

# Rural Roadway Safety: Protecting Drivers and Farmers

During planting and harvest seasons, motorists should expect to see slow-moving farm equipment from Indiana's 58,000+ farms on Hoosier roadways. Several state agencies including the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Department of Transportation, and Indiana State Police, and Bureau of Motor Vehicles are teaming up to bring attention to the need for more safety on Indiana's rural roads.



# What you can expect to see



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- ✘ An escort vehicle is an automobile used to escort trucks with large loads. Give way to oversized vehicles and watch for rotating or flashing caution lights that serve to alert drivers to large transports.



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- ✘ It's important to watch not only for farm equipment, but also farm animals. If a farmer's land is divided by a roadway, he may use it to cross his animals from one part of the farm to another.
- ✘ It's also not uncommon to have an occasional farm animal escape its fencing.

# What you can expect to see



- ✘ Keep a watchful eye out for wildlife as well. Deer change their patterns of travel during and after harvest, meaning you are more likely to encounter them on the roadway at this time.





# Some Data

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- ✘ According to the Federal Highway Administration, in 2013, there were 17,593 people fatally injured nationwide in collisions that occurred in rural areas.\*
- ✘ In Indiana, there were 707 people fatally injured in collisions.
- ✘ In 2014, the Indiana University Public Policy Institute found that drivers ages 15-20 had the highest overall rate of collision

\*<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/statistics/2013/fi220.cfm#foot2>

\*[http://www.in.gov/cji/files/2014\\_Annual\\_Report\\_-\\_12.31.2014.pdf](http://www.in.gov/cji/files/2014_Annual_Report_-_12.31.2014.pdf)

\*<https://policyinstitute.iu.edu/publication/details/687>

# Share the Road



- ✘ Remember – farmers on roadways are going to or from work just like many other people on the road.
- ✘ Farmers and farm equipment are on the roadways during all hours of the day but it's especially important to be watchful during dawn and dusk hours when your sight distance may be limited.
- ✘ If you're driving 55pmh and come upon a tractor that's moving 15 mph, it only takes five seconds to close a gap the length of a foot ball field between you and the tractor.

# Tips for Safe Driving

## × Be Alert

- + Focus on the traffic in front of you and keep your vehicle within the posted speed limits, especially when traveling through areas where agriculture is prominent.



# Tips for Safe Driving

## ✘ Be Alert

- + Watch for a reflective red triangle on the back of farm equipment. This symbol indicates a slow-moving vehicle, one that travels under 25 mph.



# Tips for Safe Driving

## × Be Alert

- + Many roads next to farms will have a yellow sign with the silhouette of a farmer on a tractor or explicit language posted to warn drivers that they are entering an area where slow-moving vehicles are likely to be on the road.



# Tips for Safe Driving

## ✘ Be Patient

- + When traveling behind slow-moving vehicles, patiently wait for the operator to find an appropriate time to let you pass.



# Tips for Safe Driving

## ✘ Be Patient

- + Only pass farm equipment when in an area that allows for passing.



# Tips for Safe Driving

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## ✘ Be Patient

- + Do not attempt to pass when within 100 feet of any intersection, railroad crossing, bridge or tunnel.



# Tips for Safe Driving

## ✦ Be Responsible

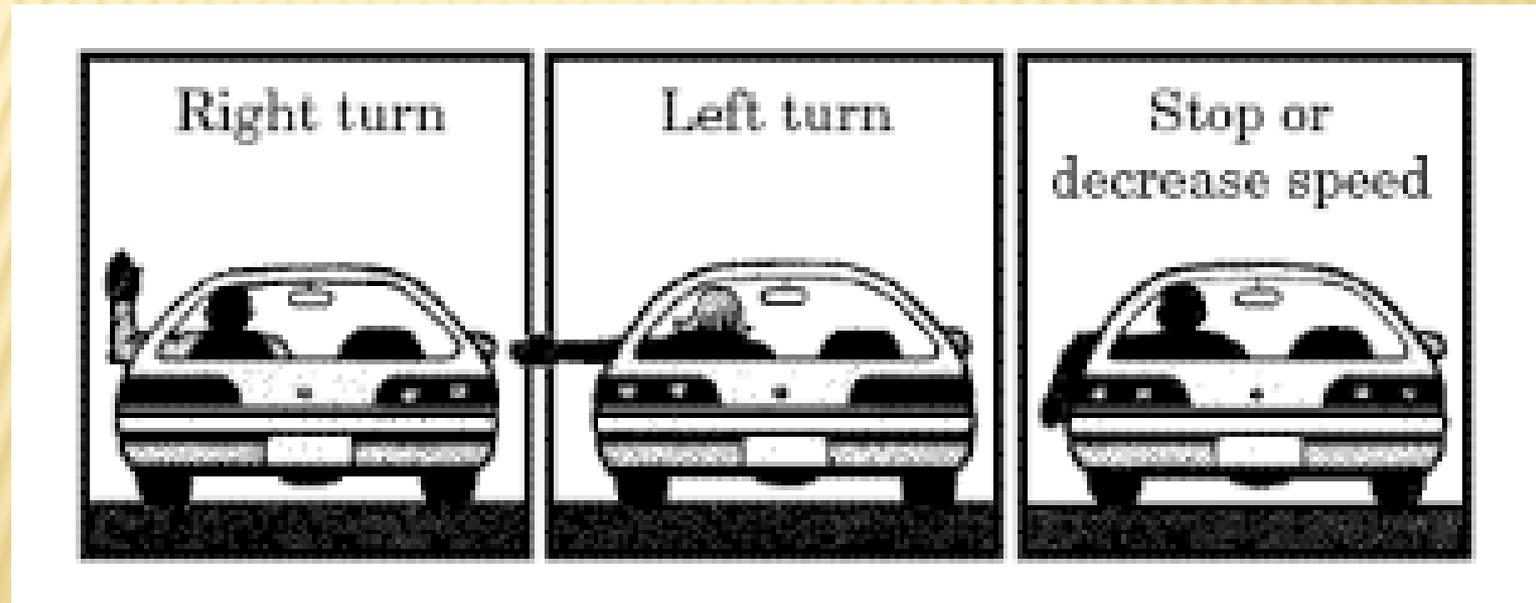
- + Don't assume the farmer knows you are there. Farmers check frequently for vehicles approaching from behind them, but their focus must remain on the road ahead.



# Tips for Safe Driving

## ✘ Be Responsible

- + Look for hand signals before attempting to pass a farm vehicle.



# Tips for Safe Driving

## ✘ Be Responsible

- + Watch to see what the farm vehicle does before attempting to pass.



# For more information visit:

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- × <http://www.in.gov/isda/>
- × <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3888.htm>
- × <http://www.in.gov/bmv/3016.htm>

**Stay Safe!**