Slow-Moving Vehicles on Alabama Roadways

Written by Jesse LaPrade, Extension Farm Safety Coordinator

One major hazard to motorists involves the operation of slow-moving tractors on public roadways in Alabama.

Farmers should strive to operate their tractors on public roads during low-traffic, high-visibility periods of the day. All lights should be activated to help get motorists’ attention, and the slow-moving vehicle sign must be clearly visible to approaching motorists. Likewise, motorists should exercise extreme caution when approaching these tractors. If you are traveling at 60 miles per hour and approaching a slow-moving vehicle, you will close a 100-yard length (length of a football field) in 3.4 seconds. Considering the average reaction time is 0.7 seconds, that would leave you 2.7 seconds to reduce your speed to that of the tractor (about 20 miles per hour). You must brake immediately to avoid a collision. Note that some tractors can only go 15 miles per hour!

All motorists should look for the slow-moving vehicle symbol on the back of tractors or on implements pulled by tractors. It is a bright orange triangle with one point upward as seen in the photo above. Your life or the life of an Alabama farmer may depend on your attention to the road and on your reaction time. Just remember, when you see a farm vehicle on the road, brake immediately.

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