

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Young Leader January Challenge: Watch Out for SMVs

This month Montgomery County Farm Bureau Young Leaders aren't challenging farmers to boost safety measures. Instead, they are challenging everyone who drives on rural roads.

Collisions between farm machinery and vehicles on rural highways are a serious problem in Illinois. The harvest season is particularly risky as farmers move wagons loaded with grain and harvesting machinery on the same highways as tourists use to 'take in' the fall colors.

"It's a driver's responsibility to watch for SMV (slow-moving vehicle) emblems and appropriate lighting on farm equipment to prevent collisions," says Kris Reynolds, Young Leader Chairman. "Unfortunately, drivers don't always understand the rapid closure rate when their car or truck is approaching a farm tractor or implement that may only be moving 10 mph or less."

Use extra care when driving on rural highways at any time of the year. Never assume that the farm tractor operator is going to continue down the highway. The tractor operator may not be able to clearly see drivers approaching from the rear and may be turning into a field or obscure farm lane. Be prepared for evasive actions when attempting to pass.

This challenge is brought to you by the
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