



**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™**  
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY  
EXPERIMENT STATION

# MAFES DAWG TRACKS

It's the time of year you are bound to meet or come up behind a big piece of farm equipment on the same road you are traveling. Or maybe, you are the operator of that equipment. In either role, these questions apply:

- Do you see others ahead of time to anticipate your move or are you distracted?
- Do you slow down & give others space for passing?
- Are you observant of roadside obstacles and pathway widths that may narrow your clearances?
- Can you see & are you seen?

There are both state and federal laws regarding agriculture equipment on the road. While laws are necessary, understanding their intent and putting the precautions into practice is what counts. To help clarify the many details. These highlighted, best practices will help you as an equipment operator or one sharing the road with farm equipment ... See and Be Seen!

- ✓ Slow moving vehicle (SMV), orange reflective triangle, emblems are required on farm equipment. If it is missing, damaged or faded from time, get a new one.
- ✓ Towed equipment and implements need to have taillights/flashers/reflectors too, especially when the tractors signs & lights are blocked.



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- ✓ Turn ON and keep clean equipment's flashing warning lights whenever traveling on a highway. No matter how many flashers or lights you have, they do no good if left turned OFF or not visible because of dirt or mud.



- ✓ Equipment with enclosed cabs must have at least one rear-view mirror to permit the operator to see the highway behind. If a long line develops behind, pull over in a safe place & allow faster traffic to go around you.
- ✓ Have escort vehicles, front & rear, for farm equipment whenever possible to warn other motorists, especially when moving over-width loads or traveling on narrow, winding roads or roads with heavy traffic.
- ✓ Be cautious as a regular vehicle passing from behind or meeting farm equipment. Slow down! Most paved rural roads are 18-20 feet wide. While some farm equipment /implement may be over 13 feet wide. This becomes a big issue when crossing a bridge or getting around utility poles, mailboxes, and road signs. Some farm machinery may take up well over ½ the road.
- ✓ As a regular vehicle, do not speed around those in line ahead of you waiting to also pass farm equipment. And never get between the farm equipment and their escorts vehicles.



## Sources:

[https://nasdonline.org/static\\_content/documents/2065/d001906.pdf](https://nasdonline.org/static_content/documents/2065/d001906.pdf)