

## Incident report

Overloaded grain cart vs. Audubon County bridge

Nov 1, 2008

Late on Oct 31, 2008, a certain Jim Kjergaard was hauling a load of corn across a four span wood bridge when the structure collapsed. The grain wagon dropped into the creek, but the tractor fortuitously avoided damage. Mr. Kjergaard's 1050 bushel load probably weighed about 70,800 pounds, with ~64,800 bearing on the single cart axle. Along with his tractor the total load was around 90,000 pounds. For reasons known only to the operator, he chose to cross the bridge fully loaded despite a clear, posted load limit of 9 tons. It makes one wonder if county engineers have any hope of ever persuading the agri-business community that load restrictions are not made in jest.

View 1:



View 2:



View 3:



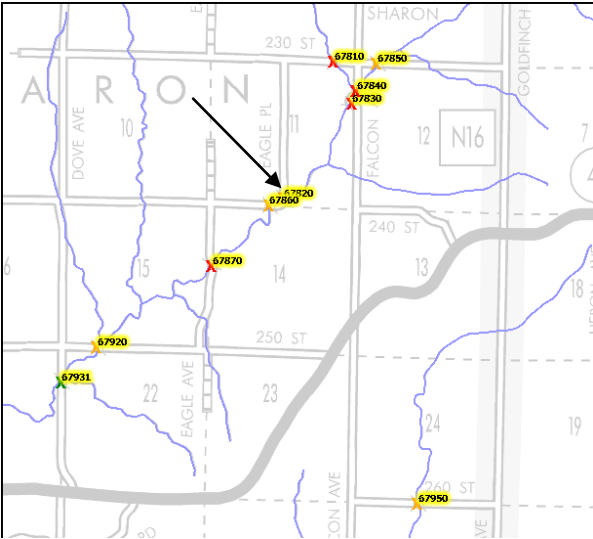


Load limit sign:



Ironically, the bridge is one of two structures on either side of a curve scheduled to be by-passed with a small grading project in the January 2009 IDOT letting.

Location: Section 11, Sharon Township, Audubon Co.



Inventory shot:

