

# JAMUP

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## Harvest Safety

**T**his time of year, especially within our community, it is harvest time for many farmers. During this busy season, we must watch operating equipment around power lines and equipment. Farm equipment, as well as other equipment, continues to get larger and larger. This continues to get



**Todd Thurston**  
Director of Operations  
& Maintenance

us closer and closer to power lines. Lines along the road, in the field, and around grain bins are high-risk areas. As a farmer myself, I know how easy it is to get in a hurry and not be aware of your surroundings. Trying to get one more load to the grain elevator or get that last bit before the rain. When moving equipment, you must remain at least 10 feet from power lines. Before starting a new field, be aware of all power lines, guy wires, poles and other hazards. Also, use spotters when backing and setting up augers. Remember to always look up and be aware of your surroundings.

Another hazard area is the roadway. Roadways can be dangerous for farm equipment operators and auto drivers. Be cautious of farm equipment traveling from field to field. Beware of following too closely to equipment because they cannot see you. Be patient with those driving or pulling equipment. They are trying to get to their destination as quickly and safely as possible. There isn't always a good place to pull off. Give farmers plenty of room on the road. If a

piece of equipment takes up the whole road, pull into a driveway, if possible. Farmers make very wide turns at times, especially in grain trucks and trailers. Never pull out or stop suddenly in front of grain trucks or equipment, as they cannot stop quickly. Also, avoid distractive driving. A vehicle, even going the speed limit, will come upon equipment very quickly.

Equipment operators, make sure you have your flashers on and use turn signals. Pull over and allow vehicles to pass when traffic builds up behind you. Be mindful of equipment height and width around power lines, poles, bridges and other hazards. It's also a good idea to have a vehicle in front of you to warn and stop traffic when traveling narrow, curvy, and hilly roads.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 410 farmers and farm workers died from work-related injuries in 2019, with

transportation incidents being the number one cause. If you do get equipment into a power line, stay in the tractor or vehicle, if possible, and call 911 or SIEC at 1-800-762-1400. **Joshua A. Eades** If you need to get out because of fire or other emergency, make sure you jump clear with both feet together and do not touch anything when your feet hit the ground while getting out. Then bunny hop away, shuffle your feet without picking them up from the ground until you are far away from the affected equipment or vehicle.

Let's be safe, patient and alert this harvest season, so everyone can get home safe to their families! God bless!



### Play it safe near grain bins.

When moving equipment, be aware of power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety. Follow all guidelines set by the National Electrical Safety Code.



"Tractor on the Road" by Hans Berggren is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.5

## Driving behind farm equipment: Do your part

Spring planting and fall harvest are busy times. Farmers and workers have big equipment and implements on the road. Navigating roadways can be dangerous for farm equipment operators and auto drivers who follow behind them.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 410 farmers and farm workers died from work-related injuries in 2019. **William H. Asher** Transportation incidents, which included tractor overturns, were the leading cause of death for these farmers and farm workers.

Follow these safety tips to make it safer for everyone involved.

### Equipment operators:

- ▲ Make sure all flashers and lights are operational.
- ▲ Drive as far to the right side of the road as possible when going around a curve.
- ▲ Pull over and allow vehicles to pass when traffic builds up behind you.
- ▲ Take care at railroad crossings.
- ▲ Avoid traveling during busy traffic times.
- ▲ Be mindful of the height and

width of machinery, watching power lines, bridges and other hazards.

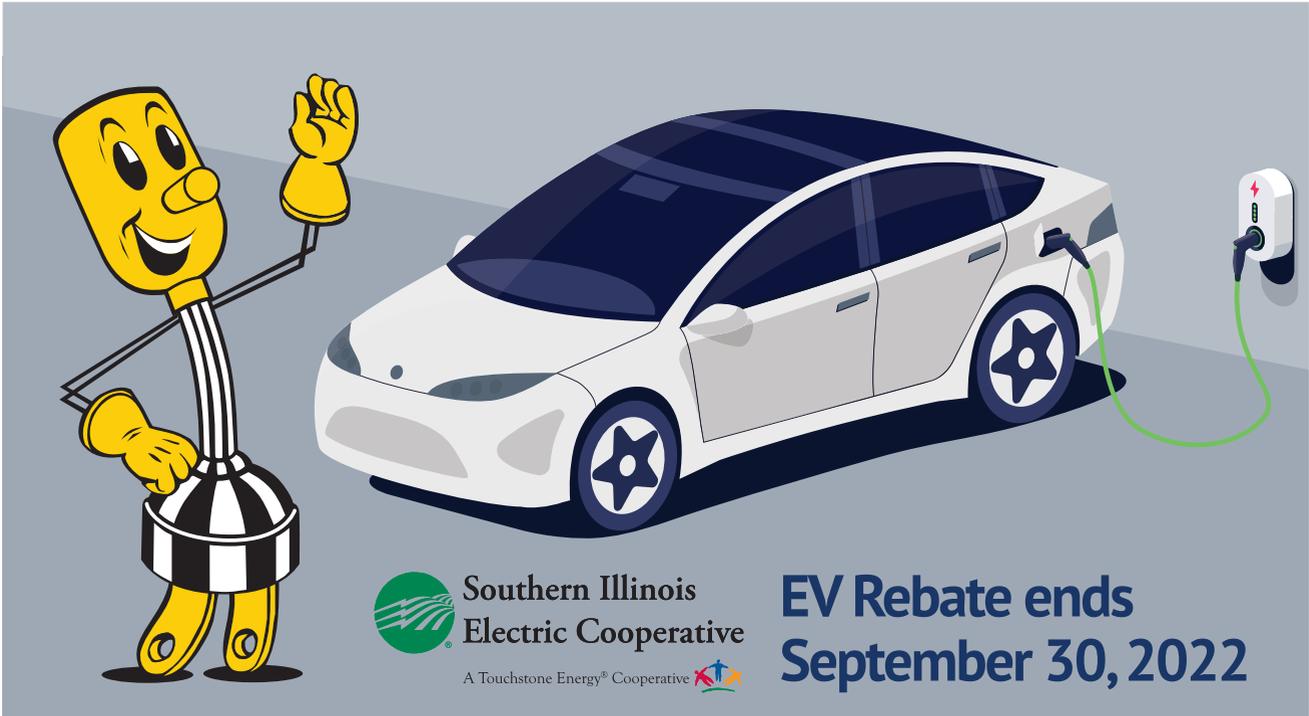
- ▲ Along with turn signals, use hand signals.
- ▲ Stay rested; do not drive when you are too tired or hungry.
- ▲ Keep a first-aid kit in case of accidents.

### Auto drivers:

- ▲ Think about how long it will take to get to your destination and add extra time for busy farm roads.
- ▲ Give farmers plenty of room on the road. If a piece of equipment takes up the entire road, pull into a driveway or area and wait for them to pass.
- ▲ When passing, be sure you do so in a passing zone and that there is clear visibility around farm equipment. Watch for oncoming vehicles.
- ▲ Go slow. Farm operators often stop or turn into fields. In addition, cars going at or over the speed limit can catch up to farm machinery quickly, since farmers in equipment move slowly.

- ▲ Do not assume that a farmer can move over in narrow areas; it is not always possible.
- ▲ Honk or motion when passing farmers, they may not see you or know you are there; their equipment is big and noisy.
- ▲ Do not tailgate; the farmer often cannot see you.
- ▲ Do not pass and then slow suddenly in front of equipment with implements behind it or farm trucks full of grain. They cannot stop quickly.
- ▲ Farmers make very wide turns; give them plenty of time and room.
- ▲ These are a few tips to make it safer for both the equipment operator and auto drivers and to provide a more pleasant drive for all.

**For  
information  
about safety  
around electricity,  
including farm and  
ranch safety, visit  
SafeElectricity.org.**



**S**outhern Illinois Electric Cooperative values the opportunity for our members to save money, especially when it comes to electrification programs! **Leann Daniel** If you meet the eligibility guidelines outlined below through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, you can take advantage of thousands in savings on an electric vehicle purchase! If you have any questions or to download an application or instructions, please visit IL EPA's website, Illinois.gov, and navigate to the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program tab. We have included the requirements for you below:

**Requirements**

Illinois' Electric Vehicle Rebate Program begins July 1, 2022. Illinois residents that purchase a new or used all-electric vehicle from an Illinois licensed dealer will be eligible for a rebate in the amounts set forth below.

- \$ A \$4,000 rebate for the purchase of an all-electric vehicle that is not an electric motorcycle.
- \$ A \$1,500 rebate for the purchase of an all-electric motorcycle.

Purchasers must apply for the rebate during an open rebate cycle **and** within 90-days of vehicle purchase. Application forms will be available on this webpage during open rebate cycles:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/ceja/Pages/Electric-Vehicle-Rebates.aspx>

Eligibility requirements for an EV rebate in Illinois include, but are not limited to:

- \$ The purchaser must reside in Illinois at time of vehicle purchase and at the time the rebate is issued.
- \$ The vehicle must be purchased from a dealer licensed by the Illinois Secretary of State. *Rented or leased vehicles do not qualify for the rebate.*
- \$ The vehicle cannot have been the subject of a previous EV rebate under this new program in Illinois.
- \$ The rebate amount cannot exceed the purchase price of the vehicle.
- \$ The purchaser must retain ownership of the vehicle for a minimum of 12 consecutive months immediately after the vehicle purchase date.
- \$ The purchaser must apply for the rebate within 90-days after the vehicle purchase date.
- \$ Documentation requirements include a copy of purchase invoice, proof of purchase, vehicle registration, and IRS W-9 or W-8 forms.

Documentation requirements will be detailed in the application. EV rebates issued for applications received in a funding cycle are subject to the availability of funds for each cycle.

*\*Information provided by <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/ceja/Pages/Electric-Vehicle-Rebates.aspx>*

## Member prize

In this issue of the JAMUP, we printed the names of three SIEC members who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section and it's not part of the story, call Brent with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

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**For Outages Call:**  
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*with Farmers*

Farm season means sharing the road with large farm equipment, which can be frustrating to hurried drivers. Farmers must move slowly in large equipment, and public roads are often the only way to get from point A to point B.

When you find yourself following or meeting large farm equipment on the road, please **do the following to keep everyone safe:**

- 1** Be alert and cautious, giving large farm equipment and other slow-moving vehicles adequate space.
- 2** Do not pass in a “No Passing Zone,” or in any area where it is not safe to do so such as intersections, bridges and railroad crossings.
- 3** Make sure the tractor is not trying to make a left turn before you pass on the left.
- 4** Do not tailgate. Following too closely means you could be in the farmer's blind spot.
- 5** Be careful when you do get the chance to pass. Oftentimes, farmers will move their equipment over when it is safe to do so.

Source: Texas Table Top (Texas Farm Bureau)

