



COMMENTARY

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Spring Safety on Farms and Roads

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Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) reminds Manitoba's farm families to focus on safety during this busy season.

In the rush to get spring work underway, farmers must take the time to plan farm safety. We all must think about whether the decisions we're making on the farm are the safest choices.

The main factors that contribute to farm injuries are fatigue, miscommunication between workers, and trying to save time. We must ensure that everyone working is well-rested, communicating, and taking the right safety precautions—not short cuts. And remember, the little things count so carry a cell phone out to the field, let someone know where you are, and take adequate breaks.

Farm injuries are preventable, but when they happen they have a serious impact on us as individuals and on our businesses. Take the time and care to protect your most important resources—everyone who lives and works on the farm.

KAP reminds all motorists that over the next few weeks there will be an increased number of farm vehicles on the road as farmers work on seeding crops. Remember to be extra cautious when encountering farm equipment on roadways, because one accident is too many.

The best advice when approaching farm vehicles is to slow down, and make sure it's safe before you pass us. Considering that tractors may be travelling at less than 40 kilometres per hour, be sure to decrease your speed immediately when you see our slow-moving vehicle signs and lights. Farm safety campaigns remind producers to "Be Seen and Be Safe," and we do our best to light up our vehicles while displaying the required safety signage. All that we ask is for you to please watch for us on the road.

Keystone Agricultural Producers is Manitoba's largest general farm policy organization, representing over 7,000 farm families and 22 commodity groups throughout the province. Our strength is our democratic structure, and our mission is to represent and promote the interests of the province's farm families.