

## Tips for Farmers

Farmers play a key role in rural roads safety. Here are tips to alleviate hazards when taking wide equipment onto the road:

- Pennsylvania law requires a SMV reflector to be placed on any vehicle that travels the road at 25 mph or slower. The SMV triangle should be pointed in the upward position.
- Keep the SMV clean to maximize reflectivity and replace the emblem when it fades.
- Avoid travel during rush hour and bad weather.
- Use a pilot car for longer distances. Hang an orange flag out the window.
- Install mirrors to increase awareness of motorists around you.
- Mark edges of tractors and machines with reflective tape and reflectors.
- Turn on your lights when driving before sunrise and after sunset.
- Install retrofit lighting on older machinery.
- Turn off rear spotlights when on the road because from a distance they can be mistaken for headlights.

### Rural Roads Safety

By being aware of farm equipment during your travels on rural roads, you can help make the trip safe for both you and Pennsylvania's farmers.



visit [www.pfb.com/transportation](http://www.pfb.com/transportation)

[www.pfb.com/rrs](http://www.pfb.com/rrs)

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

P.O. Box 8736

Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736

717.761.2740 | [govcom@pfb.com](mailto:govcom@pfb.com)

 Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

# Rural Roads Safety

It's a matter of life and death



## Be Aware

You may encounter large farm equipment and tractors traveling at reduced speeds of 15 to 25 mph on rural roads.

It takes only five seconds for you to close a gap the length of a football field if you are driving 55 mph and a tractor is moving 15 mph.

Farmers have the same legal rights as other motorists to drive their vehicles on public roads. We believe courtesy and caution among all drivers is the key to protecting motorists, passengers and operators of slow-moving farm equipment.

## Be Patient

A farmer understands that your trip is being delayed, so he or she will pull off the road at the first available safe location to allow you to pass.

Following a tractor for two miles at 20 mph takes only six minutes of your time.

## Yield to Wide Vehicles

If an oncoming farm vehicle is approaching you on a rural road and you do not have room to safely pass it, bring your vehicle to a stop and then pull off the road to allow the farm vehicle to pass.

## Recognize the Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) Emblem

Less than 30% of drivers know what these symbols mean, but it's a matter of life and death. When you see the SMV emblem, it is a warning to slow down immediately. It can be difficult to judge the speed at which you are closing in on a vehicle. At night your car's headlights will reflect the emblem's red boarder to show a glowing red triangle floating in the darkness.



Daytime



Night

SMV signs must be visible on all vehicles, including animal-drawn vehicles, that are designed to travel at speeds of 25 mph or less.

It is illegal for any Pennsylvania resident to display the SMV emblem on permanent, stationary objects, such as mailbox posts, driveway entrances and fences.

## Don't Assume Farmers Know You Are Behind Them

While most farm equipment drivers regularly check to see how much traffic is behind them, their main focus is on the road ahead of them and vehicles approaching them. Therefore, if you are traveling behind a farm vehicle, do not assume that the driver knows you are behind them.

## Pass with Caution

If a farmer has pulled off the road to allow you to pass, or if the farmer cannot pull off the road and you feel you must pass, do so with caution.

If you enter the oncoming lane of traffic, pass only if you can clearly see ahead of both you and the vehicle you will pass.

Do not pass if there are curves or hills ahead that may block your view or the view of oncoming drivers.

Do not pass if you are in a designated "No Passing Zone" or within 100 feet of any intersection, railroad grade crossing, bridge, elevated structure or tunnel.

Do not assume a farm vehicle that pulls to the right side of the road will turn right or is letting you pass.

Many farm vehicles, including tractors pulling corn planters, often move to the right just before they make a left turn. Check to see if the vehicle's left turn signal is on or if the vehicle slows down before starting to turn.