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*Farmers have the right to farm animals without fear. The majority of farmers are focused on animal welfare. After all only healthy happy animals produce young, provide quality meat for human consumption and wool for clothing. Animal activists should report their suspicions of animal mistreatment directly to the RSPCA and not take matters into their own hands by trespassing onto private properties or businesses. Activism is described as the action of using vigorous campaigning to bring about political or social change. It is not an excuse to steal people's livestock and terrorise farmers. The Gippy Goat incident springs to mind as an indication of activism stupidity in action. This form of activism is criminal and somewhat lunatic. Those poor goats would have been traumatized. Goats like to live with goats. Not in someone's house wearing a nappy.*

*Further, the risk of the trespassers transferring diseases between farms is another matter for consideration. I don't imagine they disinfect their boots and clothing between farm attacks. Farmers supply the food for the nation. It needs to be clean and free of disease. Producers should not have to put up with animals being stolen or disturbed. It's scary and stressful for the farmer and VERY stressful for the animals.*

*Activists who step outside the law should be prosecuted and those prosecutions should be backed up by well thought out legislation which allows for a range of fines and prosecutions that fit the deed. The current laws need to be strengthened to provide much harsher penalties.*

*Leanne Wingad*

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