

# 'Safety' first when sharing roads as harvest arrives

As the wheat turns golden and the harvest season begins, it's an important time for drivers to exercise extra caution and patience when operating a motor vehicle around farm trucks, tractors, and combines. Every year the Kansas Highway Patrol and local law enforcement agencies investigate numerous crashes between passenger vehicles and farm vehicles, many of which could have been prevented.

"Located in the heart of the

nation, Kansas is known for its farming operations. Agriculture is an important industry within the state. During harvest, it's important that we drive responsibly to ensure the safety of the farmers and other motorists on the roads throughout the state of Kansas," Kansas Highway Patrol Superintendent, Col. Terry Maple told The Norton Telegram in a special harvest traffic safety report.

Most farm equipment is not designed to travel at highway speeds

and may only be designed to travel 15-25 miles per hour. Farm equipment is often wider than other vehicles, and sometimes wider than the lane of traffic, so extra room should be allowed when traveling near a farm implement on the road. Extra caution should be practiced on all roads, but especially on the busy rural roads with unmarked intersections.

"As harvest season moves into full swing over the next several weeks, rural roads and other road-

ways in Kansas will see an increase in slow moving vehicles and farm equipment. It's so important that drivers practice patience to aid in everyone's safety," Maple said.

"There have already been a few serious crashes in western Kansas involving farm implements and other vehicles, and the Patrol would like nothing more than to see crashes of this sort end, and our residents and travelers safe."

Here are some safety tips to keep in mind when sharing Kansas

roads with farmers:

✓Don't assume the farmer knows you're there. Most operators of farm equipment will regularly check to see if there is a vehicle behind them, however most of their time must be spent looking ahead to keep the equipment safely on the road and to watch for oncoming traffic. Farm vehicles are also extremely loud, often hindering the farmer's ability to hear your vehicle.

✓Pass with extreme caution. Do

not pass a farm implement unless you can see clearly ahead of both your vehicle and the farm equipment you are passing. If there are any curves or hills blocking your view of oncoming traffic, wait to pass until you can clearly visualize the area you're passing in. Another important thing to remember is that you should not pass in a designated "No Passing Zone," even if you are stuck behind a farm vehicle. Do not pass if you are within 100 feet of any intersection.

## Many roadway signs are just too small to be seen

*Editor's Note — The following column, although written for benefit of Nebraskans, can also be of benefit to Kansans. The writer sums up the situation quite well.*

I had an interesting and frustrating experience last week, while attending the quarterly physical meeting of the Heritage Byway Highway 136 Association. The meeting was supposed to be held, at one of the state historical parks. The colleague I was riding with and I arrived in the town and began looking for signs that would lead us to the appointed location.

We timidly followed the directions on the signs, making the turns as directed. The signs were there, but they were small, and at times obscured by tall grass and weeds. We felt like we were driving and driving out into the country and

we just hoped we were still on the right road. Finally just a short distance from the corner, another small sign, partially hidden sent us in another direction.

At last we arrived at the meeting location after asking for additional directions, but overall feeling very frustrated about the lack of visual guidance to this state historical park.

There was another meeting I attended in a community that had a good deal of construction going on. Getting into town wasn't that hard but getting out was almost impossible. Lack of directional signage kept sending me in circles. Finally I drove away from the construction out of anger and frustration, thinking "I don't know if this is the right way but anything is better than going in circles!" I was

### Guest Column Rosie Stockton

able to find my way out of town, but it wasn't because of appropriate directions. My last thought as I left that town was, "I hope I don't have to come back to this town again because my 'first' impression was not welcoming.

Several years ago the Furnas/Harlan Partnership hosted a Red Carpet Service Training for tourism/visitor related businesses in the two county region.

Part of this training was training and practice on how to give directions. Many times when we have been in an area our whole

life or at the least many many years, we tend to assume (take for granted) that what comes easily and naturally to us is how it is for everyone.

However, when people are unfamiliar to an area and they see a sign they only have seconds to read what it has to say, decide whether the information is pertinent to where they are going and make the decision to act or not on that information. All the while watching traffic and driving anywhere from 60-80 miles an hour.

Yes, I have read the guidelines sent out by the State on what can or cannot be done with signs along our highways, in particular the Scenic Byways, but when we are able to put up a new sign are we looking at what is on that sign through the eyes of a "local" or are

we looking at what that sign says through the eyes of a "visitor" to the community. We can't control construction, or federal rules over signage but we have to realize that we must do what we can to make life as easy as possible for each and every visitor in our community

and it will go a long ways toward helping them enjoy their visit and wanting to come again.

Rosie Stockton is Program Coordinator/Director, Furnas/Harlan Partnership, Arapahoe, Neb. Email director@furnas-harlan-partnership.org.

## Intern applications sought

Congressman Jerry Moran said today he is accepting applications for congressional internships in his Washington, D.C., Hays, Hutchinson and Salina offices for the fall 2009 term.

Applications for the fall are due by July 10.

Congressional internships pro-

vide students with the opportunity to learn firsthand about the legislative process by assisting Rep. Moran with legislative and administrative projects.

Fall internship dates generally coincide with the student's college semester schedule.

To apply for an internship, stu-

dents should submit a completed application form, cover letter, resume, college transcript and three letters of reference.

The cover letter should explain the student's interest in public service and the goals he or she hopes to achieve by participating.

Application forms are available in the Services section of Moran's Web site at [www.jerrymoran.house.gov/](http://www.jerrymoran.house.gov/).

In order to ensure timely receipt of the application, students are encouraged to fax their application to (202) 225-5124.

If students are unable to fax their application, they may mail it to Rep. Moran's Hutchinson office, Attn: Intern Coordinator, P.O. Box 1128, Hutchinson, Kan. 67504.

Students may call (202) 225-2715 with questions or for more information.

## Commodity loan needs told

Farm Service Agencies remind producers that maintaining the condition of farm-stored grain is a requirement if producers want to obtain a commodity loan.

Producers who take out Marketing Assistance Loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain throughout the term of the loan.

The loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop, and maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the duration of the loan. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity.

Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity

is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable and measurable condition.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

## Loan

(Continued from Page 1)

shown through declining sales, frozen credit lines and difficulty paying rent, payroll and making loan payments.

The program began June 15 and will last through Sept. 30, 2010, or until the money set aside for it runs out, Ms. Becker said.

"I recommend applying soon, the money will go quickly," Ms. Becker said.

The loans are available through Small Business Administration approved lenders. Ms. Becker said First Security Bank is an approved lender, but she said other banks may be able to offer the America's Recovery Capital loan.

## U.S. 36

(Continued from Page 1)

push more traffic through those overcrowded cities.

"And northern Kansas counties, all left out of the Interstate system, could use the jobs that would flow with that traffic."

The members also talked about new weight limit signs placed this year on bridges in Decatur County.

"Some of the bridges are very old," said Mr. Strevey, "and are

The program is part of the Recovery Act, which President Obama signed into law on Feb. 17.

"Together with other provisions of the the recovery act, American's Recovery Capital loans will free up capital and put more money in the hands of small business owners when they need it most. This will help viable small businesses continue to grow and thrive and create new jobs in communities across the country," said Karen Mills, Small Business Administration administrator.

"The idea behind it is great, especially in this tough economy," Ms. Becker said.

deteriorating, so weight limits are likely to be lowered."

Two state legislators present at the meeting, Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. John Faber, warned the group that the state highway revenue is falling and more budget cuts are likely. With the nearly \$1 billion in revenue bonds used to finance the last 10 year plan coming due, said Mr. Strevey, further borrowing for a new 10 year plan will be difficult.

### UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

Brought to you in part by Kansas Department of Commerce Travel & Tourism Division

#### St. John's Mexican Fiesta

June 26-27, Lawrence  
Authentic Mexican food, live entertainment, games and more!  
(785) 843-0109, [stjohnsfiesta.com](http://stjohnsfiesta.com)

#### Territorial Days

June 26-28, LeCompton  
Kansas Territorial Capital, Pre-Civil War re-enactment battle, landmarks, historic sites, pioneer skills, carnival, crafts & more!  
(785) 887-6148, [lecomptonterritorialdays.com](http://lecomptonterritorialdays.com)

#### Kansas vs. Nebraska Football 8-Man All-Star Classic

June 27, Hays  
This state-to-state rivalry game will kick-off at 7:00 PM at FHSU's Lewis Field. Featuring 24 players from Kansas & 24 from Nebraska. This annual classic is a must see!

#### Wild West Festival

July 2-5, Hays  
Performing artists Tracy Lawrence, The Lost Trailers and Tommy James & the Shondells. HUGE fireworks display ends the festival.  
(785) 623-4476, [wildwestfestival.com](http://wildwestfestival.com)

#### Tour of Lawrence

July 3-5, Lawrence  
Celebrate the 4th as professional cyclists compete for more than \$20K in prizes. Enjoy live music, kid's events & first-rate cycling.  
[touroflawrence.com](http://touroflawrence.com)

#### 130th Annual Downs Celebration

July 9-11, Downs  
Area's largest carnival, FunRun, beer garden. Friday — The Three Jacks Saturday — Blaine Younger Band No cover charge! [Downschamber.com](http://Downschamber.com)

#### Ladies Night Out

July 10, Council Grove  
Join us for a tropical night out in downtown. 5-9 PM, drawings, specials, prizes, giveaways!  
(620) 767-5413, [councilgrove.com](http://councilgrove.com)

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### Experiencing Knee Pain ?

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**Wednesday July 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**4 P.M. – 5 P.M.**

**Ramada Hays Convention Center**  
**3603 Vine Street ~ Hays, KS**

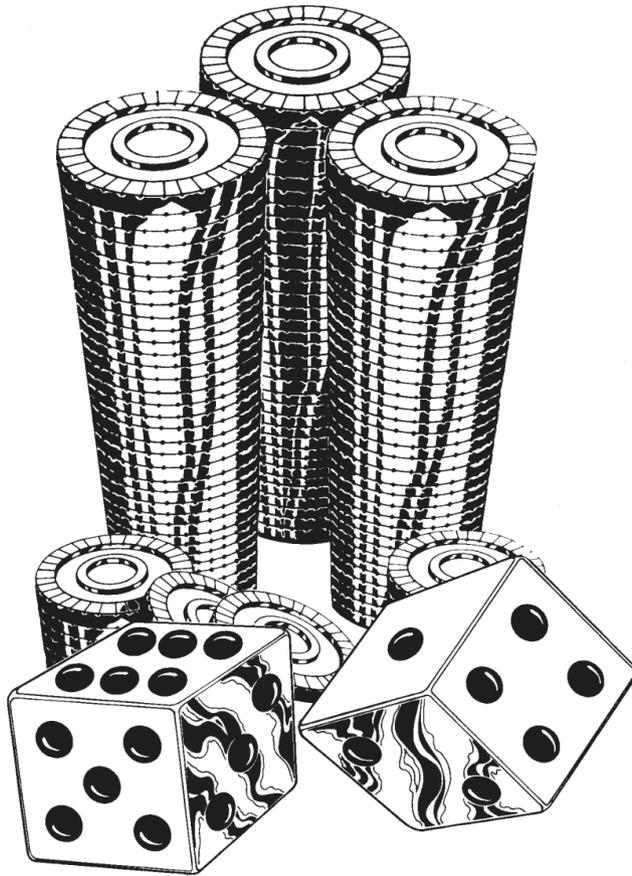


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## Five Men Gambled and Lost!



## Five Men Make Five Mistakes:

- One man struck a match to see if the gasoline tank in his car was empty.  
**It wasn't.**
- One man patted a strange bulldog on the head to see if it was affectionate.  
**It wasn't.**
- One man speeded up to see if he could beat the train to the crossing.  
**He didn't.**
- One man touched an electric wire to see if it was dead.  
**It wasn't.**
- One man cut down on his advertising to see if he could save money.  
**He didn't.**

**Good Advertising Doesn't Cost...  
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