

What is my responsibility?

MOTORISTS:

- Begin reducing your speed immediately after seeing an SMV emblem. At 55 mph, a driver has about three seconds before colliding with a tractor a whole football field away.
- The likelihood of meeting farm machinery on the public highway increases during planting, haying and harvest seasons (late February through late October).
- Be patient. Farm machinery can't travel at high speeds. While most farmers will move to the side of the road and let traffic pass when they are able to safely do so, Alabama law does not require it.
- Pass with caution slowly and deliberately, watching for other traffic and sudden turns.

TRACTOR OPERATORS:

- Display an SMV emblem on all slow-moving equipment used on public roadways.
- Be courteous. If traffic behind you is getting heavy, pull to the shoulder and stop but ONLY if there is plenty of room for ALL of your equipment. Watch out for mail boxes, sign posts, ditches or other hazards that may force you into the passing lane.
- Keep close watch in front and behind you. Motorists may approach from the rear at speeds two to three times faster than the tractor.
- Never try to "help" by motioning other vehicles to pass — a vehicle may enter from a side road.



Presented by

Alabama Farmers Federation

For more farm safety information, contact

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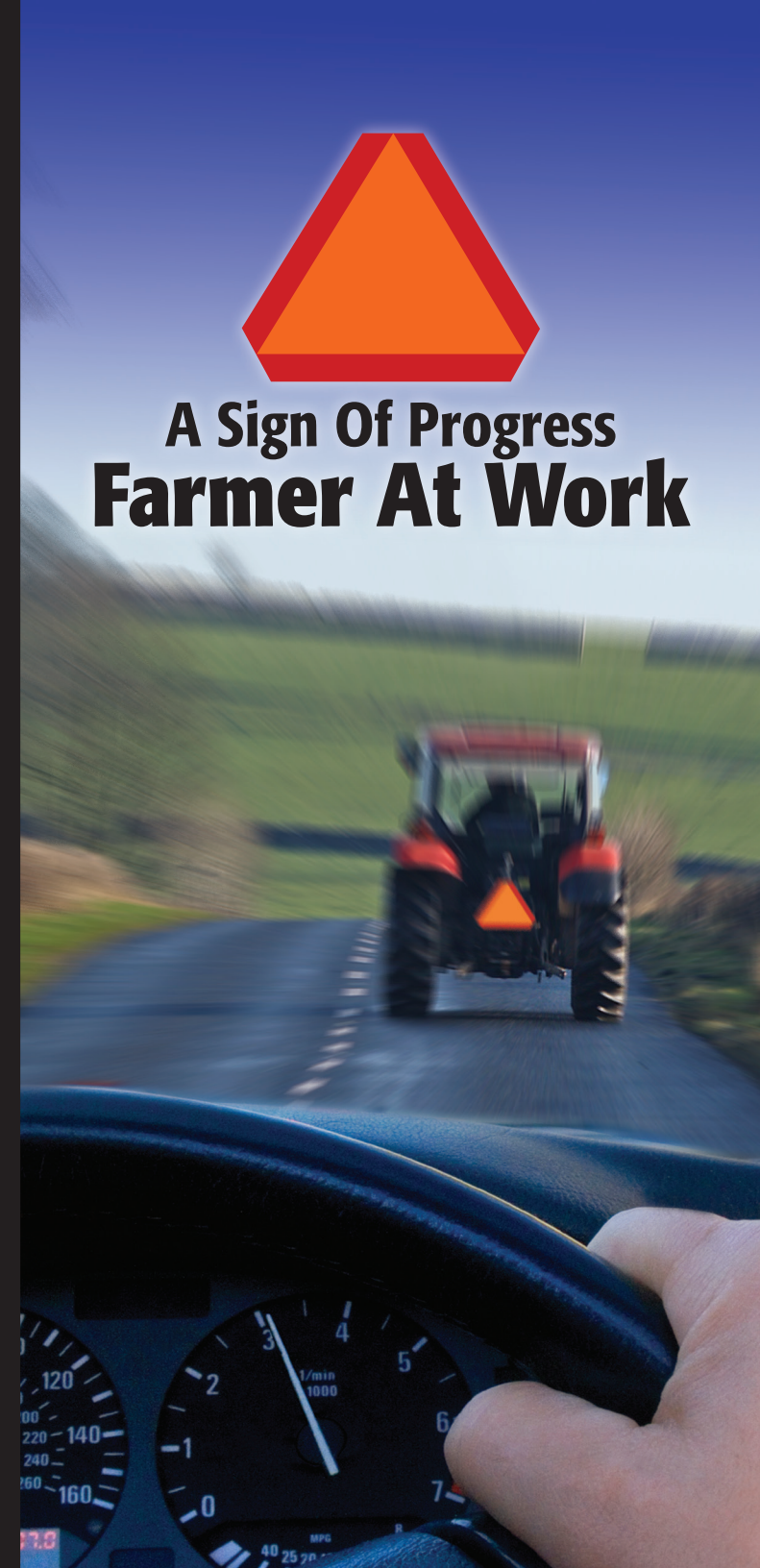
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A Sign Of Progress Farmer At Work





What does Alabama's SMV law say?

Alabama law requires that the triangular red-and-orange Slow-Moving Vehicle sign be affixed to all farm tractors, self-propelled farm equipment or any other vehicle designed for speeds of 25 mph or less whenever it travels any highway in the state.

measuring to the lowest portion of the device and as near the center of the vehicle, implement or mobile equipment as practicable.



The SMV sign is restricted to use only on vehicles with a maximum speed capability of 25 mph. Its use on any other type vehicle or stationary object is prohibited.

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If the slow-moving vehicle is towing an implement, trailer or wagon, the SMV sign must be displayed from the rear of the towed unit, not less than three feet nor more than five feet above the ground,

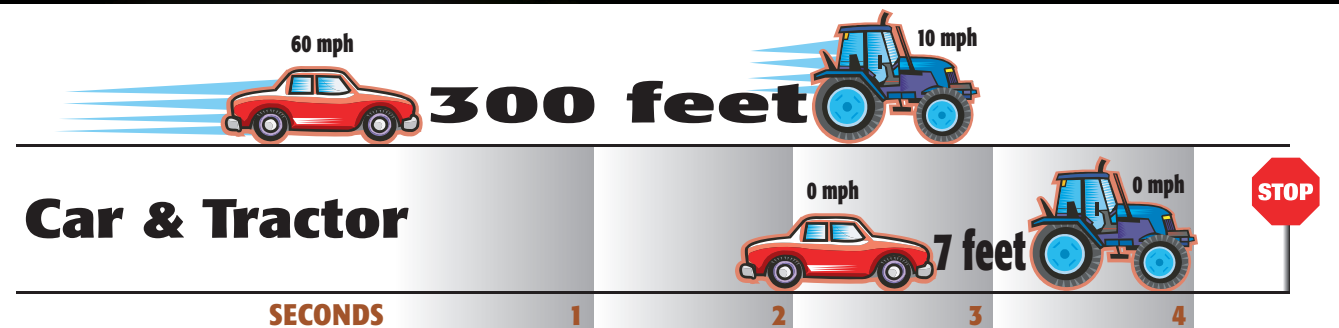
Alabama law recognizes the right of farm tractors and other farm machinery to use public roadways and does not require slow-moving vehicles to pull to the shoulder.

What does the Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) sign mean?

Slow-Moving Vehicle signs have been in use since 1971. Yet, many motorists do not know that the reflective triangle means the vehicle they are approaching is not capable of going any faster than 25 mph. Many times, the vehicle may even go slower than that.

You'll find Slow-Moving Vehicle signs on farm tractors and other farm equipment, such as combines, harvesters, wagons, etc., and also on road equipment.

Could you react in time?



Brake — don't wait — as soon as you see a Slow-Moving Vehicle sign on a tractor! Even with a tractor three football fields away, a car moving 60 mph will collide with the tractor in mere seconds. Remember: Good yields take time.