

2023



BEST PRACTICES FOR OPERATING FARM EQUIPMENT ON PEI ROADS

PEI FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE'S FARM SAFETY PROGRAM



This guide is developed for farmers and applies to all farm equipment traveling on PEI roads, no matter the time of day, or time of year. Moving farm equipment can be stressful, and because farm gear can be particularly vulnerable due to its size and traveling at slower speeds than what is expected by other motorists, its important that equipment has guidelines to follow while traveling on PEI roads.

Acknowledgment

This document was developed by the PEI Federation of Agriculture's Farm Safety Program in consultation with Prince Edward Island Highway Safety.

Disclaimer: This document is intended to provide recommendations only, and should only be used as a guide. For existing rules and regulations for transporting farm equipment, refer to the [PEI Highway Traffic Act](#) and [Commercial Vehicle \(Cargo Securement\) Regulations](#)

Recommendations for Best Practices for Farm Equipment on PEI Roads

Lighting and Marking

- All tractors and self-propelled farm machinery should use headlights and tail lights on public roads. In addition, use four-way flashers and a single light on the top of the cab if possible. While traveling on roads, there should be no other lights on the farm equipment pointing towards the rear other than amber four-way flashers and red taillights.
- A slow-moving vehicle sign should be displayed on the back of any machinery that travels on roads at less than 40km/hr.
- Wide load/over dimensional ("D") sticker may also be displayed on the back of gear.



- Use reflective tape to improve the visibility of equipment.



Use of the Road

- Farm machinery should not have to use the shoulder of the road to travel on. Equipment using the shoulder of the road to drive on causes unnecessary dust, destruction of the shoulder by the large tires, danger of rolling over, and possible damage to mailboxes.
- Do not start unfolding booms, arms, or other extending parts before getting off the road or into a field.

Meeting oncoming traffic when driving wide gear

- If the roadway is not wide enough for traffic and farm equipment to travel in respective lanes, both the equipment and the traffic should find a safe spot to slow down and move onto the shoulder to get by safely.

Passing

- Passing farm equipment should only occur on a dotted line. Traffic may pass equipment on a dotted line or in a passing lane but should not pass on a solid line.
- If the equipment is a width that makes it difficult for traffic to pass, such as planters, harvesters, windrowers, sprayers, etc., the equipment should move to the shoulder and stop to let traffic pass, wherever safe to do so.

Pilot Vehicles

- Using a pilot vehicle will help lessen risks with moving the equipment. The sight of a pilot vehicle approaching oncoming traffic in front of a wide piece of equipment should signal traffic to pull over to let equipment by safely.
- A farm vehicle such as a half-ton truck can be used as a pilot vehicle. The pilot vehicle should use its hazard lights (4-way flashers) and it's a good idea to use a rotating guiding light to distinguish itself from regular vehicle traffic.
- Consider using a pilot vehicle in the following situations:
 - Moving equipment on high-speed roadways (90 km/hr)
 - High-traffic roadways
 - Oversized loads or equipment
 - Poor weather conditions
 - Poor lighting situations (dawn/dusk)

Round Bales on Trailers other than Farm Wagons

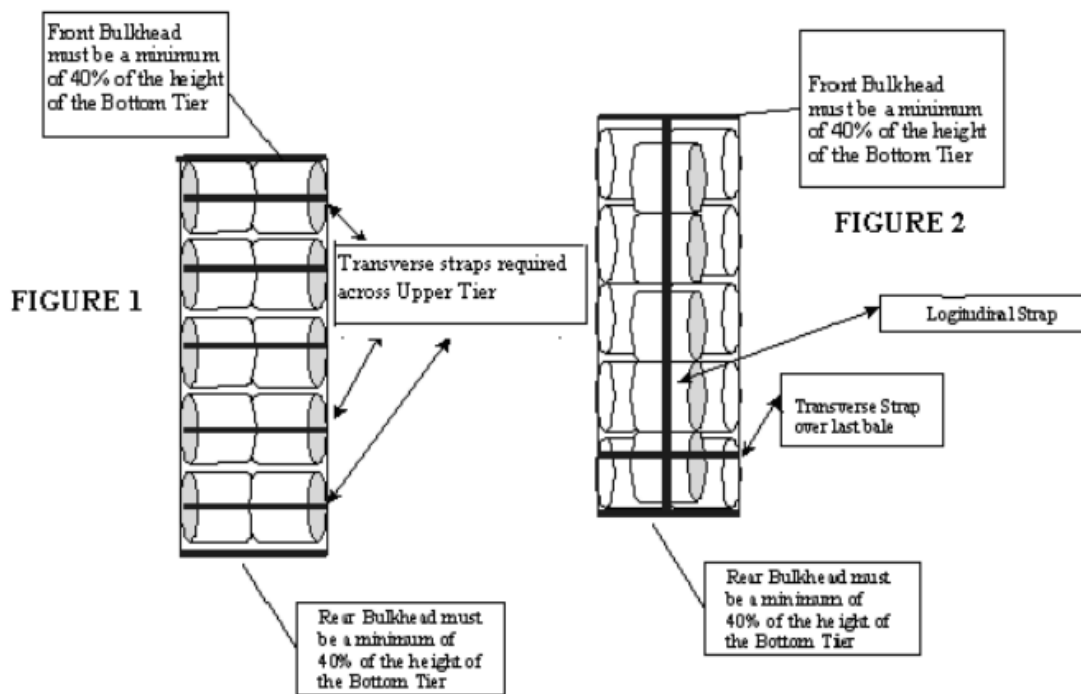
A trailer or semi-trailer other than a farm wagon transporting **a single tier** of round bales should have:

- A lift on the outer edge of each side of the commercial vehicle that has, at a minimum, a height of at least 3.5 inches and that slants the round bales toward the center of the trailer
- Front and rear panels that are at least 2.5 feet tall
- Straps across the top each bale

A trailer or semi-trailer other than a farm wagon transporting **two tiers** of round bales should have, in addition to a lift on the outer edge of each side and front and rear end panels:

- Straps from front to back on the top tier, and a strap across the last bale

Figure 1 & 2 - Loads on Commercial Vehicles other than Farm Wagons



Round Bales on Farm Wagons

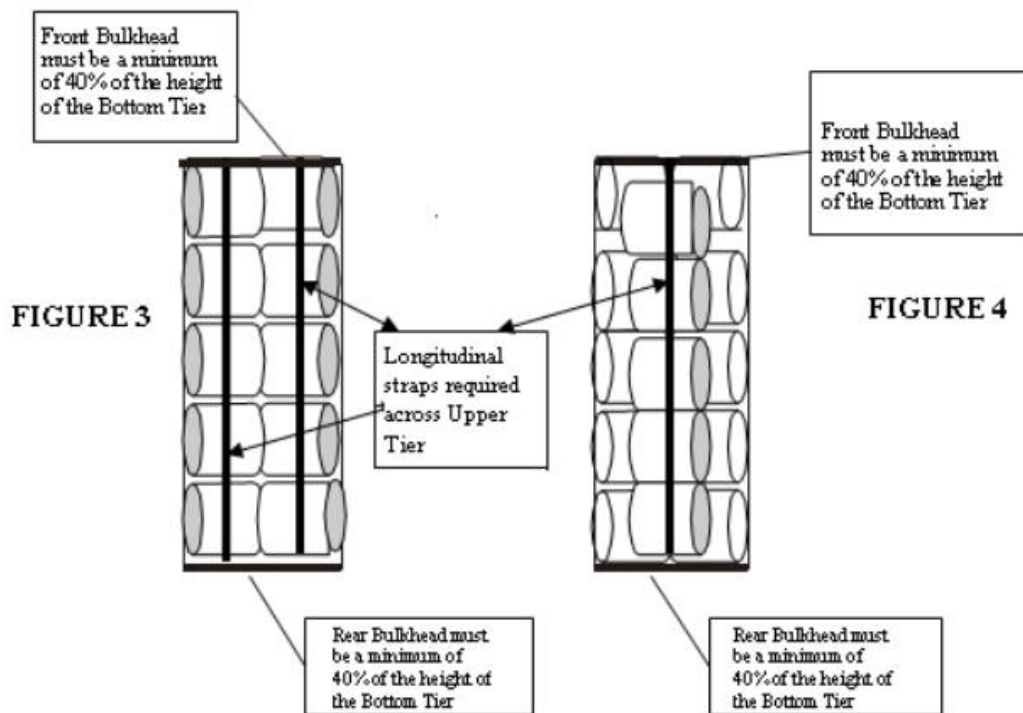
A farm wagon transporting **a single tier** of round bales should have:

- A lift on the outer edge of each side of the commercial vehicle that has, at a minimum, a height of at least 3.5 inches and that slants the round bales toward the center of the trailer
- Front and rear panels that are at least 2.5 feet tall
- Straps from front to back on each row

A farm wagon transporting **two tiers** of round bales should have, in addition to a lift on the outer edge of each side and front and rear end panels:

- Straps from front to back on the top tier

Figure 3 & 4 - Load on Farm Wagons





For questions regarding farm equipment requirements or best practices, please contact either the PEI Federation of Agriculture at (902) 368 7289 or PEI Highway Safety at (902)-368-5227.