

RESOLUTION 1-24
AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT HIGHWAY SIGNS

- WHEREAS:** 13% of farm related fatalities in Canada are traffic related; and
- WHEREAS:** farmers often travel long distances on public roads between fields; and
- WHEREAS:** agricultural equipment is generally large and slow moving; and
- WHEREAS:** the general public tends not to slow down around agricultural equipment on public roadways; and
- WHEREAS:** Alberta’s highways do not currently give any warning in areas that are often traveled by agricultural equipment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Alberta Transportation provides each Agricultural Service Board with signs that state “Slow Down Around Agricultural Equipment” to be installed on highways, at locations determined by the individual municipality.

- SPONSORED BY:** Brazeau County
- MOVED BY:** _____
- SECONDED BY:** _____
- CARRIED:** _____
- DEFEATED:** _____
- STATUS:** Provincial
- DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

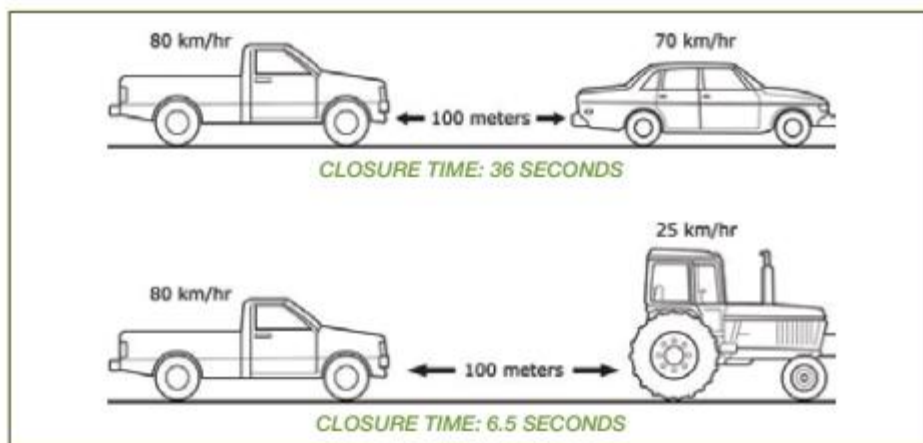
From Safe Transportation of Farm Equipment in Alberta:

According to the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance program, 13 per cent of farm-related fatalities across Canada are traffic related, and most of these involve tractors. As a farmer, you often travel long distances between fields, and this requires you to travel on public roads throughout Alberta. Farm equipment is oversized and slow compared to other vehicles using the roads, which can result in collisions and other accidents.

A common type of multiple-vehicle collision typically involves another vehicle and happens when the operator makes a left turn into a farm lane or field. Motorists often pull out to pass farm equipment as it slows down for the turn but fail to see the left signal due to a lack of signal or a dust-covered signal light. Once the equipment enters the opposite lane, a collision can occur.

There is a high number of rear-end collisions, usually occurring at intersections. Motorists often miscalculate the rate at which they are approaching farm equipment and consequently run into the rear of

it. The diagram shows the difference in reaction times for approaching another motor vehicle and approaching slow-moving farm equipment. With slow-moving equipment, the reaction time is so small that quick decisions must be made to avoid a rear-end collision.



If equipment is too wide to fit safely into one lane, approaching traffic can clip the machinery or hit it head-on.

As the operator of farm machinery, farmers also must take measures to make road travel safer, but those precautions do not prevent the hazards that other drivers create. Farm equipment is slower and less maneuverable than other vehicles. Education, in this case signage along Alberta's highways, will give motorists a reminder to be alert for slow moving, large farm equipment and to slow down when encountering farm equipment on the highway.

