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Spring Farm Traffic Safety Reminder

With a later than normal start to farm fieldwork, now is a good time to share our safety tips for sharing the roadways with increasing farm traffic.

After a long, harsh winter, everyone is anxious to get outside and enjoy the nicer weather. However, before you head out to enjoy the outdoors, please take a few moments to read our farm safety tips:

- **Practice Patience.** Remember that tractors and equipment are normally not on the road for more than short distances. Wait until you can make a safe and legal pass.
- **Watch for Unexpected Turns.** Many farm-related vehicle accidents occur when motorists try to pass farm vehicles as they are making a left turn. The tractor appears to be pulling to the right side of the road to allow cars to pass, but in reality is preparing to make a wide left turn. Think ahead, check the left side of the road for gates or driveways and watch closely for hand or turn signals.
- **Watch Your Speed.** Since many farm vehicles are not able to travel more than 25 mph, they are rear-ended by faster moving vehicles. It is difficult to judge traffic speed from a distance. Please slow down when you see a slow moving vehicle emblem (orange triangle with a red border). When approaching a slow-moving vehicle, the distance between the two of you will disappear a lot faster than you might think.
- **Watch for Roadway Changes.** A nice drive in the country can turn tragic in an instant if a steep hill, a sharp, unexpected or a blind curve suddenly reveals a slow-moving vehicle. When encountering these roadway changes, be prepared for what may be around the bend in the roadway.

Farmers are becoming busier in their fields. Many fields that farmers use to grow crops or keep livestock are not adjacent to their property so they must share the road with you. Everyone has the same rights to using the roads, but it takes special driving attention from everyone sharing the road to do it safely.

