

## For the farmers...

Farm machinery must be in top shape during planting and harvest. Likewise with slow-moving vehicle emblems (SMV). Take a minute to check that SMV emblems are:

- clean,
- in good condition,
- not faded,
- are properly attached to the tractors, implements and wagons,
- are visible to other drivers

If they can't see the SMV sign, they can't slow down.

SMV signs may be attached but hidden behind tall implements or a trailer being pulled by a tractor. In cases like these, an SMV emblem should be attached to the implement or trailer as well since this will be the equipment the drivers will see when approaching from behind.

When moving equipment on highways always use flashing lights and turn signals. Consider using a pilot car when moving equipment great distances. Avoid moving equipment during peak traffic times, during bad weather and at night.



Make sure your equipment has SMV signs and they are visible from behind.

Remember these important steps when approaching and passing a vehicle displaying the Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem:

- ▲ Equipment traveling less than 25 mph are required to have SMV signs.
- ▲ Pulling implements or trailers may block the SMV sign on tractors so attach an SMV sign to the back of implements so drivers can see them as they approach.
- ▲ Mark edges of tractors and machines with reflective tape and reflectors to increase visibility.
- ▲ Consider installing safety lighting on older tractors.
- ▲ Turn on your lights, including flashing and headlights when leaving a field and entering a road.
- ▲ Avoid the highway during rush hours, bad weather and at night.
- ▲ Consider installing mirrors on equipment to enable you to be aware of motorist around you.
- ▲ Never carry passengers on the tractor or equipment when operating and especially when moving equipment on highways.
- ▲ Avoid using cell phones when moving equipment on highways.



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*Slow Moving  
Vehicle and  
Highway Safety*

*Arizona Farm Bureau  
Safety Committee*

## Slow Moving Emblems

Thousands of highway accidents involving farm machinery occur each year even when farm equipment is clearly marked with slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblems. Drivers may encounter farm equipment on roadways.



SMV signs are required for vehicles that travel on the road at 25 mph or less.

Farmers can legally drive their equipment on roadways to move it from one base of operation to another.

Farm equipment is wider than normal vehicles and sometimes even wider than the lane. Farmers use part of the shoulder of the road when it is available to move equipment. However, when bridges, signs and mailboxes block their path they need to move further into the lane to avoid hitting what ever is blocking their path.

**If you are driving 55 mph and come upon a tractor that is moving 15 mph, it only takes five seconds to close a gap the length of a football field between you and the tractor.**

**Don't assume the farmer knows you are there. Farm equipment is large and sometimes loud. Never assume the equipment is turning, stopping or moving to the side until it actually occurs!**

Farm equipment should only be passed when it is safe.

Farmers will check to see how much traffic is behind them and when it is safe, pull over to allow traffic to pass.

### Sharing the Road with Farm Equipment:

- △ *SMV signs are used on equipment that travels 25 mph or less on the roadways.*
- △ *Determine whether the slow-moving vehicle is moving over to avoid hitting an object in front of them or preparing to turn because farm equipment needs more space to make a left hand turn.*
- △ *Pass with caution- slowly and deliberately, watching for other traffic and sudden turns.*
- △ *Watch for hand signals, turn signals or other signs that indicate the slow-moving vehicle is preparing to make a turn.*
- △ *The farmer may not know you are there.*
- △ *Be watchful of traffic behind you that may try to pass you and the equipment.*
- △ *Stop when approaching equipment from the opposite direction that is wider than the lane of traffic.*
- △ *Be patient, be kind and stay behind!*

## Farm Safety Resources

For further information or assistance with farm safety and supplies, the following websites are available:

### Arizona Farm Bureau Safety Program

[www.azfb.org](http://www.azfb.org)

### Farm Bureau Agricultural Safety Awareness Program

[www.agsafetynow.com](http://www.agsafetynow.com)

### National Safety Council

[www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)

### Southwest Rural and Agricultural Safety Information System

<http://ag.arizona.edu/agsafety>

### Grainger

[www.grainger.com](http://www.grainger.com)

### Agricultural Transportation Handbooks

Agricultural Transportation Handbooks are available through the website. The handbook covers state and federal statutes, rules and exemptions for transporting agricultural goods on highways. It also covers CDL requirements and agricultural exemptions.