



NATIONAL  
**SAFETY  
MONTH**  
JUNE

# SHARE THE ROAD

Agriculture Transportation Safety



## READ THE SIGNS

Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) signs are placed on the back of equipment and must be visible at least from a distance of 500 feet from the rear for vehicles that travel at less than 25 mph. This is your warning to slow down. Look for a tractor turn signal and do not be confused by flashing hazards lights. Slow down when you see a turn signal. Check the left side of the road for areas where a farm vehicle might turn.

## PASS CAREFULLY

When passing, be patient and courteous. Don't assume the farmer can move aside to let you pass. Shoulders may be soft, wet, or steep, which can cause them to tip, or they may not be able to support a heavy farm vehicle. Never pass on curves or hills, when nearing intersections, or at railroad crossings or bridges.

## HAND SIGNALS

Most farm equipment is huge compared to an average car, requiring the driver to make wide left turns. If equipment veers right, don't assume this is automatically permission to pass. Check the vehicle's cab for hand signals from the driver first. They could just be preparing for a left-hand turn.

## WIDE LOAD

Be aware of the distance needed to safely clear the equipment when you go by. Flashing lights or reflective tape are often used to mark the far right and left edges of the equipment, which may be wider than the road lanes.

Farm and ranch equipment is large and heavy making it extremely challenging for operators to accelerate, slow down and stop. This type of vehicle also has large blind spots, making it difficult for operators to see approaching vehicles.

Preliminary data from 2022 shows there were 34 crashes involving farm equipment in North Dakota.

Learn more about traffic safety initiatives at [VisionZero.ND.gov](http://VisionZero.ND.gov)

### **Motorists are reminded to:**

- Always wear a seat belt.
- Watch for mud and debris on the roadway as trucks go directly from the field onto the highway.
- Be aware that you can encounter farm equipment at any time of day.
- Keep a safe distance for merging, swerving or maneuvering.

### **Farm equipment operators should consider the following precautions:**

- Use lights, flashers and reflectors to make equipment more visible.
- Make sure your load is balanced and securely mounted.
- Use slow moving emblems on equipment traveling less than 30 mph.
- Consider using a follow or an escort vehicle when moving equipment, especially at night.

(adapted from Vision Zero, August 10, 2023 press release)

