

DRIVING YOUR ATV OR UTV/ORV
ON IOWA PUBLIC ROADS AND STREETS

Know the Law. Ride Responsibly.

How to Drive on Public Roads

- Maximum speed limit is 35 MPH.
- Driver must be age 18 or older with a valid driver's license.
- Do not drive while impaired or with open alcohol container.
- Headlight(s) must be on at all times.

What is Required for the Vehicle

Slow-Moving Vehicle Sign

Reflective sign with an orange triangle and dark red border that **must be displayed on rear of vehicle for ag or personal use**.
(Iowa Code 321.383)

- Proof of insurance.
- Registered with Iowa DNR and sticker displayed on rear of vehicle.
- Out-of-state vehicle must have an Iowa DNR nonresident user permit sticker.
- Functioning required equipment, including but not limited to horn, mirror(s), headlight(s), tail lights, and brake lights.
- Display slow-moving vehicle sign.

When and Where You Can Ride

- Operation allowed day or night.
- Roadway use allowed (except interstates and four-lane roads).
- Use state two-lane or county highways only on the most direct, accessible route to an ATV/UTV/ORV park or trail, the nearest county road, an authorized city street, or your residence.
- Crossing multi-lane highways allowed only at intersections from authorized roads.

ATVs/UTVs and Iowa Law

ATVs/UTVs are regulated for use on roadways by Iowa code sections 321I and 321.234A.
Always refer to the most current version of the Iowa Code for legal guidance.

321I

321.234A

ATV vs. UTV/ORV: Key Differences

ATV *(All-Terrain Vehicle)*	**UTV/ORV** *(Utility Task Vehicle)* *(Off-Road Utility Vehicle)*
	
Handlebars	Steering wheel
1-2 riders straddle seat	2-6 riders sit inside bench or bucket seat
3,4, or 6 wheels	4 or 6 wheels

Exemptions for Ag Use on Public Roads
(Implements of Husbandry)

- No DNR registration required.
- No license needed if within 2 miles of farm. Class C license required if beyond 2 miles.
- Operation allowed only between sunrise and sunset.

Prioritize Your Safety

- Wear a helmet.
- Use a safety belt or harness, if available.
- Drive sober.

IOWA CODE REFERENCES

I. Non-Ag Operation Requirements

A. General Requirements:

- **Driver's License:** Valid license required — **(Iowa Code 321.234A(2))**
- **Insurance:** Valid liability insurance — **(321.234A(2))**
- **Minimum Age:** 18 years old — **(321.234A(2))**
- **Registration Decal:** Shall be affixed on rear of vehicle — **(IA Admin Code 571-46.7; 321.234A(4))**
- **Required Equipment:** As specified in Iowa Code Chapter 321 — **(321.234A(3))**

B. Lighting and Safety Equipment:

- **Headlamp(s):** Must be illuminated at all times — **(321.384, 321.386)**
- **Horn:** Required — **(321.432)**
- **Mirror:** Required — **(321.437)**
- **Rear Lamp:** Required — **(321.387)**
- **Signal Lamps:** Required — **(321.404)**
- **Slow-Moving Vehicle Sign:** Displayed on rear — **(321.383(2))**
- **Windows:** Frontside windows and windshield shall not be excessively dark — **(321.438)**

C. Operational Guidelines:

- **Direct Crossing:** Allowed on highways not part of the interstate — **(321.234A(f); 321I.10)**
- **Paved County Secondary Roads:** Permitted if authorized by county or for direct access — **(321.234A(f)*;* 321I.10(2–4))**
- **Road Use - State Highways:** Only on undivided, two-lane roads for direct access — **(321.234A(f)*;* 321I.10(2–4))**
- **Road Use - City Streets:** Permitted if authorized by city or for direct access — **(321.234A(f); (321I.10(5))**
- **Road Use - Unpaved County Roads:** Operation allowed — **(321.234A(f); 321I.10(2–4))**
- **Speed Limit:** Must not exceed 35 MPH — **(321.234A(2))**

II. Ag Operation Exemptions

A. License Requirement Exemption:

- **Not required if used for farm purposes — (321.176)**
  (Note: Cannot operate if license is suspended, barred, or revoked.)
- **2-mile limitation for ag operations — (IA Admin Code 761-605.3; 321.176)**

B. Operation Hours:

- **Only between sunrise and sunset — (321.234A(1))**

C. Registration Exemption:

- **Not required if used as an implement of husbandry — (321.234A)**

D. Speed Limit:

- **Must not exceed 35 MPH — (321.234A(2))**