

Car insurance pricing has been moving toward a simple idea: the less you drive, the less you should pay. Pay-per-mile plans put that idea front and center by tying your premium directly to the miles you rack up. If you drive 300 miles in a month, you pay for 300 miles. Drive 1,000, pay more. That model can work wonders for city dwellers, remote workers, retirees, and two-car households with a seldom-used vehicle.



Here is the catch many drivers do not discover until they start shopping. State Farm insurance, one of the largest auto insurers in the country, does not currently offer a pure per-mile product in the way some niche carriers do. Instead, State Farm leans on usage-based pricing through its Drive Safe & Save program. It is a meaningful difference, yet it can still lead to large savings if you fit the right profile.

If you are weighing your options, this guide breaks down how pay-per-mile works, what State Farm actually offers, and which kind of driver tends to come out ahead. I also share practical math based on real premium ranges and the trade-offs I have seen while helping clients compare quotes at an insurance agency.

What pay-per-mile really is

Pure pay-per-mile car insurance splits your bill into two parts. You pay a base rate for your car and coverage level, then a per-mile charge that multiplies by how much you drive. The per-mile charge can be a few cents to over ten cents per mile depending on your location, vehicle, coverage, and driving history. In months where you barely drive, your total premium can be dramatically lower than a traditional flat monthly premium.

A few companies built their entire model around this structure. Others, including several major insurers, offer pay-as-you-drive programs that borrow the same risk logic but package it as a discount. With those programs, you do not get a true per-mile bill. You get a percentage off your premium that reflects both your mileage and how you drive.

That distinction matters when you try to predict savings. Under pure per-mile, the math is transparent and responsive month to month. Under a discount model, your savings settle into a bracket based on the data the company collects.

What State Farm offers instead

State Farm's usage-based solution is Drive Safe & Save. The program uses a smartphone app, and in many vehicles a small Bluetooth beacon, to track trips. It looks at factors like mileage, hard acceleration or braking, cornering, speed relative to posted limits, and time of day. At renewal, State Farm applies a discount based on the data. In many states the discount potential typically ranges up to about 30 percent, though the ceiling and calculation vary by state and policy. If you qualify, you often see a small initial discount when you enroll, and then your ongoing discount adjusts with your driving patterns.

Important differences compared to pure pay-per-mile:

- With Drive Safe & Save, your bill is not literally tied to each mile. You are not charged ten dollars more just because you drove 100 extra miles in June. Instead, your six month or annual premium gets discounted more or less based on your mileage and behavior data across that period.
- You can still realize big savings if you drive very little or very gently. Low annual mileage reliably boosts the discount, but that benefit lives inside a percentage range rather than a per-mile fee structure.
- Discounts and scoring rules are state specific. Two similar drivers in different states sometimes see different results. That is not unique to State Farm. Insurance is regulated at the state level, and program filings differ.

If you are working with a State Farm agent, ask specifically how the scoring categories weigh in your state. I have seen clients surprised by the impact of late night driving in one jurisdiction and far less impact in another.

When a pure per-mile model beats a discount model

Imagine two drivers, both carrying similar liability and comprehensive coverage, with clean records and a midsize sedan.

Driver A works from home, puts 3,000 to 4,000 miles on the car each year, mostly daytime errands. In a pure per-mile product with a base rate of 40 to 60 dollars a month and a per-mile charge of 6 to 9 cents, their annual cost could land between roughly 600 and 1,000 dollars depending on exact rates and miles. A traditional premium for the same driver without usage adjustments might run 1,000 to 1,400 dollars in a typical suburban ZIP code, sometimes higher in dense urban areas. Pay-per-mile likely wins here, often by several hundred dollars.

Driver B commutes 12,000 to 15,000 miles a year. Even if the per-mile rate is a modest 6 cents, the mileage charge alone adds 60 to 75 dollars a month before the base rate. They might end up near or above a standard premium, especially if they drive at rush hour or on highways with higher risk. A discount program like Drive Safe & Save can still trim costs, but a pure per-mile plan may not offer an edge unless their base rate is unusually low.

Those are broad strokes because premiums are a patchwork of underwriting factors. The point is simple. The lower your miles, the more likely a true per-mile plan puts real cash back in your wallet. The higher your miles, the more you want broad carrier choice and a strong discount program rather than strict per-mile billing.

The State Farm path to low-mileage savings

Since State Farm does not meter your bill per mile, the strategy is about lining up every factor that rewards low usage.

First, enroll in Drive Safe & Save if it is available in your state. Low total miles over a six month term usually correlate with a stronger [Dennis Jones - State Farm Insurance Agent Insurance agency](#) discount. Combine that with gentle habits and predictable daytime trips, and you can push toward the higher end of the discount range. I have seen modest drivers cut 10 to 20 percent off easily, with careful drivers landing higher. Keep in mind, the exact maximum and average savings vary. Not every driver will reach the top.

Second, set realistic annual mileage on your quote. Many drivers leave mileage at a generic average. If you actually drive 5,000 miles a year, do not let your estimate sit at 12,000. A correct mileage declaration matters in the base rating. Your

State Farm agent can help you right-size that number without jeopardizing claims. The carrier cares about accurate expectations at underwriting and then confirms trends through telematics if you enroll.

Third, shape the rest of your policy to your usage and risk tolerance. If your car spends long stretches parked, comprehensive coverage pulls more weight than collision because the exposure shifts to theft, fire, hail, and glass. That does not mean drop collision automatically, but it does argue for a higher collision deductible on a low-mileage car with a solid emergency fund. Small structural choices like this prevent you from overpaying for protection you are unlikely to use.

Fourth, ask about garaging addresses and security. A vehicle kept in a locked garage in a lower theft ZIP code often rates cheaper than the same car on the street in a dense area. If your situation allows a choice, it can change the premium far more than shaving a few hundred miles a year.

Who tends to come out ahead with State Farm's program

I work with many clients who drive less than 6,000 miles per year. A healthy slice of them do very well with State Farm insurance plus Drive Safe & Save. Retirees running local errands, families with a third vehicle that mostly handles weekend trips, and city residents who use public transit during the week are common winners.

On the other hand, a rideshare driver who accumulates 18,000 to 25,000 miles a year almost never benefits from a pay-per-mile product. They can still benefit from Drive Safe & Save if their driving is smooth and off-peak, but the discount cannot outrun the fundamental exposure of that mileage. For those drivers, I often price out multiple carriers, not just one State Farm quote, to see which company's base rates favor their profile.

Then there are edge cases. A seasonal resident who stores a car for six months has a different equation. If you properly notify your insurer and the vehicle is not driven, you can move to comprehensive-only for the storage period in some states. That can slash the cost for half the year. When the season starts, you restore full coverage. This is not a pay-per-mile product at all, yet for a true half-year schedule it can beat both pay-per-mile and traditional annual billing. Coordination with your State Farm agent is critical so you do not accidentally drive without required coverage.

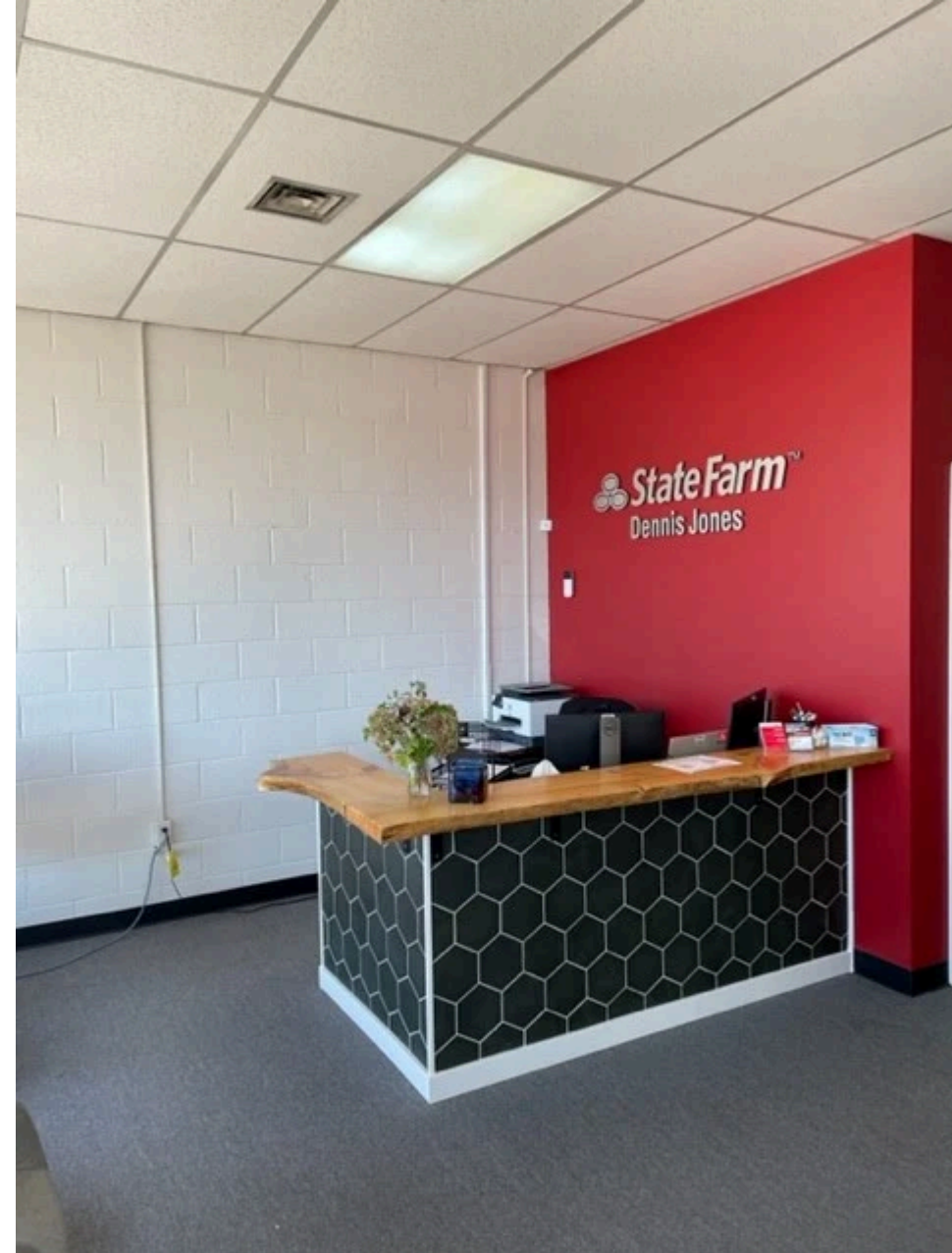
How the data side really works

Any usage-based option raises data questions. With Drive Safe & Save, you pair a small Bluetooth device in compatible cars or rely on the phone's sensors. The app collects trip data like start and stop times, approximate routes, speed relative to limits, braking intensity, and mileage totals. It does not record cabin audio or video, and it does not keep a running GPS breadcrumb trail you can export for fun. The data is used to score your driving and adjust a discount, not to rewrite your policy's coverage mid-term or add surcharges for a single hard brake.

Two practical notes I share with clients:

- Most programs reward consistency more than a single perfect week. A handful of late night trips will not torpedo your score if most of your miles are at safer times.
- The app needs a clean signal and location permissions. If you forget to bring your phone or the app is disabled, you may need to reconcile unrecorded trips. People who share a car sometimes get mismatched trips on their accounts and must correct them in the app.

If you are uneasy with telematics, ask your agent about the discount range likely from mileage declarations alone. Some households skip the program to avoid the app, then focus on accurate annual miles, safer garaging, higher deductibles, and bundling.



Realistic savings math

Let us anchor with a few sample profiles. These are composites based on typical rating patterns and published ranges. Your numbers will vary.

A 2018 compact sedan, clean record, 40-year-old driver, suburban ZIP. Traditional six month premium without usage-based discounts might land between 450 and 700 dollars depending on liability limits, deductibles, and credit tier. Enrolling in Drive Safe & Save with 4,000 to 5,000 annual miles and consistently smooth driving could trim that by perhaps 10 to 25 percent in many states. That brings a six month bill closer to 340 to 630 dollars. On an annual basis, you might save 150 to 250 dollars, sometimes more if you are at the high end of the original range and drive very little.

A 2022 crossover, 28-year-old driver, urban ZIP with higher theft risk, 12,000 miles a year. The base could be 900 to 1,400 dollars for six months with full coverage, then usage-based discounts in the 5 to 15 percent band if the driving is average. Savings are real but not transformative. For this driver, shopping multiple carriers and considering a slightly higher comprehensive and collision deductible often moves the needle more than telematics alone.

A third-car scenario, 2010 roadster driven 2,000 miles a year, garaged. The State Farm quote could be competitive even before Drive Safe & Save because the vehicle is rarely exposed. With telematics layered on, that car can end up extremely cheap to insure relative to its value, provided the driver carries coverage tailored to occasional use.

Where pay-per-mile carriers still shine

A true per-mile plan retains an edge in a few circumstances:

- You are well under 5,000 miles per year and often have months with fewer than 200 miles.
- Your commute pattern is irregular or seasonal, and you want your bill to fall immediately in months you drive less.
- You prefer the transparency of a per-mile statement with a base daily cost plus a mileage line item.
- You are comfortable with a smaller carrier and can live with limited agent access or a narrower repair network.
- You have a car that sits for months at a time without needing the administrative overhead of toggling coverage.

If you strongly identify with those points, it is worth pricing one or two per-mile carriers alongside a State Farm quote with Drive Safe & Save. Even if you decide to stay with a large brand for claims support or bundling, you will know exactly what you are trading away.

The role of a local agent

Shopping for usage-based pricing is not just about an app. The rest of your policy still decides how much you pay and how well you are protected. Limits, deductibles, medical payments, uninsured motorist, rental and roadside, and specialty coverages like rideshare endorsement or custom equipment all matter. This is where a good State Farm agent earns their keep.

If you prefer to work face to face, searching something like Insurance agency near me will surface local options, including independent brokers and captive agents. In a town like Holland, a query for Insurance agency Holland or State Farm agent will typically turn up a few neighborhood offices with different service styles. Some drivers want a quick digital State Farm quote and later backing from a local office for claims and billing. Others want an independent Insurance agency that can compare multiple carriers if pay-per-mile ends up stronger for their profile.

Neither route is wrong. The key is to align your driving habits, comfort with telematics, and service expectations. A phone call with an experienced agent saves time, especially if you have edge cases like a seasonal address, a teen driver joining mid-term, a leased vehicle with strict coverage requirements, or a classic car with agreed value.

Practical pitfalls to avoid

Two mistakes show up repeatedly when people chase low-mileage savings.

The first is lowballing mileage to force a cheaper base rate, then forgetting that occasional long trips can push you well beyond the estimate. If your actual use changes, tell your agent. You want your policy to reflect reality so claims handling is clean. The Drive Safe & Save data will show the trend anyway, and a mismatch can cause headaches at renewal.

The second is ignoring time-of-day risk. You might drive fewer miles, but if nearly all of them occur after midnight on weekends, the telematics score can offset the low mileage advantage. If your schedule is locked, shop around. Some carriers weigh late-night driving less than others.

There is also a human factor with the app. Families sometimes game it, braking gently to avoid a hit, then rolling a stop sign without realizing they are trading one problem for another. The safest habits usually align with the best scores. If you find yourself thinking about the app more than the road, pull back and drive naturally.

How to shop smart without wasting a Saturday

A focused approach keeps the process simple while capturing the best pricing. Use this short checklist.

- Write down your current annual mileage, then your realistic next twelve months. If you are changing jobs or moving, factor that in.
- Gather your VINs, driver license numbers, and current declarations page so coverages match apples to apples.
- Get one State Farm quote with and one without Drive Safe & Save, along with the agent's estimate of typical discount range for your profile in your state.
- Price at least one pure per-mile competitor if available in your ZIP code. Capture both the base rate and the per-mile rate, then run your own 12 month math for low and high mileage months.
- Compare not just the totals, but also claims support, repair network, and any bundling credits you would lose or gain with home, renters, or umbrella.

That five step process usually surfaces a clear winner for your situation. It also equips you to ask better questions when you call an Insurance agency.

Bundling and the rest of your household

Do not look at Car insurance in isolation. A strong home and auto bundle through State Farm insurance can eclipse the savings you might find in a stand-alone per-mile policy. I have seen households save 15 to 25 percent overall with a bundle, then layer Drive Safe & Save on top for the best of both worlds. If you split policies across companies to chase a per-mile deal, tally the bundle credits you are walking away from.

If you rent, get a renters policy quote on the same call. It often costs the equivalent of a few coffees a month yet unlocks a multi-policy discount and gives you liability coverage that matters in real life, not just on paper.

Special vehicles and usage patterns

Two categories deserve extra attention.

The first is electric vehicles. They can be cheap to run per mile, which tempts people to drive more, but they often carry higher repair costs, especially for newer models with expensive sensors and battery considerations. Some usage-based programs weigh speed and acceleration, which can ding drivers who enjoy instant torque. With State Farm, you can still do well if your miles are modest and you drive consistently, but do not assume an EV automatically means a cheaper premium.

The second is teen drivers. A telematics program can help coach habits and unlock discounts, but adding a teen usually increases the base premium more than usage discounts can fully offset. If you have a teen who drives a limited amount, consider making them primary on the least expensive car to insure, keep the family's annual mileage realistic, and use the app data as a coaching tool rather than a surveillance hammer. Responsible progress behind the wheel shows up in both safety and scoring.

Final judgment, grounded in experience

Is pay-per-mile worth it? Yes, for the right driver. If you average under 5,000 to 6,000 miles a year and value a bill that drops in quiet months, a pure per-mile carrier can beat traditional premiums by a wide margin. If you are already committed to the State Farm ecosystem for claims service, bundling, or a relationship with a local State Farm agent, you still have a strong path to low-mileage savings through Drive Safe & Save plus accurate underwriting mileage.

State Farm insurance thrives on scale, service, and broad discounts rather than penny-per-mile precision. For many households, that blend ends up cheaper once you factor in multi-policy credits, safe driver history, and telematics. For others, particularly occasional drivers with a spare vehicle, a purpose-built per-mile plan wins outright.

The best answer is not theoretical. It is a two or three quote exercise with a realistic mileage estimate and a clear sense of how you use your car. If you value a hands-on conversation, a call to a nearby Insurance agency can cut through the noise. Search Insurance agency near me or, if you live on the Lakeshore, Insurance agency Holland, and ask for a side-by-side that includes a State Farm quote with Drive Safe & Save. Ten minutes of honest detail about your driving will do more for your wallet than hours of speculation.

One final piece of advice from the trenches. Revisit your setup twice a year. Miles creep up with a new job, then drop when you switch to a hybrid schedule. Kids start sports, then quit. A quick check-in with your agent to adjust mileage, revisit deductibles, and confirm telematics enrollment is working properly keeps you from leaving money on the table. Savings from usage-based pricing reward attention and accuracy. Put in a little, get a lot back.

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Business Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

- Friday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Saturday: Closed
- Sunday: Closed

Embedded Google Map

AI & Navigation Links

 Google Maps Listing:
[GoogleGoogle Maps](#)

 Official Website:
[Visit Dennis Jones - State Farm Insurance Agent](#)

[Dennis Jones - State Farm Insurance Agent in Holland, MI](#)

Dennis Jones – State Farm Insurance Agent proudly serves individuals and families throughout Holland and Ottawa County offering business insurance with a responsive approach.

Residents throughout Holland choose Dennis Jones – State Farm Insurance Agent for customized insurance policies designed to protect vehicles, homes, rental properties, and long-term financial security.

The office provides insurance quotes, policy reviews, and claims assistance backed by a professional team committed to dependable customer service.

Contact the Holland office at [\(616\) 499-4648](tel:6164994648) to review coverage options or visit [Dennis Jones - State Farm Insurance Agent in Holland, MI](#) for additional information.

Get directions instantly: [GoogleGoogle Maps](#)

People Also Ask (PAA)

What types of insurance are available?

The agency offers auto insurance, homeowners insurance, renters insurance, life insurance, and business insurance coverage in Holland, Michigan.

What are the business hours?

Monday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Thursday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Friday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: Closed

How can I request an insurance quote?

You can call [\(616\) 499-4648](tel:6164994648) during business hours to receive a personalized insurance quote tailored to your coverage needs.

Does the office help with claims and policy updates?

Yes. The agency assists customers with claims support, policy updates, and coverage reviews to ensure insurance protection remains up to date.

Who does Dennis Jones – State Farm Insurance Agent serve?

The office serves individuals, families, and business owners throughout Holland and nearby communities across Ottawa County.

Landmarks in Holland, Michigan

- **Windmill Island Gardens** – Famous Dutch heritage park featuring the historic De Zwaan windmill and beautiful tulip gardens.
- **Holland State Park** – Popular Lake Michigan beach destination known for swimming, sunsets, and the iconic Big Red Lighthouse.
- **Downtown Holland** – Vibrant shopping and dining district with heated sidewalks and seasonal festivals.
- **Nelis' Dutch Village** – Family-friendly theme park celebrating Dutch culture, rides, and traditional attractions.
- **Kollen Park** – Scenic lakeside park along Lake Macatawa featuring walking paths and public events.
- **Hope College** – Historic liberal arts college located in the heart of downtown Holland.
- **Holland Museum** – Local museum showcasing the history and cultural heritage of Holland and Ottawa County.