

# THE AWARDS 2020

## Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community

<b>Institution name</b>	Harper Adams University
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	
<b>Nominee/key personnel</b>	Dr Kreseda Smith
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.harper-adams.ac.uk/research/rsrg/">https://www.harper-adams.ac.uk/research/rsrg/</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>Rural crime can have devastating impacts on businesses, families, individuals and the environment; and subsequently affects employment, food prices and food traceability.</p> <p>Approximately 137,000 UK farmers will have been victimised. The cost of farm crime to the nation was nearly £50 million in 2018, according to insurer NFU Mutual. In the same year, the UK's only rural criminologist completed her PhD, the first research project to identify key factors affecting farmers' attitudes and beliefs towards farm crime, its prevention, the police and their insurers.</p> <p>Dr Kreseda Smith identified a disparity between how the police were tackling farm crime and prevention, and the needs of farmers. It prompted a concerted outreach effort by the university's Rural Security Research Group to foster collaboration between the police, farmers and other agencies.</p> <p>The recommendations have been implemented by forces and farmers alike and the work has prompted further support for vulnerable rural communities.</p>