

## Deer Crossings



With more than 28,000 motor vehicle collisions with deer reported statewide each year, safety advocates are urging motorists to drive with extra caution.

According to the Ohio Division of Wildlife, fall and winter are the peak seasons for deer-related crashes. More than one-half million drivers are involved in crashes caused by deer. The fall is the height of Ohio's deer breeding season, so deer movement increases. November is the peak month, when the highest number of deer-vehicle collisions usually occurs.

Here are steps motorists can take to minimize their risks:

- Drive with extreme caution in areas with deer-crossing signs.
- Highest-risk periods are from sunset to midnight, followed by the hours shortly before and after sunrise.
- If you see one deer on or near a roadway, expect that others may follow.
- After dark, use high-beams when there is no opposing traffic.
- Always wear your safety belt. If a collision with a deer seems imminent, focus on maintaining full control of your vehicle. The alternative could be even worse.



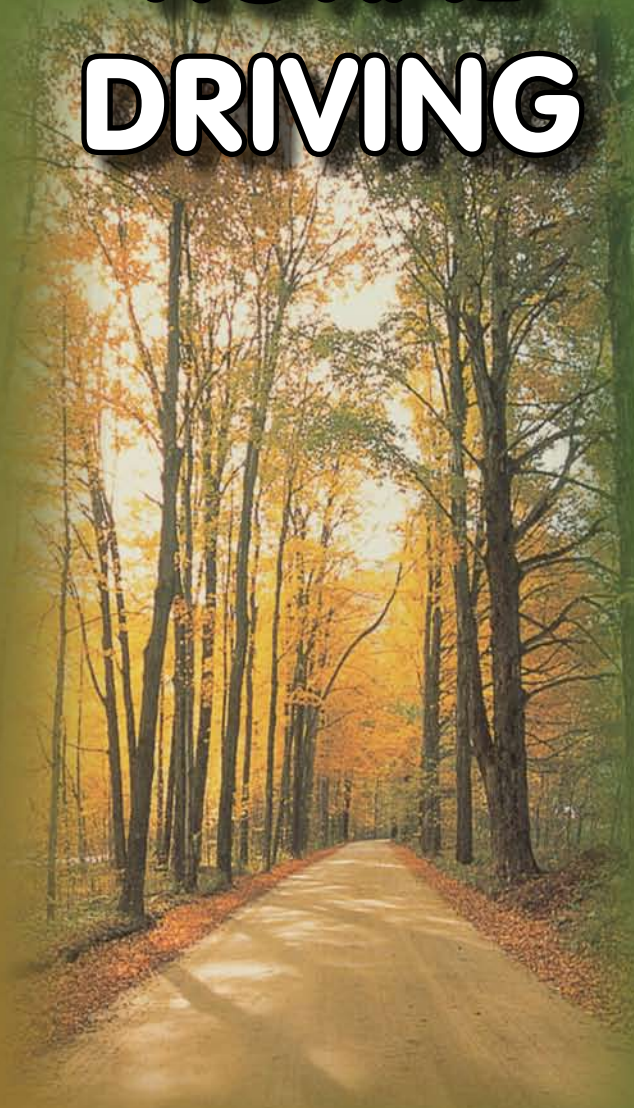
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HSY 8203 9/09

# RURAL DRIVING



**Traveling safely on  
Ohio's country roads**



# Tips and Facts

## Driving in the Country

Typically, motorists in small towns and rural areas don't perceive the risk of being in a crash as high. When compared to exposure rates of driving in urban areas with high volumes of traffic, they're right!

But when a crash does occur, the risk of injury is just as great whether you're on a lonely farm road or a 10-lane metropolitan freeway. In many ways, the risk of injury is greater. On two-lane roads, high-speed head-on collisions, the deadliest of all crashes, are more common on rural highways than on urban freeways or rural interstate highways.

A key to safe driving on rural roads is not to exceed the posted speed limit. On average, about 370,600 motor vehicle crashes occur each year on Ohio's roadways.

Here are a few tips for driving on rural roads:

- Rural roads are usually narrower than city streets. Drivers should take extra caution on rural roads where there are sharp turns, dips and blind corners shaded by woods or fields.
- Learn to share the road with slow-moving vehicles like farm equipment and horse-drawn buggies.

- If you see a horse-drawn vehicle or slow-moving farm equipment in your path, slow down and prepare to pass with caution. Only pass when legal and safe. When passing on the left, the law requires drivers to sound the horn to warn the driver that he is about to be passed; signal the intent to pass, pass to the left of the vehicle at a safe distance and return to the right side of the roadway only after your vehicle is safely clear of the vehicle you are passing.
- Always allow enough stopping distance between you and other vehicles.
- Remember that gravel roads have less traction, so applying the brakes hard or turning sharply may cause your vehicle to skid.
- When driving in the snow, do everything slowly and gently. Remember, in the snow, tires just barely grab the road. Accelerate, turn and brake slowly and gently. To do this, you have to anticipate turns and stops, slow down enough to make turns before you get to them, and leave plenty of distance between you and other vehicles. Even if you maintain control of your vehicle, not everyone else will. Do not get lulled into a false sense of security.

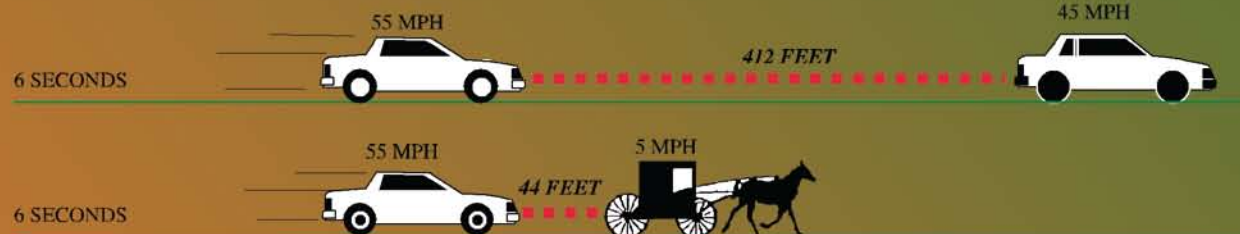
## Amish Country



Drivers should use extra caution when driving through rural Ohio Amish communities in the eastern part of the state.

Some residents in Amish communities use horse-drawn buggies, and the normal speed for this type of vehicle ranges between five and eight miles per hour. These vehicles travel even slower when pulling large farm equipment.

Look for the slow-moving vehicle emblem. It should be mounted on all farm machinery and animal-drawn vehicles. The triangle emblem is usually bright orange with a red border, but can also appear in reflective material that includes gray, white, black or silver.



Imagine traveling 55 mph and coming upon a car traveling 45 mph that is 500 feet ahead. After 6 seconds, you still will have 412 feet to react before colliding with that car. However, if you travel 55 mph and come upon a horse-drawn vehicle traveling 5 mph that is 500 feet ahead, in the same 6 seconds, you will have only 44 feet to react before colliding. The collision with the horse-drawn vehicle will occur in 6 ½ seconds.