

IOWA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

2055 Ironwood Court | Ames, IA 50014 | 515-296-2266

Implements of Husbandry

ICA Fact Sheet | July 2026

Implements of Husbandry (IoH)

An implement of husbandry (IoH) is a vehicle or special mobile equipment designed or reconstructed for agricultural purposes and used exclusively in agricultural operations. Implements of husbandry may be self-propelled or towed vehicles, and may or may not include the following: Combines, Farm tractors, wheeled or tracked, Fertilizer and chemical applicators, Fence-line feeders, Grain carts, Gravity-flow grain wagons, Tank wagons, Self-propelled lime and fertilizer spreaders.

Motor trucks, truck-tractors, pickups, gooseneck livestock trailers, flatbed trailers, and semitrailers are not considered implements of husbandry.

General Operational Requirements for ALL IoH

- Must travel at 35 mph or less on public roads. (Exception for towed implements below)
- Required signage (ASABE SMV Emblem) and lighting must be maintained and visible from 500 ft.
- Must yield one-half of the roadway to other traffic.
- Must comply with posted weight limits on bridges.
- Lighting must be used when operated between sunset and sunrise.
- Driver's license is not required for operating within 2-miles of the farm, otherwise a Class C license is required.

Special Requirements for Self-Propelled IoH

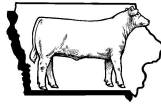
- **Lighting Requirements:** One lighted white headlamp visible from the front. One lighted red tail lamp visible from the rear. One lighted Amber flashing light visible to the rear.

Special Requirements for Towed IoH

- **Lighting Requirements:** One lighted red tail lamp visible at the rear of the rearmost towed implement. If the flashing amber light on the towing implement is blocked, an additional visible amber flashing light is required.
- **Speed & Signage Exemption:** Towed IoH must stay at or below the posted speed limit on the roadway, or comply with speed restrictions on the implement's tires—only if being towed by something other than an IoH. **The ASABE approved SMV emblem must be removed or covered if the IoH will be exceeding 35 mph. Proper signaling devices are still required.**
- **Implement Combinations:** Maximum number of implements allowed in a combination is 3.
 - *Ex. 1 tractor and 2 gravity flow grain wagons.*

Weight Exemptions and Requirements for IoH

- Many IoH are exempt from roadway weight limits (excludes bridges), but some are not including: Fence-line feeders (Self-Propelled & Towed), Grain Carts, and Tank Wagons.
 - Non-exempt IoH are allowed an overall maximum gross weight of 96,000 lbs.
 - Per Axle Maximum (Feb 1. – May 31): 24,000 lbs
 - Per Axle Maximum (June 1 – Jan. 31): 28,000 lbs
 - **Tracked IoH have the same maximum gross weight of 96,000 lbs, but track length determines the implement's true weight limit.**
 - **Weight of the towing implement is not factored in when calculating the gross weight.**



IOWA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

2055 Ironwood Court | Ames, IA 50014 | 515-296-2266

Operation of ATV's & UTV's on Public Roadways

- Allowed to be operated on public roadways, excluding interstates and four-lane roads.
 - *Cross interstates and multi-lane highways only from authorized roads.*
 - *Avoid state and county highways when possible.*
- Operators must be 18 or older with a valid driver's license (Exemption Below).
- Must have proof of insurance.
- Headlight(s) must be on at all times. Required equipment must function as intended.
 - *Ex. Mirrors, headlights, tail lights, brake lights, etc.*
- The vehicle **cannot exceed 35 mph** on the roadway!
 - The vehicle must have an ASABE SMV emblem visible on the rear of the unit.
- The vehicle must be registered with the Iowa DNR and have the registration sticker displayed on the rear of the vehicle (Exemption Below).

Special Exemption and Rules for ATV's & UTV's used as IoH

- ATV's and UTV's can be exempt from registration with the Iowa DNR to do so:
 - The ATV or UTV must be actively used for agriculture to be considered an IoH, thus exempting the vehicle from registration with the Iowa DNR.
- In addition to the general rules listed above for the operation of ATV's and UTV's on public roadways, a few additional ones are in place for registration exempt ATV's and UTV's.
 - Can only be operated between sunrise and sunset (daytime)
 - Use the most direct route to and from your destination possible.
 - A driver's license is not required when operating within 2 miles of the farm, otherwise a Class C license is required (*supersedes the licensure requirement above*).

Interstate Travel Advisory:

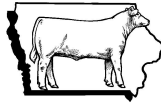
The provisions of Implement of Husbandry may not be adopted uniformly or coincidentally by individual states. When traveling in other states with an implement of husbandry, know what regulations will apply in that state. Any questions can be directed to the office in the state in which you will be traveling:

<u>State</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Illinois	State Patrol Commercial Vehicles Section	+1 (217) 782-6267
Kansas	Transportation Division	+1 (785) 271-3145
Minnesota	Minnesota State Patrol	+1 (651) 405-6196
Missouri	Missouri State Highway Patrol Commercial Vehicle Enforcement	+1 (573) 526-6128
Nebraska	Nebraska State Patrol, Carrier Enforcement Division	+1 (402) 471-0105
South Dakota	Motor Carrier Headquarters	+1 (605) 224-7364
Wisconsin	Motor Carrier Enforcement	+1 (608) 267-9762

Although motor trucks, truck-tractors, pickups, agriculture trailers and semitrailers are not considered implements of husbandry, they may qualify as a Covered Farm Vehicle in the state of Iowa. Under this qualification, the operator would be exempt from obtaining a CDL, reporting substance/alcohol testing, reporting hours of service, and physical and medical examinations.

Contact the Iowa Cattlemen's Association to learn more about Covered Farm Vehicle guidelines.

Prepared by the Iowa Cattlemen's Association. Adapted from Iowa DOT's *Farmers Guide to Transportation*.



IOWA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

2055 Ironwood Court | Ames, IA 50014 | 515-296-2266

For More Information on Iowa's Laws and Regulations Consult:

Iowa State Patrol's *Commercial Motor Vehicle Unit*: +1 (515) 725-1086

Iowa DOT's – PLOWING THROUGH THE REGULATIONS: *A Farmer's Guide to Iowa Transportation* (2025)