



## DAIRYLAND DRIVING CLUB, INC.

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Dairyland Driving Club's primary goals are safe carriage driving and fellowship among members and guests. We are eager to share our knowledge and to promote education and safety in the sport of driving.

**Reprinted courtesy of the American Driving Society**

### Carriage Trail Driving Safety Tips

- **Never remove your bridle while your horse is hitched to a carriage.**
- Do not tie your horse to your trailer if still hitched to a carriage.
- Teach your horse to “whoa” and “stand” before a drive away from home.
- Check if there is drinking water available at the driving facility.
- Before the drive, check for harness wear and vehicle soundness.
- Make sure your breeching is properly adjusted.
- Consider using a gullet strap, or braid your horse's mane into your bridle to prevent its easy removal.
- Law requires a Slow Moving Vehicle sign if driving on public roads. It must be visible and three feet off the ground.
- Consider a safety vest, reflectors, bicycle flag and lights for better visibility.
- Have a Spares Kit including halter(s) and lead(s), and a First Aid Kit for horses and humans.
- Carry a fully charged cell phone on your person. Know the drive manager's number. Wear appropriate clothing, including sturdy footwear, driving gloves, and equestrian helmet.
- Carry a whip. It “replaces” your riding legs.
- If driving a pair, you need a groom. Do not drive two or more horses by yourself.
- When your horse is put to the vehicle, a knowledgeable driver needs to be in the vehicle with the reins in hand.
- Do not lead your horse from the ground while it is put to a vehicle.
- The driver is always the first person in the vehicle and the last one out.
- Stay on marked trails. Watch the trail ahead for turkeys, deer, and other animals. Avoid being out during hunting seasons.
- Do not let your horse nibble on plants along the trail. Some may be poisonous.
- Go from light to dark areas slowly so horse's eyes can adjust.
- Always cross perpendicular to railroad tracks.
- Cross bridges with care. Observe the condition of the bridge before you cross.
- Descend steep grades slowly.
- Call out to another driver to ask to pass. Once past, leave plenty of room between carriages. If you meet a rider, stop the carriage. Riding horses are often afraid of you. Allow the riders to determine how to safely pass.
- If driving on the road, drive in the middle of the lane. Look for places to get off the road safely.
- *Have a Great Time!*