Extra care is needed at intersections with stop signs or signal lights. Buggies have a tendency to back up a few feet after making a complete stop at the stop sign. For this reason leaving ample space (10-12 feet) behind a stopped buggy is highly recommended. Extra attention by motorists is also recommended when buggies turn into driveways or fields.

**Slow Down and Enjoy the Ride**

While rural roads may offer beautiful scenery and historic farmhouses, they can also present unfamiliar hazards to motorists.

In addition to slow-moving vehicles when driving along rural roads, drivers should be alert to other potential hazards, such as:

- Deep, open ditches close to the road.
- Sharp dips or unexpected turns.
- In winter, potential icy roadways.
- Hazardous blind spots created by wooded areas, cornfields or other tall crops.

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**References:**

Safe Driving in Amish Country. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, PUB 627 (6-08).


Driving Safely in Amish Country. The Ohio State University, Extension Publication AEX-596.


[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/3006-1454](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/3006-1454)

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**AgrAbility**

The AgrAbility Virginia Project provides direct education and on-site assessment to farmers and farm workers with disabilities, as well as to their family members.

**AgrAbility Virginia**

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Slow and high speed vehicles do not mix well on highways unless precautionary measures are taken by the operators of these vehicles. Automobiles running into slow moving vehicles on roadways are very common. Statistics show that the majority of the traffic deaths from such accidents occur in rural areas and approximately 50% of those deaths occur on country roads.

The accident situation becomes more critical when the slow moving vehicle involved is animal drawn such as the buggies used for transportation in most Plain Communities. High incidents of buggy/automobile crashes occur in Virginia annually. The overall objective of this brochure is to familiarize the operators of buggies and automobiles with some specific steps they can take to minimize the number of accidents on highways.

Use of the Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) Emblem

Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem (speeds less than 25 mph) developed by Ohio State University has been helpful in reducing the number of SMV/automobile accidents significantly during the last three or four decades. In Virginia and in most other states the use of this emblem is required by law. When mounted on the back of the SMVs, it is found to be very effective in getting the attention of motorists following the SMV to slow down. The triangular shaped SMV emblem has a reflective border around a fluorescent orange triangle. During the day, the bright, fluorescent orange triangle of the emblem alerts approaching motorists from more than 1,000 feet away. This can give motorists ample time to slow down. At night, the brightly glowing, reflective border of the emblem will get the attention of the motorists.

The chart below illustrates this point more clearly. For example, it takes only six seconds to close the gap of 500 feet between an automobile and a horse-drawn buggy moving at the speeds of 55 and 5 mph respectively. Therefore, it is extremely important that a motorist slow down immediately after spotting a slow moving vehicle. Even experienced horses pulling the buggy may be frightened with approaching vehicles. So, motorists should slow down to avoid frightening the horse. Also, allow plenty of room to pass safely and pass only when legally permitted and safe. (Never pass on hills and turns, etc.)