

Do the Minutes Matter...
Should Livestock Haulers be Exempt from the
Electronic Logging Device Mandate?



State FFA Convention- 04/19/2018
Eldon FFA Chapter- MO0064
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Eldon, MO 65026
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List course(s) in which instruction occurred including the number of students involved in the instruction of the issue. Instruction for the Eldon FFA Chapter's Agricultural Issues Forum Leadership Development Team took place during Agriculture Leadership and Agriculture Science II class with Mr. Shikles and all seven team members. The Agriculture Science II and Agriculture Leadership course standards clearly contain coursework on premier leadership in which students are able to acquire the skills necessary to create a positive impact. Students also acquired research gathering skills and the skills necessary to analyze an agricultural issue.

Why is the issue important now? December 18th, 2017 began phase two of the new electronic logging device mandate for commercial motor vehicles in the United States (FMCSA, 2016, 2). This second phase is part of a three-step process that mandated all commercial motor vehicles involved in interstate commerce to be equipped with Electronic Logging Devices (ELD) when operated by drivers who are required to keep records of duty status (FMCSA, 2015). ELDs are predicted to lower commercial driver accidents and increase efficiency of hours of duty status recording. Eldon is home to two livestock markets, as well as four major transport companies directly affected by this mandate. Independent livestock haulers within Eldon have stated this mandate will put them out of business, while other transport companies such as Opies Transport and S&S Auto Transport are complying with the mandate and have seen added benefits to their company (Albert, K, 2018). Numerous agricultural advocates across the nation have come out in opposition of the mandate citing its harmful effects on U.S. agriculture.

What is the nature of the issue? This issue began in 2012 when Congress passed the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP- 21) Act. required the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to pass a rule to require the use of ELDs that would automatically record the number of hours a commercial driver was on the road (FMCSA, 2015). All commercial vehicle drivers are required to make the switch from paper logbooks to ELDs. Many transport companies such as Opies and S&S Auto in Eldon have seen added benefits from implementing ELDs (Albert, K, 2018). These benefits include improved driver health and improved load-tracking abilities. Although there are many benefits, some drivers feel the FMCSA failed to consider everyone in the making of this mandate. Livestock haulers are frustrated their industry was not taken into account. Forced to comply with this mandate, commercial livestock drivers would have to pull over and leave their animals in their tightly compacted trailer for ten hours of rest, which drivers argue, is inhumane. It also poses health risks that may reduce the quality of their products. Livestock drivers are seeking an exemption from the mandate, citing additional animal safety and industry security concerns (NPPC, 2017).

Who is involved? The FMCSA is the organization who created and is implementing the mandate. All ELDs must be registered through them (FMCSA, 2015, 1). The three and a half million commercial truck drivers across our country will be affected the most by this mandate (American Trucking Associations, 2018, 1). Commercial truck owners must comply or they will be fined (Cuthbertson, T., 2017, 1). These drivers are responsible for distributing our nation's goods. If this mandate does inhibit their efficiency, then it could indirectly affect all American consumers by prices of goods rising and time between deliveries increasing.

How can the issue be defined? The FMCSA ELD mandate updates the logging system for commercial truck drivers and has created frustration among many commercial vehicle operators.

Many agricultural organizations and agricultural commercial truck drivers feel they must be exempt from the MAP-21 ELD mandate. Livestock haulers feel that restricting their driving hours or forcing them to stop in risky areas would be harmful to the drivers themselves and their livestock. Proponents of the mandate argue that all motorists' roadway safety must be considered, and this mandate must apply to all commercial vehicle operators.

What is the historical background of the issue? In 1938, paper logs were introduced to commercial truck drivers (H.G., 2015). They required drivers to monitor their hours of service (FMCSA, 2013). In 2012, Congress passed the MAP-21 Act, this stated guidelines for the FMCSA to create a mandate for the use of ELDs that would automatically record driving hours (FMCSA, 2017). Three years later in 2015, FMCSA announced the final rule would be published on December 16, 2015 (FMCSA, 2015). Since the publication of the mandate and the compliance date was set to be December 18, 2017, commercial drivers all over the country are taking sides whether they are for an easier and faster way to record hours or they are arguing to be able to drive as many hours as they want. Drivers who disapprove of the mandate are taking a stand (Dills,T., 2017).

What caused this issue? An inefficient and outdated logging system caused this issue. Paper logbooks have been used since 1938 and were often inaccurate and inefficient (H.G., 2015, 1). ELDs were created to make data recording more organized and more effective, which would hold drivers more accountable for adhering to the hours of service rules. Although the hours of service did not change for drivers, the fact that livestock haulers must pull over when they reach daily limit has led to outrage. They feel this will lead to livestock being forced to spend many more hours on a trailer and cut into profits within the livestock industry (Thrower, B., 2017).

What are the risks? Livestock haulers argue that by forcing them to comply with the mandate it would risk the safety of both their drivers and their livestock (Thrower, B., 2017, 1). It may also jeopardize the availability of meat across the United States. The FMCSA (2015) and other proponents insist the mandate will make United States roads safer and load tracking more reliable. They maintain the lives saved and the added efficiency will far outweigh the risks to livestock.

What are the benefits? Exempting livestock haulers from the ELD mandate would ensure that it is business as usual for that industry and that livestock will continue to reach their destinations on time without any additional stress to the livestock (Bledsoe, G., 2018). Adhering to the mandate, ELDs are more efficient and our roads are safer with them being used (FMCSA, 2015). In addition, the FMCSA reported that switching to ELDs on average would save 26 lives a year (FMCSA, 2015). Drivers could manipulate the old paper log books, used in the past, to say that they drove more or fewer hours than they actually did (ELD Facts, 2017).

Are there any strong disagreements on the issue? As stated by the FMCSA, the ELD mandate was established to add additional safety and efficiency to the transport industry (FMCSA, 2015). Livestock haulers disagree. They have expressed their deep concern for their livestock and for their own safety (Bledsoe, G., 2018). This has led to nationwide demonstrations and rallies in attempts to gain exemptions from the mandate (Dills,T., 2017).

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Eggs & Issues with Legislators

Date: March 9, 2018

Time: 7:00 A.M.

Location: Eldon Community Center

Number in Attendance: 110

This annual event is hosted by the Eldon Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the breakfast is for elected officials and citizens to discuss any concerns that they have with their representatives. At this year's event, we presented to many of our legislators including David Wood, Rocky Miller, Blaine Luetkemeyer, as well as our city mayor and councilmen. Along with elected officials, members of the Chamber of Commerce were in attendance. This gave us access to three different trucking companies who sent representatives to the event.



The *Eldon Advertiser* is our town's newspaper, and they recorded our presentation at Eggs and Issues and then put it on their website for viewers to watch. The video was viewed by hundreds on their website.

2018 Mid- MO Women in Agriculture Conference

Date: March 6, 2018

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Location: 1st Baptist Church California, MO

Number in Attendance: 165

The Mid- Missouri Women in Agriculture Conference is a distinguished group that is held in California, Missouri. Women from California and surrounding communities interested in farming practices attend the event. At the event, attendees visit vendors' booths as well as attend educational sessions throughout the day. Our team was able to present the electronic logging device mandate issue to the entire group during their welcoming session that morning. It was a great opportunity to meet with a large group of agriculturalists, many of whom have large farming operations at home and may be directly affected by this issue.



Missouri Department of Agriculture Forum

Date: March 7, 2018

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: MO Department of Agriculture, Jefferson City, MO

Number in Attendance: 15

On March 7th, our Agricultural Issues Team presented to the Agriculture Business Development Division of the Missouri Department of Agriculture in Jefferson City, Missouri. The group offered many questions about the issues and offered suggestions to help us better our presentation as we go forward in competition.



DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
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CHRIS CHINN
DIRECTOR

March 7, 2018

Kent Shikles
Eldon FFA
112 S Pine St
Eldon, Mo. 65026

Dear Mr. Shikles:

It was a pleasure to welcome the Eldon FFA Issues Team to the Missouri Department of Agriculture today. Our Agriculture Business Development Division employees enjoyed the presentation and were impressed by how well the students knew the subject matter and how prepared they were to offer both sides of a challenging issue. Employees were also happy to offer suggestions to the group as they move toward state competition.

Best wishes in further competitions to a talented group of young people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Christi".

Christi Miller
Missouri Grown Manager

Eldon Young Farmers Meeting

Date: March 6, 2018

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: First Baptist Church, Eldon, MO

Number in Attendance: 40

The Eldon Young Farmers Organization is a group of agriculturists who either have farming operations themselves or have a direct interest in agriculture. Most of the members have cattle operations, but some have small grain farms. This group meets monthly and discusses issues in agriculture. The meetings typically feature a guest speaker from outside the community. During the March meeting our Ag Issues team presented to the group. One of our team members came down sick during the day and was not able to present. Instead, we improvised and played a video recording from our presentation at the Mid- MO Women in Ag Conference from earlier that morning. After watching the presentation, the remaining members took turns and individually answered questions to ensure each member could answer questions directed specifically at them.



Mr. Kent Shikles
Advisor, Eldon FFA
112 S. Pine Streets
Eldon, MO 65026

Mr. Shikles,

On behalf of the Eldon Area Young Farmers Association, I would like to thank you for providing the program for our meeting last Tuesday evening. The presentation by Eldon FFA's Agriculture Issues Team was not only very relevant to our members attending, it was enjoyable. Having both livestock producers and individuals involved in the trucking industry in attendance, the information your team presented on Electronic Logging Devices was very beneficial.

The leadership the FFA members displayed was outstanding. Their speaking abilities and stage presence while presenting both sides of the issue were remarkable. You and your students are to be commended on the incredible presentation!

Best wishes on your future presentations and competitions!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Willard Haley".

Willard Haley
Eldon Area Young Farmers

Olean Livestock Market Forum

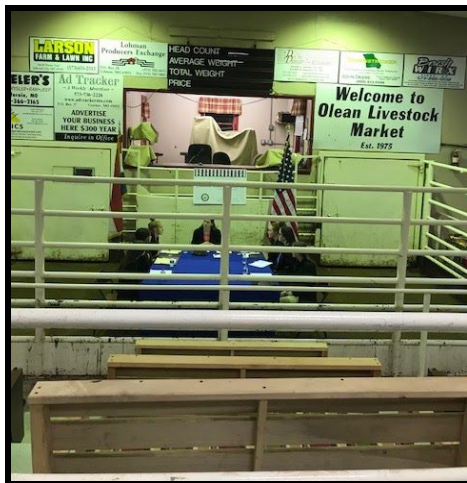
Date: March 20, 2018

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: Olean Livestock Market, Eldon, MO

Number in Attendance: 32

Eldon is home to two livestock markets and Miller County ranks in the top ten counties in our state for beef production. The purpose of this forum was to present to local livestock haulers and cattle ranchers to gauge whether or not we are accurately representing their concerns with this mandate. After the presentation, we fielded questions from various cattlemen and women about the definition of what a commercial vehicle is, as well as how this mandate will affect livestock producers and haulers.



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CODY BLEDSOE (573) 286-2979		TODD LAWSON (573) 280-4583

March 21, 2018

Eldon FFA – Agricultural Issues Team

It was our pleasure to host your Agricultural Issues Team at the Olean Livestock Market on the evening of March 20th, 2018. It was enlightening to hear the views of your teams topic of the Electronic Logging Devices (ELD) impacting the agriculture industry. Your forum was very informative and the team had a very professional presentation.

Good luck with the contests in the coming days.

Again, thank you for presenting.

Sincerely,


Janice Bledsoe
Olean Livestock Market, Inc.

Opies Transport Forum

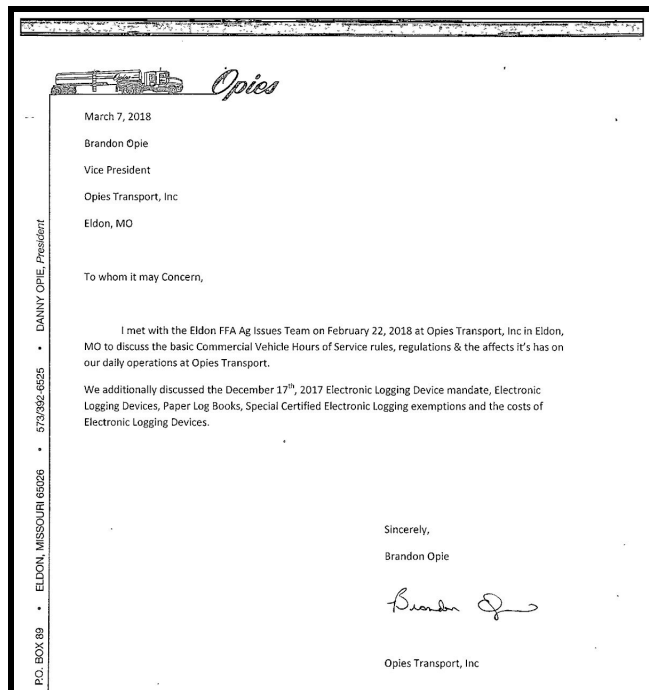
Date: February 22, 2018

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Location: Opies Transport Inc., Eldon,
MO

Number in Attendance: 15

On Thursday, February 22nd our Agriculture Issues team presented to a small group at Opies Transport. Opies is our community's largest transport company and also has strong ties to our FFA Chapter. They also have a direct interest in the ELD mandate because their company has had to equip their entire fleet with the devices. Meeting with their dispatchers and drivers allowed us to gain additional knowledge of how these ELD help monitor and record a driver's actions.



MOACTE Legislative Day

Date: February 14, 2018

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Location: Missouri State Capitol

Number of Attendance: 33

Each year our career center sends students to the MOACTE Legislative Day at the Capitol. This day is an excellent opportunity to meet with legislators and discuss current legislation and other issues. Typically the day is focused around educational legislation; however, our team took the opportunity to present our issue of the electronic logging device mandate. Every legislator we met with did not have a solution in mind for Missouri directly, but stated that our state must follow the rules set by the federal government.



Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Forum

Date: June 19th, 2018

Time: 2:30 P.M.

Location: Department of
Transportation Headquarters,
Washington D.C.

Number in Attendance: 12

In June members of our issues team had the privilege to attend the Washington Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. While attending the conference, members took time to visit the Department of Transportation to meet with representatives about this issue. Bill Mahorney, the Chief of the enforcement division of the FMCSA, set up two meeting rooms for members from opposing sides to research and gain additional information on the issue. Members also were given the opportunity to demonstrate their roles in their presentation.



Missouri Retired Agriculture Teachers Association Forum

Date: August 25th, 2018

Time: 10:30 A.M.

Location: 1st Baptist Church
California, MO

Number in Attendance: 57

Our team was invited to the Missouri Retired Agriculture Teachers Association to inform the group about the Electronic Logging Device mandate. Many of the former teachers now spend their days farming full time, and were curious to see if they would be negatively affected by the mandate. Two of the retired agriculture teachers now serve as representatives of their home districts in the Missouri House of Representatives; They were interested in the politics involved in our issue.

