



OPERATING FARM EQUIPMENT ON THE ROAD

Many accidents are caused between farm equipment and passenger vehicles on public roads. See the tips below to avoid being in this situation.

BEFORE LEAVING THE FARM

- Clean the machine's windshield as well as check the windshield wipers and defroster.
- Verify that all machinery and equipment being towed has clearly visible, slow moving vehicle placards installed.
- Clean and check that all lights, reflectors, and side mirrors are working. Replace non-working bulbs and lamps.
- Check that brakes are working properly.
- Check tires for proper inflation and add air, as necessary.
- If towing a load, make sure it's correctly hitched and the load is secured. Lower any grain augers.
- Use flashing amber lights before departing.

LEAVING THE FARM

- Farm driveways are not always identified as such, so motorists don't expect to see a massive tractor or other large equipment slowly emerging.
- Look both ways, then left again, and watch for passing cars headed your way.
- Don't guess whether you can make it out before an oncoming vehicle. It's best to wait.

ON THE ROAD

- Travel at a safe speed and don't make any sudden moves.
- Always signal well ahead of a turn and follow other vehicles at a safe distance.
- Give yourself ample time to slow down. Large equipment appears to be moving slower than it may be.
- Use a pilot car when it's possible.
- Drive either completely on the shoulder or completely in the lane with any excess on the shoulder. If a partial lane is open, drivers will try to dart and potentially cause head-on collisions.
- **DO NOT TALK ON THE PHONE OR TEXT WHILE IN MOTION.** If it's necessary to use your phone, find a place well off the road and shoulder to avoid being struck from behind. You need all of your attention on the roads.
- Try to travel at slower times of the day and avoid dusk and dawn, as other drivers may not see your vehicle during these times and may cause accidents.



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