

Harvest season is underway and motorists in Nebraska are reminded to use extra caution and pay special attention. Drivers can expect to see an increase in agricultural equipment on state roadways.

In addition to farm implements, motorists are encouraged to watch for deer often scared from the fields during this very busy time.

“We encourage all drivers to stay alert,” said Colonel David Sankey, superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. “At this time of year, motorists on rural roads and highways are urged to pay extra attention as they may encounter large slow moving agricultural equipment, as well as displaced wildlife.”

Combines, grain carts, tractors and other agricultural implements typically travel at slower speeds. Due to their dimensions and loads, operator visibility is often reduced. Motorists are urged to be cautious when approaching, following or attempting to pass farm vehicles.

Operators of agricultural implements are reminded they may travel upon the shoulder of the roadway, when available. They are also reminded of the need for SMV warning triangles and to utilize their flashing yellow caution lights whenever they are on the road.

When turning left from a roadway into a field or farm entrance, operators are cautioned to be aware of vehicles attempting to pass them.

If an occupant restraint system is available in the implement they are driving, operators are encouraged to buckle-up.

Colonel Sankey said, “We encourage everyone to learn to share the road in a safe, responsible manner.”