

Blind corners, harvest machinery hazards

A fatal school bus crash near Blue Hill. Tall corn obscuring intersections. Heavy harvest equipment rolling out on country roads.

District 20 bus drivers are on high alert this time of year.

"At every intersection, you've got to stop," said substitute bus driver and custodian Mitch Golter. "Slowing down is not good enough. You've got to see both ways."

In light of the Sept. 5 bus collision and the beginning of harvest, some changes have been made to insure students are safe.

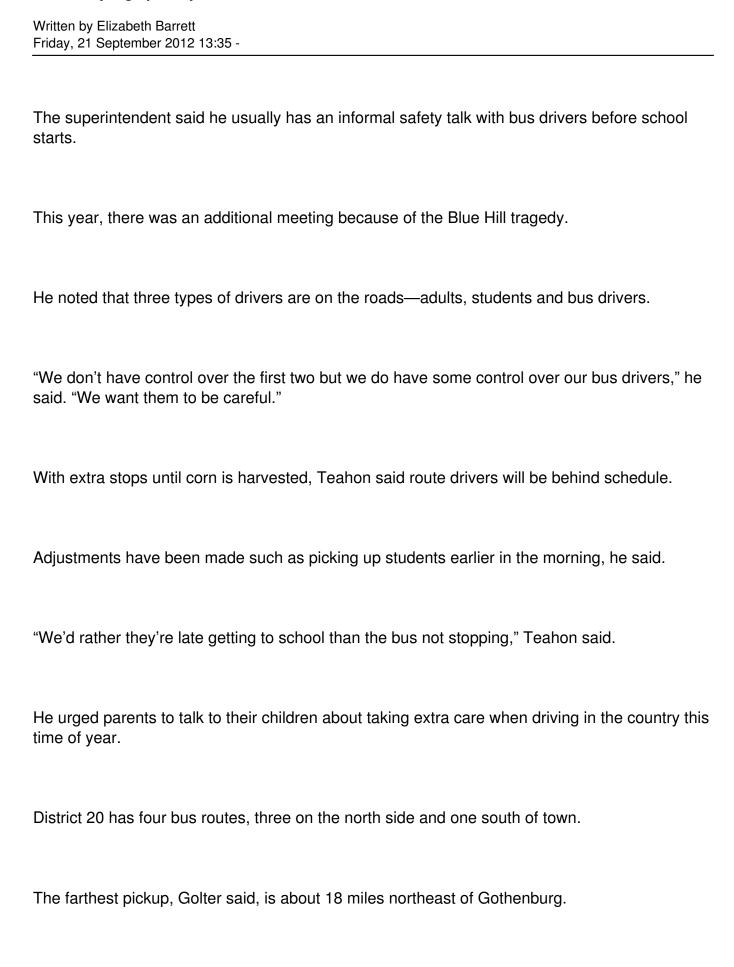
They include a drop in speed from 45 to 40 mph on country roads and stopping at all signs, according to superintendent Dr. Mike Teahon.

"If there's no stop sign, they're supposed to come to a near stop and ease into the intersection," Teahon said. "With the tall corn, those corners are blind."

And big trucks, laden with grain, carry more force when entering intersections.

Teahon said gravel piling in the middle of country roads is even more reason to slow down.

Bus safety high priority



Route parameters, Teahon said, are from Willow Island east to Buttermilk Hill west and north

Bus safety high priority

Written by Elizabeth Barrett Friday, 21 September 2012 13:35 -

into Custer County and south of Banner Road.

On average, 75 students ride buses daily. Students are eligible for school bus service if they live four miles or more from the school.

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