

Hundreds of stolen livestock recovered in northern KwaZulu-Natal operation

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A JOINT operation by various stock theft units in the province, assisted by Crime Intelligence and station police officers, has resulted in the recovery of 276 suspected stolen livestock in northern KwaZulu-Natal.

The operation, from June 7 to 26, saw police raid homes where stolen livestock was suspected to have been kept.

Controlling movement of stock, visiting abattoirs and pounds and through general

patrols, the unit recovered livestock including 251 stolen cattle, 17 goats, six sheep and two horses. A pistol and dagga were also impounded during the operation.

"All recovered stock was positively identified and returned to the lawful owners. Twelve suspects were arrested for stealing livestock, six for animal identification, four for possession of dagga, one for possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition and one for selling liquor without a licence," police spokesperson

Thulani Zwane said.

"We appeal to livestock owners to make sure their stock is properly marked in terms of Animal Identification Act so that it will be easy to return them if found. I am pleased that police officers are vigilant and monitoring the movement of stock throughout the year so stock thieves can be nabbed," provincial police commissioner, Lt-Gen Mmamonye Ngobeni said.

Meanwhile, Umhlali SAPS and provincial crime intelligence members have seized

four firearms and ammunition between June 23 and 25 in the Nsuze and Umhlali areas on the KZN north coast.

Zwane said this resulted in the arrest of four suspects between the ages of 27 and 42 years. "In the area of Nsuze, a 9mm Norinco pistol and one round of ammunition was recovered from a 27-year-old suspect after police had received information that he had an unlicensed firearm.

"In another incident a .38 special revolver and five live rounds of ammunition was

found in a homestead and one suspect was arrested."

Last Thursday, an unlicensed shotgun with six live rounds of ammunition was discovered and a 40-year-old suspect from Umhlali was arrested.

"While police were still conducting an operation, they stopped a Freightliner delivery vehicle along the R102 in the Umhlali area, where a suspect was arrested after he was found in possession of a .38 revolver with six live rounds of ammunition," Zwane said.



COWS COME HOME: Stolen cattle will be returned to their owners.