



## Madison County Sheriff's Office

**Allen Riley, Sheriff**

Dedicated to improving the quality  
of life for the citizens of Madison  
County.

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[www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/sheriff](http://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/sheriff)

Provided by the Madison County  
Sheriff's Office – Funded by the National  
Highway Traffic Safety Administration with  
a grant from the New York State  
Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.



[www.safeny.ny.gov](http://www.safeny.ny.gov)



# Tips for safe driving on rural roads

## from the Madison County Sheriff's Office

# BE ALERT ! BUCKLE UP! SLOW DOWN!

The Madison County  
Sheriff's Office and the  
New York State Police  
investigated over 600  
Car Animal crashes in  
Madison County in 2013  
accounting for over  
58% of all crashes  
investigated by the two  
agencies.

## RURAL ROAD ISSUES

Most motorists believe that driving in city traffic is more dangerous than taking a ride on a scenic rural road.

Nothing could be further from the truth!

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

“Rural Americans face a greater risk of being killed or injured in traffic crashes than those who live and commute in urban areas.”

The motor vehicle fatality rate in rural areas is more than double the fatality rate than in urban areas.

Driving on a seemingly serene and non-congested rural road is NOT an invitation to daydream, speed or totally relax at the wheel.

Enjoy our scenery and your ride, but always:

- ◆ Pay attention to your driving
- ◆ Use your seatbelt
- ◆ Adjust your speed to conditions.

## RURAL ROAD CONCERNS

Most rural roads were not engineered for today’s amount and type of traffic.

Many are narrow two-lane highways with the lanes separated only by a line of paint—there is nothing to protect you from oncoming traffic but your attention to your driving.

Some rural roads are lined with telephone poles and trees—if you leave the roadway, you might hit something very solid.

A variety of vehicle types from passenger cars, to large trucks, farm vehicles, bicycles and horse drawn buggies use rural roads—this traffic mix creates a great speed differential, a factor in many serious crashes.

Wild and domestic animals live in rural areas. When startled by a vehicle, they may react in an erratic manner.

Many rural railroad crossings do not have flashing lights or gates to warn of oncoming trains - only signs mark many active crossings.

Rural roads do not have sidewalks—joggers, walkers and bicyclists share the roadway and shoulder.

If you are not paying attention while driving on a rural road, you may run into

a deer



Someone’s dear



Or even a Deere



**Any way, you lose!**