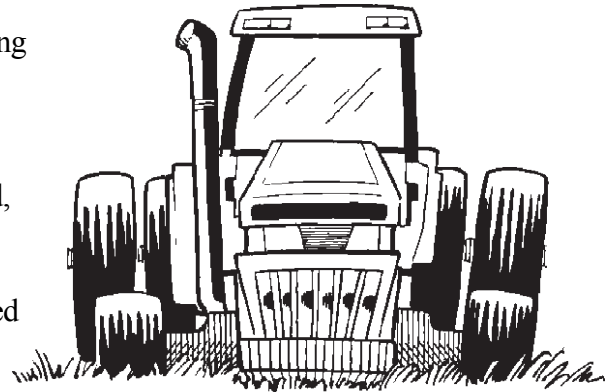


Safely Transporting Farm Equipment

Each spring the rural countryside blossoms with an abundance of moving farm machinery as farmers begin transporting machines from one field to the next. The birds may be singing a warning song to both the farmers and those that share the roads with them.

Each year, incidents involving tractors and other farm machinery occur on public roads, causing death and injury to those involved, as well as involving untold costs in damage to equipment. Nearly half of these crashes involve a collision with other vehicles. The remainder involve running off the road, overturning, striking a fixed object, or falling from equipment.



The roads can be a dangerous place for anyone. Adolescents who are just learning to operate a tractor may be at an even greater risk. This is also true of the adolescent operating the approaching car or truck. Their experience level and subsequent skill in handling emergencies is less than those who have been driving for many years.

Here are some points to consider when transporting farm machinery:

- When assigning driving tasks to adolescents make sure they have a valid drivers license and have proper training in operation.
- Obey all traffic laws, including speed limits, traffic signals, and signs.
- Have clean and bright slow-moving vehicle emblems on all tractors and implements.
- Be sure brakes are in good working condition.
- Don't move farm equipment on public roads between sunset and sunrise.
- Farm equipment should be properly lighted, including turn signals, headlights, flashing amber, and tail lights.
- Equip all tractors with rollover protective structures (ROPS) and instruct all operators to wear seat belts.
- Never tow more than one trailer over the road and always use at least one safety chain in addition to the hitch bar.
- Always slow down on turns and curves. A tractor's turning radius is much smaller than that of most automobiles.

Remember, you may be preoccupied with planting the next corn field when transporting machinery. Stay alert and make it there in one piece. Remind young operators to watch out and stay safe.

Farm Safety



Just Kids