News Release

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Spring has sprung even if it isn’t as warm or as moist as we often think of spring. However, as weather goes in the spring here in the Great Valley, if you don’t like today’s weather stick around because tomorrow’s will be different.

Spring on the farm is full of new beginnings. Calves, lambs and kids are born and chicks hatch. The renewing of the land begins as well as the wheat, rye, barley and pastures green up.

Spring also comes with lots of activity and smells. There is the smell of freshly turned soil and of course the smell of manure. As I heard an old farmer once say, “it smells like money.” This is a sentiment I doubt his suburban neighbors shared.

Love it or hate it you live in an agrarian community where the hope and promise of spring brings smells, noises and inconvenience you may not have thought of when you moved here. I must caution you however, the beautiful landscape that drew you here is a working landscape.
I believe most people understand that and even tolerate the smells. What I have found that gets under most people’s skin is the slowing of traffic by farm machinery. Folks tractors cannot drive as fast as cars and they have every right to share the road. When people are in a hurry which seems far more common today, it is because they have not allowed enough time. What happens is their poor planning has now caused someone else an emergency.

While you cannot plan for a tractor slowing traffic, next time just think of it the same way you think of a school bus or road construction, a necessary inconvenience. School buses deliver our children to school, construction betters our roads and farmer feed us, seems like an even trade to me.

Now a word to the farmers, safety is job one. Use escort vehicles whenever possible and always when warranted be over sized machinery. With the increase of road work here in the area, it is a good idea to scout your route. Nothing can be worse than getting to a construction zone and have to make a very awkward and sometimes dangerous U-turn because you are too large to fit through the construction barriers.

Also, be courteous, pull over when safe and possible and allow the long line of traffic behind you to pass. Contrary to popular belief you are not leading a parade. On the other hand, drivers please be patient. You are not driving an ambulance nor do you want to end up riding in one.

I will never forget the time I was east bound on U.S. 40 pulling a mower as far on the shoulder as I could get. Another guy is headed west towards me also pulling a hay
mower and don’t you know someone had to squeeze between us. Another hundred yards and there would have been no passing issue.

So slow down and enjoy the beautiful countryside you call home.

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