

Beware of stock theft

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LIVESTOCK farmers and owners have been urged to be extra cautious this festive season following a sharp rise in theft of cattle, goats and sheep, which are often used for braai meat and traditional ceremonies.

To curb stock theft in the province, a number of operations have been mounted by the police in vulnerable areas like Madadeni, Utrecht, Dannhauser, Dundee, Ekuvukeni and Charlestown, where more than 100 stolen livestock were recovered.

The operation was conducted by the Utrecht stock theft unit assisted by the Glencoe, Newcastle and Vryheid stock theft units, which gave support

to recover the stolen livestock before it hit the butchery shelves.

A total of 96 stolen cattle, 17 stolen goats and 15 sheep were recovered. Twenty-seven suspects were arrested and linked to 12 stock theft cases.

Two suspects were also arrested for possession of dagga.

Acting provincial commissioner Maj-Gen Bheki Langa said: "Stock theft still remains a concern for the province and we will continue with such operations to bring the perpetrators to book. We appeal to livestock owners to take extra precautions during this festive season and make sure that they look after their livestock."

The suspects will appear in court soon.

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