft of 3 Calves**

The Stearns County Sheriff's Office took a second report of cattle theft from the Melrose Township area on November 26, 2010. In this theft 3 bull Holstein calves were stolen from their pens located on a farm off of County Road 17. At least two individuals were involved in this theft. The theft occurred sometime over night on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November.