

TIPS FOR FARMERS

- ⇒ Some tips to alleviate some hazards when taking wide equipment onto the road:
- ⇒ Massachusetts requires you to place a slow moving vehicle reflector on any machine that travels the road slower than 25 mph.
- ⇒ Always point the triangle up, keep the SMV emblem clean to maximize reflectivity, replace it when faded, normally every 2-3 years.
- ⇒ Mark the edges of tractors and machines with reflective tape and reflectors. Install retrofit lighting on older machinery to increase visibility.
- ⇒ TURN YOUR LIGHTS ON, TURN OFF REAR SPOTLIGHTS WHEN GOING ONTO THE ROAD. From a distance, they can be mistaken for headlights.
- ⇒ Avoid highways if possible during rush hours and bad weather.
- ⇒ Do not drive before sun rise or after sunset.
- ⇒ Use pilot cars, one in front and one in back, if you are going a considerable distance. Hang an orange flag out the window of these pilot vehicles.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS SYMBOL

Less than 30% of drivers recognize and know what this symbol means.

It is a matter of life and death for drivers of automobiles and heavy equipment on rural or city roadways.



This is a daytime view of the SMV symbol. It is found on animal-drawn vehicles and equipment designed to travel at speeds of 25 mph or less. The symbol is not a reflector— IT IS A WARNING TO SLOW DOWN.

Designed for nighttime visibility, car headlights will reflect off the dark red border and appear as a glowing red triangle floating in darkness. It is extremely important to slow down.

MFBF Women's Committee would like to thank Pennsylvania and Oregon Farm Bureau for providing some informational materials.

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MASSACHUSETTS FARM BUREAU
WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

FARM MACHINERY & SLOW MOVING VEHICLES SAFETY



Slow Moving Vehicle

MFBF Women's Committee's mission is to help Massachusetts Farm Bureau promote a positive image of agriculture through education.



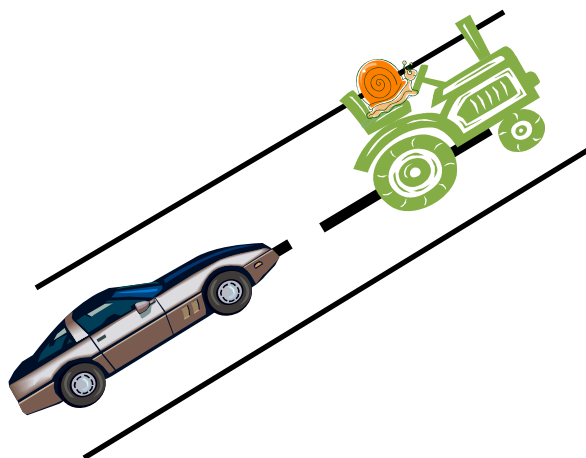
SHARING THE ROADS

While traveling on Massachusetts roadways, you may encounter Slow Moving Vehicles (SMV). SMV includes tractors, farm implements, construction equipment, horse drawn carriages and any other vehicles, which travel at speeds less than 25 MPH.

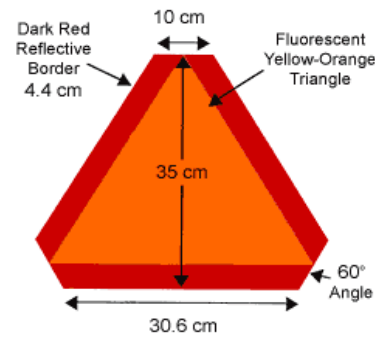
Both motorists and farmers are legally entitled to use public roadways. Using caution and courtesy can ensure a safe trip for all motorists, passengers, and slow moving vehicle operators.



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



SMV SYMBOL



- ⇒ 14" x 16" reflective fluorescent yellow-orange triangle bordered by dark red which is reflective at night.
- ⇒ Vehicle displaying this symbol is traveling LESS than 25 mph.



- ⇒ Slow down immediately and think about adjusting your speed-similar to the approach of a stop light



BE PATIENT!

Pass with caution and care. The vehicle operator may not know you are there.

Do not assume that the operator can move aside to let you by; shoulders may be soft, wet, or steep, and unsafe for a heavy vehicle. The SMV operator understands that your trip is being delayed, and will pull over/off the road at the first, safe location and allow you to pass.

- ⇒ Be Watchful - keep your eyes open!
- ⇒ Remember SMVs cannot stop or slow down quickly. Avoid pulling out in front of a slow moving vehicle.
- ⇒ Do not pass an SMV unless you can see clearly ahead of both you and the vehicle.
- ⇒ If curves and hills ahead block your view. DO NOT PASS!
- ⇒ **Reminder:** Do not pass in designate "No Passing Zone, or with 100 feet of any intersection, railroad grade crossing, bridge, elevated structure or tunnel. (**Federal Law**)
- ⇒ Do not assume an SMV pulling to the right side of the road is going to turn right or is letting you pass. Due to the size of some farm implements, the operator must execute wide turns. If you are unsure, wait until the vehicle has committed to the turn or stopping position.