



Department of Public Safety
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Colonel Robert O. Garrison, Chief

For immediate release
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Des Moines, Iowa

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Harvest Season and Slow Moving Vehicles “Implements of Husbandry”

With the harvest season upon us it's important for farmers and motorists to work together to reduce the number of collisions and tragedies on Iowa's roadways. Slow moving vehicles on our roadways this time of year pose an additional hazard that all motorists need to be prepared for. It's important for everyone to exercise caution and respect for others on our highways during this time of year in Iowa. A bad attitude, aggressive driving, or lack of patience may be cause a crash or collision between a motor vehicle and a slow moving vehicle or implement of husbandry.

The Iowa State Patrol offers these tips to motorists;

- Scan the road ahead, especially near curves, hills and intersections.
- Avoid being surprised by a farm implement ahead of you. Drive Defensively.
- If you are behind a slow moving implement, do not tailgate! It is very dangerous to follow too close behind, especially if you are considering passing this vehicle at some point.
- Stay back far enough behind the slow moving vehicle that you can check for oncoming traffic, no passing zone signs and upcoming intersections before you attempt to pass.
- Most farm tractors and combines have flashing amber lights on when traveling down the road. Don't mistake one of these flashing lights as a turn signal indicator; the implement may not be going to turn in the direction you think.
- Watch the implement and see what it is really going to do. This is a very good reason not to pass within 100 feet an intersection!

The Iowa State Patrol offers these tips to farmers;

- Check lights on your implements periodically to make sure they are working properly and are free of dust or anything that might make them hard to see by others.
- Add reflective tape on the rear areas of the implements, making them more visible to the motoring public.
- Worn out or faded Slow Moving Vehicle signs (SMV) should be replaced. It is important that slow moving vehicles be as visible as possible on our roadways.
- When operating a slow moving vehicle move over onto the shoulder of the highway if room is available. This allows approaching traffic to pass more safely, helps to prevent traffic congestion and lessens the chance of a collision occurring.
- Make sure path is clear before turning into driveways and farm fields.

The Iowa State Patrol is asking for all motorists to be patient and drive defensively during this harvest season.

***If you should have any questions regarding this information please contact the Safety Education Officer at the your nearest State Patrol office
Contact information on the next page.***



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