

Montana Ag Safety Program



Rural Roadway Safety

- Plan travel or moving of livestock to avoid high traffic times, busy roads, and bad weather. Travel during the day when possible – avoid travel before day light or after dark.
- Ensure all equipment is in good working order with adequate lighting and markers. Utilize a SMV emblem when appropriate.
- Install reflective markers or marking tape on equipment edges.
- Use extreme caution when making turns (particularly when wide turns are necessary).
- Always use hand or turn signals to indicate plans.
- Utilize wide-view mirrors, when possible.
- Lock brakes together, if applicable.
- Consider the use of a pilot vehicle when moving machinery or livestock.
- Minimize equipment width and haul equipment when practical.
- Consider the extra distance required to slow down and stop a loaded trailer or machine pulling a heavy implement. Leave yourself plenty of room to operate!
- Allow traffic to pass if a suitable pull out is available. Avoid shoulders that may be soft as most machines and implements pose a significant roll-over risk (particularly those carrying a load – grain, hay, livestock).
- Obey all traffic laws and buckle up!
- When approaching livestock, it is best to pull over and wait until you receive clear instruction to move through. If given the opportunity to move through, do so slowly and stay to one side rather than trying to weave through the herd.
- Dust dramatically reduces visibility. Allow extra room between you and other roadway users.
- Slow down on gravel roads, hills, curves, and turns. Consider traveling at lower speed near farmyards and work sites as a courtesy.
- Watch for changing road surfaces, no/soft shoulders, wildlife, open range livestock, and rapidly changing road conditions.

The American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) recommends the following lighting and marking for agricultural machines and implements:

1. Two headlights
2. At least one tail lamp, mounted on the left side facing the rear or the tractor
3. At least two amber warning lights, visible from the front and rear, mounted at the same level (at least 42 inches above ground level)
4. At least two red reflectors, visible from the rear and mounted on either side
5. SMV emblem for all equipment and implements traveling 25 mph or less (for equipment being hauled on a trailer, it is recommended that the SMV be covered or removed)

These safety rules have been written and provided to you for your safety. Your signature below indicates you have read and understand these rules, and further, that you accept the responsibility of always using good judgment to make workplace safety your number one priority.

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