



News Release – For Immediate Release Monday, May 15, 2017

Drivers cautioned to slow down around farm equipment on County roads

Drivers are being warned to slow down and drive respectfully around farm equipment and vehicles that will be on County roads during the approaching seeding season.

“Every year in Alberta, there are collisions because drivers are impatient or not proceeding with caution around large pieces of slow-moving agricultural equipment. As the weather warms up, farmers will be out in full force, and this year, we are reminding all motorists to play it safe and to reduce their speed,” says Sonja Raven, Agricultural Fieldman.

According to Canadian Agriculture Injury Reporting, a national program funded by the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association, 13 per cent of farm-related fatalities are due to traffic accidents. The most common types of accidents involving farm equipment are left-turn collisions, rear-end collisions and passing collisions.

To keep everyone safe, the County is asking all drivers to take the following precautions:

- Be alert and watch for farm vehicles on our roads, especially during seeding and harvest.
- Immediately reduce your speed as soon as you see a slow-moving farm vehicle.
- Keep in mind that drivers of farm vehicles have extremely limited visibility behind and beside them.
- Until it is safe to pass, stay a minimum of 15 metres behind slow-moving equipment.
- Do not attempt to pass farm equipment or vehicles until the road is clear and you are sure it is safe.
- When passing, make sure you can see the farm vehicle in your rear-view mirror before you proceed back into the right lane.

Drivers are also reminded that due to equipment size and functional limitations, it is usually impossible for farm equipment operators to speed up or to move any further onto the right shoulder.

“Staying behind a farm vehicle until it is safe to pass will only take a few minutes so please don’t let the frustration of having to slow down cause you to make a decision that may harm yourself, your passengers or a farm worker,” adds Raven.



To learn more about farm equipment safety on Alberta roads, please go to [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/aet14788](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/aet14788), or contact Raven at 780-532-9727.

-30-

Media Contact:

Sonja Raven
Agricultural Fieldman
780-532-9727