



January 2019

TTK NEWSLETTER

Safe Spring Planting: Safety Tips for Agricultural Equipment on the Road

Today's agricultural equipment is built on custom frames designed to carry heavier loads, travel at faster speeds, provide a more comfortable ride and allow many adjustments to be made from a touchscreen console. With each passing year, equipment engineers continue to improve technology and design equipment with increased precision, speed, efficiency, safety, and comfort. However, these innovations and changes have brought their own challenges. Road hazards of modern equipment can make navigation on county roads and highways difficult. Operators face less visibility; larger equipment requires more metal in its construction, and more metal means more blind spots. Many farmers have expanded their operations, which means that they and the agricultural retailers they work with must travel longer distances to get to and from their acres. Lack of experience as fewer people grow up on farm's today can make it difficult to find employees with the skills and experiences to operate large agricultural equipment. These factors can all combine to dangerous conditions on the road for both farmers and the driving public.



Getting to and from the field safely is just as important as getting the field work done. It is helpful to remember defensive driving rules: keep your eyes open, keep your eyes on the road and always be aware of the other driver. Practicing defensive driving techniques is good advice for even those experienced at operating agricultural equipment. Defensive driving, along with the safety tips on the following page, can hopefully help to ensure a safe spring planting season for your operation.

Quotes & Quips



“Like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political or social boundaries.”

– Jimmy Carter

Upcoming Events

Sullivan County SWCD Annual Meeting

**Monday, February 25, 2019
Sullivan Civic Center**

Evening to include a catered meal & speaker representing the Purdue University Hemp Farm. Contact the District for more information.

Southern Indiana Grazing Conference

**Wednesday, March 6, 2019
WestGate Academy, Odon IN.**

Grazing management conference for large and small family farms. Event speakers include Greg Judy, Darby Simpson and Peter Allen. Contact the District for more information regarding registration.

Safety Tips for Agricultural Equipment on the Road

Know local traffic patterns: Change routes and travel times to avoid trouble spots and bottlenecks.

Don't add another blind spot: Keep windows clean to increase visibility. It's just that easy!

Designate a spot in the cab for everything: Keep key items secure and within easy reach.

Wear your seatbelt: You already do it in your car, do it in farm equipment too.

Wait for vehicles to pass: Spot oncoming traffic before pulling out in front of it.

Be alert at all railroad crossings: Lack of signals, lights and grade differences create hazards.

Yield at one-lane bridges: Drivers will speed up to beat you to the the bridge-- let them get there first.

Pull over for tailgaters: Tailgaters are dangerous-- pull over and let them pass.

Yield to oncoming traffic: Your rig's wide load is a problem on narrow roads-- pull over for oncoming traffic.

Put the mobile device away: Use phones and other mobile devices before leaving and upon arrival only.

(For more road safety tips, see Purdue Extension publication PPP-118).

Check us out!

<http://watershed-alliance.org>

Twitter: @WCIWA

Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/100018070@N07/>

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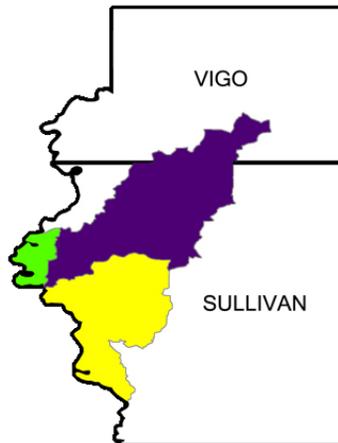
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**Sullivan County Soil and Water
Conservation District**

Cost-Share Funding for Cover Crops and more!



Eligible participants must live or farm in the Turman Creek Watershed (purple on map above) to qualify for the TTK 319 program. Funding has been COMPLETELY OBLIGATED, though more is being sought. Schedule an appointment to review eligibility and add your project to the WAIT LIST!
Cost-Share Program information available:
<http://watershed-alliance.org/index.php/ttk-cost-share-program-guidelines/>



Seasonal Recipe

Twice Baked Potato Casserole

Cheesy, bacon-laced twice baked potatoes as a comforting casserole.

Yields: 10 servings

Time: 2 hrs. 30 mins. | Active: 50 mins.

Ingredients

- 1 lb. thin bacon
- 16 russet potatoes
- 6 tablespoons canola oil
- 4 sticks salted butter, plus more for buttering baking dish
- 2 cups sour cream
- 2 cups shredded cheddar, plus more for topping
- 2 cups whole milk
- 4 teaspoons seasoned salt
- 6 green onions, sliced
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Cook bacon until crispy. Let cool and crumble.
3. Scrub potatoes, then place on baking sheets. Rub with canola oil and bake until tender, 45 minutes to 1 hour. When potatoes are tender, remove from oven and reduce temperature to 350 degrees.
4. Slice butter into pats and place in a large mixing bowl. Add bacon and sour cream.
5. With a sharp knife, cut potatoes in half. Remove insides and add to bowl. Tear up 3 of the skins and mash the mixture together.
6. Add the cheese, milk, seasoned salt, green onion, and some salt and pepper. Mix together well.
7. Spoon mixture into a buttered baking dish and top with cheese. Bake until warmed through, 25-30 minutes.

Recipe courtesy of foodnetwork.com