

Environment aware:

Operating agricultural equipment on rural roads

Use this guide to help lead a discussion with employees operating agricultural equipment on rural roads. Empower them with strategies to minimize risks and become safer drivers. Use the form on Page 2 to record meeting details.

Operators of agricultural equipment should receive training for each specific type of machinery they operate, including any attachments. Additionally, they should comply with both Federal and State regulations regarding legal operation. Even on rural roads, where equipment width may exceed lane size, drivers should still yield the right of way to oncoming vehicles. Make sure you highlight to operators the following information:

1 Prioritize visibility:

Make extra efforts to be seen by oncoming traffic. Confirm your agricultural equipment's lighting and signaling systems, including flashers, flags, and slow-moving vehicle signs, are in optimal working condition and cleaned of dirt and dust to ensure maximum visibility.

2 Use less-traveled routes:

Encourage drivers to avoid busy roads and peak travel hours whenever possible by opting for lesser traveled routes. Avoid times when visibility is compromised by darkness or the glare of the sun. Utilize an escort vehicle to improve safety.

3 Maintain appropriate speeds:

Always operate at a speed that allows you to maintain control of your equipment. Be cautious during turns, curves, and when towing trailers or attachments. Remember that slow-moving vehicle signs and agricultural tire speed ratings limit your speed.

4 Signal clearly and minimize distractions:

Always double-check your mirrors and signal your intent to turn. Be cautious and ready for other vehicles to overtake you, especially when you're slowing down to make a wide turn. Distracted driving is dangerous even when operating a piece of agricultural equipment. Put the phone away and avoid distractions.

5 Inspect equipment thoroughly:

It is important that operators can see clearly; ensure windows are clean and mirrors are properly set to assist when driving with attachments. Conduct a detailed inspection of your equipment and any attachments before departure. Verify safety chains, hitch pins, and all lighting fixtures are secure and functional.

For additional information related to driver safety, visit [MyNSightOnline.com/DriveThe5](https://www.mynsightonline.com/DriveThe5)

For further information, refer to the Federal Highway Administration Agricultural Equipment on Public Roads (highways.dot.gov/safety/data-analysis-tools/rsdp/rsdp-tools/agricultural-equipment-public-roads).



For assistance with risk management services or safety resources, contact us at RMSolutions@nationwide.com or 1-800-260-1356.

NationwideAgribusiness.com

The information used to create this brochure was obtained from sources believed to be reliable to help users address their own risk management and insurance needs. It does not and is not intended to provide legal advice. Nationwide, its affiliates and employees do not guarantee improved results based upon the information contained herein and assume no liability in connection with the information or the provided suggestions. The recommendations provided are general in nature; unique circumstances may not warrant or require implementation of some or all of the suggestions. Nationwide, Nationwide is on your side and the Nationwide N and Eagle are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. Third-party marks that appear in this message are the property of their respective owners. © 2024 Nationwide GCO-0841AO (06/24)

Toolbox Talk

Date: ____/____/____

Environment aware: Operating agricultural equipment on rural roads

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Discussion notes:
