

## Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem (SMV)

The SMV emblem is recommended by the ASAE to mark farm equipment. The SMV emblem is visible from about 1,200 feet. In North Carolina, the SMV emblem does not satisfy the marking requirements for farm equipment on public roads. However, we recommend that you use it along with other markings.

This emblem is important because the speed difference between farm equipment and other automobiles is a factor in crashes.

For example, a car traveling at 55 mph will take 7 seconds to reach slow moving farm equipment 400 feet ahead. Each second counts in the reaction time. It is important to make your machinery as visible as possible to other drivers.

We recommend you install the SMV emblem:

- ✚ With one point facing up
- ✚ From 2 to 6 feet above the ground
- ✚ Consult the latest ASAE standard, S276.5
- ✚ Visible from 1,200 feet



## Wide Equipment

North Carolina has specific legislation for farm equipment over 18 feet wide. Farm equipment over 18 feet should:

- ✚ Operate during daylight hours
- ✚ Display front and rear red flags that are visible from at least 300 feet
- ✚ Have an escort when traveling more than 10 miles in destination on hilly or curvy roads
- ✚ Operate to the right of the center line in the road
- ✚ Pull over in a practical location to allow traffic to pass (N.C. General Statute 20-116)



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*This brochure was developed by the N.C. Department of Labor, Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau. Funds for this project were provided by the Governor's Highway Safety Program.*



Printed 07/04

5,000 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$154.98 or .14¢ per copy.

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# CAUTION:

## Farmer at Work!



**Practice safety when operating farm machinery on public roads**



### Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau

Josh Dobson  
Commissioner

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## Take extra safety precautions when you operate farm equipment on public roads

- ✚ Use the most skilled drivers when on public roads

*Under North Carolina law, a driver's license is not necessary to operate farm machinery. However, no person under 14 years of age shall operate any vehicle or farm equipment on public roads (N.C. General Statutes 20-8 and 20-10).*

**We recommend that only licensed drivers who are familiar with traffic laws and regulations operate any machinery on public roads.**

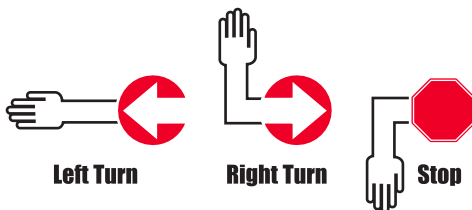
- ✚ Don't carry extra riders
- ✚ Secure all materials being transported

## Consistently use turn signals when traveling on public roads

Do not wave drivers around. That motion is similar to a left-hand turn signal and may cause confusion for others on the road. Signal approximately 100 feet before reaching the intersection where you will turn.

### Directional Hand Signals

Use these hand turn signals when driving, to ensure safety on public roads.



## Equip all machinery with mirrors

In North Carolina, farming equipment is not required to have mirrors (N.C. General Statute 20-126). However, we recommend that farm machinery have extended mirrors to see around the sides and when turning corners.

## Check all equipment before transporting it on public roads

Some areas to inspect are:

- ✚ Tires
- ✚ Lights
- ✚ Brakes
- ✚ Hitch pins and safety chains
- ✚ Operator safety devices, such as the roll bar and seat belts

## When causing a delay in traffic, pull over and allow traffic to pass

Pulling over is the safest and most efficient way to have traffic pass.

## Be aware of the terrain and traffic patterns of your route and plan cautiously

In these situations be extra cautious:

- ✚ Blind spots
- ✚ Hills
- ✚ Sharp curves
- ✚ Narrow bridges
- ✚ High crops
- ✚ Heavy traffic times

## In North Carolina 51 percent of all crashes involving farm equipment result in an injury or death

- ✚ Use adequate lighting

Under North Carolina law, farm tractors are required to have:

- ♦ One front white light
- ♦ One rear red light

*(Two rear red reflectors, each with a diameter of at least four inches, can replace the rear red light requirement (N.C. General Statute 20-129).)*

## The American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) recommends:

In the front:

- ♦ At least two white lights mounted at the same level, as far apart as possible
- ♦ At least two flashing amber lights that may be used as turning indicators

In the rear:

- ♦ At least two red lights
- ♦ Two red reflectors
- ♦ Two flashing amber lights mounted at least 42 inches from the ground

**ASAE also recommends running hazard lights during the daytime as extra precautions.**