

**AG NOTES**  
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**FARM SAFETY**

We are now seeing the first of the crops being planted. The soils are just now getting warm enough, but farming activity is picking up. Wheat is getting closer to harvest, too. And it won't be long until we'll be in the hay fields, too. Fertilizers are being applied, and weed controls are being applied. So, many of you will be moving farm equipment on the roads from place to place. In a hurry, I'm sure, to get it done before a rain or to get to another field. Moving equipment is a dangerous thing.

Farm equipment is some of the most dangerous equipment in the world. I had a great-uncle who lost an arm in a corn shredder when I was little. Never forgot it. Power-take-off shafts, moving cutter parts, disks, hydraulics, big tires, bigger equipment, blind spots...planters, combines, sprayers, hay equipment, bushhogs, and on and on. I could keep on listing danger.

When you look at history, the first good roads were built to help get food from the farms to towns. It still is the most important reason for them to be built as far as I'm concerned. Not for the fast cars and the big trucks, but for farmers to get the food planted and harvested, livestock to market, etc. Many farm states still refer to their roads as farm to market routes and such.

Practice farm safety when you move your equipment, the public may not be paying enough attention. Make sure your SMV signs are on, and your flashers and signals and lights are working. If not, fix 'em.

Make sure you have good communications and you have all of the safety and emergency phone numbers. Make sure your fire extinguishers are in working order. Watch out for dangling clothing. Use gloves and protective clothing when you are applying chemicals. Keep in touch with family members on your plans and whereabouts.

**Practicing safety is cheaper and much easier than dealing with an injury, or worse yet, a death. I can refer you to friends who have experienced both injury or death of loved ones for their take on safety.**

There used to be a program on TV years ago that always started with the police officers in the squad room getting their daily briefing, and it always ended with the duty officer saying "Be careful out there!" In that same thought, be careful out there. Farmers, do your duty to be safe. Consumer public, do yours and help watch out for farmers and give them safe space when you are near them.

**PET PEEVES**

I can get agitated. I know that comes as a complete shock to many of you. I'm not proud of it, but I'm not perfect, just almost! But there are some really aggravating things that causes me to cringe, so here goes.

When someone veers left to turn right when they have enough space already, that gets to me. I really don't like someone following me too close, and I've blinked by taillights to let them know it. And if they hit me, it'll be their fault! If I can't see the grill on the vehicle, that's too close!

It's pretty common to see vehicles with no lights on at dusk, and I blink my lights to get them to realize it, but I just don't understand it when they just go on. And it's worse when they are in dark cars already.

I've quit trying to get the vehicle warranty folks to leave me alone. I really hate it when they use phone numbers that I seem to recognize to trick me. So, I now talk to Jim or Jane, and when they find

out that I have a 2005 Chevrolet Silverado truck with 318,000 miles on it, they are less interested in talking to me. But I've burned up some of their time.

And the senior health folks must have taken notes, because they have called me less lately. When I did the same thing to them and decided I'd talk to Bob or Mary about my health benefits and to use up their time, I repeatedly gave them my age as 103 and they abruptly hung up without sharing the details of their offer! It does absolutely no good to punch 2 on the call to be removed from the call list. I can't beat 'em, so I'll get 'em back. What is it they say about older people getting even? Just doing my part!

I've quit teaching clerks how to make change. All I can say is 'Bless their hearts!' There's just too much plastic in the world, and I'm having to learn how to use it. I really prefer cash in my hand. When businesses don't take cash or can't count it, I generally don't do business there or in that checkout line.

And no, I'm not one to order online. If I can't hold it, look at it, try it, measure it, etc., I'm reluctant. And trying to write a check is another sore spot with me.

### **WISDOM**

Here are some things to contemplate. These have to do with being positive. They'll bring a smile if you think about 'em.

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun. How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on. Birthdays are good for you, the more you have the more you live. You may be only one person in the world, but you may be the world to one person.

Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once. A truly happy person is the one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour. Don't cry because it's over, but smile because it happened.