Agricultural products are:

- Nursery plants
- Christmas trees
- Horticultural plants and crops
- Viticultural plants and crops
- Cultivated plants and crops
- Aquaculture products
- Dairy products
- Livestock
- Poultry
- Bee products
- Or other farm products

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

Registered Farm Vehicles (these vehicles display a DMV-issued F-tag)

For what purposes can I use a registered farm vehicle?

Vehicles that are registered for farming purposes can be used to transport:

- Agricultural products to market or to other points for sale, processing, or storage;
- Materials, tools, equipment, or supplies that will be used or consumed on the farm;
- Anything incidental to the routine operation of the farm;
- Farm produce, supplies, equipment, or materials to another farm or through a mutual agreement with the owner of the other farm;
- Forest products to the farm including forest materials originating on a farm or related to the regular operation of the farm;
- Forest products which originate on the farm.

When I register my vehicle as a farm vehicle, will I be asked for information about my farm?

Yes. You will be asked to provide:

- Location and acreage of the farm or farms;
- Type of commodity farmed and the approximate amounts produced annually;
- A signed statement that the vehicle will be used only for authorized purposes.

How much does a farm vehicle registration cost?

To register a vehicle for farming purposes you will pay one-half the registration fee paid for a private vehicle; however, your registration fee will be at least $15. Va. Code § 46.2-6/8

Who may use farm vehicles plates?

Farm vehicle license plates issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles may be used on a vehicle used for farming purposes by anyone who owns, rents, or operates a farm of a size that reasonably requires the use of such a vehicle to transport agricultural products.

Can a farm vehicle using F-tags be used for anything other than farming?

Yes; however, non-farm use is limited to the personal use of the owner and his immediate family to attend church or school, to secure medical treatment or supplies, or to secure other household or family necessities.

Are there penalties for knowingly registering a vehicle as a farm vehicle when it will not be used for farming purposes?

Yes. Knowingly making a false statement on a registration application is a Class 6 felony. Va. Code § 46.2-605

Is there a penalty for operating a farm vehicle for non-farm purposes on a Virginia highway?

Yes. Operating a vehicle bearing an F-tag for non-farm use on a Virginia highway is a Class 2 misdemeanor. Va. Code § 46.2-6/8(6)

Does a farm vehicle have to be titled?

Yes. Every motor vehicle operated on a highway must be titled, even those exempt from registration. This excludes farm tractors. Va. Code § 46.2-600

Road Tax

A person, firm, or corporation who operates vehicles on a public highway regardless of the owner and his immediate family to attend church or school, to secure medical treatment or supplies, or to secure other household or family necessities.

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You are not required to register or pay a registration fee for any motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, or fertilizer spreader drawn by a farm tractor used by a farmer, his tenant, agent or employee or a cotton ginner, peanut buyer, or fertilizer distributor to transport ungrinned cotton, peanuts, or fertilizer owned by the farm tractor operator, cotton gin, peanut buyer, or fertilizer distributor from one farm to another, from farm to gin, from farm to dryer, from farm to market, or from fertilizer distributor to farm and on return to the distributor. However, this exemption does not apply to vehicles operated on a for-hire basis.

You are not required to register or pay a registration fee for any farm machinery or tractor when operated on a highway (i) between one tract of land and another regardless of whether the land is owned by the same person or (ii) to and from a repair shop for repairs.

You are not required to register or pay a registration fee for farm vehicles making a return trip from one sawmill or sawmill site and the farm to or from a repair shop for repairs or across a highway from one adjoining tract of land to another.

The exemption applies only to vehicles that are not registered or operated on or over any public highway for any purpose.

Unregistered Farm Vehicles (These vehicles may display a sign or placard that says “Farm Use”)

When am I not required to register a vehicle?

You are not required to register a vehicle if

- (obtain license plates and decals) or pay a registration fee for pickup or panel trucks, sport utility vehicles, vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 7,500 pounds and trailers or semi-trailers used exclusively for agricultural or horticultural purposes.
- crossing a highway;
- operating along a highway for a distance of no more than 75 miles from one part of the owner’s or lessee’s farm to another, irrespective of whether the tracts adjoin;
- taking the vehicle or attached fixtures to and from a repair shop for repairs;
- taking another vehicle exempt from registration under any provision of Sections 46.2-664 through 46.2-668 or 46.2-672.4 or any part or subcomponent of such a vehicle, or to or from a repair shop for repairs, including return trips;
- operating along a highway to and from a refuse disposal facility for the purpose of disposing of cash and garbage generated on a farm;
- operating along a highway for a distance of no more than 75 miles for the purpose of obtaining supplies for agricultural or horticultural purposes, seeds, fertilizers, chemicals, or animal feed.

You are not required to register or pay a registration fee for any vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,000 pounds or more;

- in a combination of vehicles with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more if the vehicle(s) being towed have a GVWR of more than 10,000 pounds;

You are not required to register or pay a registration fee for pickup trucks, panel trucks, sport utility vehicles, vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 7,500 pounds and trailers or semi-trailers owned by the owner or lessee of a farm and used by the owner on a seasonal basis transporting farm produce and livestock along public highways for a distance of no more than 75 miles including the distance to the nearest storage house, packing plant or market.

You are not required to register or pay a registration fee for any farm machinery or tractor when operated on a highway (i) between one tract of land and another regardless of whether the land is owned by the same person or (ii) to and from a repair shop for repairs.

Other exemptions for sawmill operators and farmers who transport wood products?

- Tractors, trailers, log cars or similar vehicles owned by or leased to sawmill operators are exempt from registration when the vehicle is operated along a highway from one sawmill or sawmill site to another, or from a repair shop for repairs or across a highway from one adjoining tract of land to another.

What are the insurance requirements for unregistered farm vehicles?

Insurance may not be required for an unregistered vehicle; however, the vehicle owner may be held responsible for any liability. Check with your insurance agent for the appropriate coverage.

Violations

A violation of these limitations shall constitute a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of not more than $250, and a second or subsequent violation of this subdivision shall constitute a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of $250. 

Law Enforcement

Any law enforcement officer may require any person operating a vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer and claiming the exemption provided pursuant to this section to provide, upon request, the address of the land owned or leased by the owner’s or lessee’s owner for agricultural or horticultural purposes. If such address is unavailable or unknown, the law enforcement officer may require such information to provide the real property parcel identification number of such lands.

When are hauling permits required for Farm Vehicles?

Any two-axle, three-axle, four-axle or five-axle combination used exclusively for the purpose of hauling Virginia-grown farm products requires a hauling permit for overweight operations. The permit fee is $34. Such permits shall allow the vehicles to have a single axle weight of no more than 24,000 pounds, a tandem axle weight of no more than 40,000 pounds, and a five-axle grouping weight of no more than 50,000 pounds. Additionally, any five-axle combination having no less than 42 feet of axle space between extreme axles may have a gross weight of no more than 90,000 pounds, any four-axle combination may have a gross weight of no more than 70,000 pounds, any three-axle combination may have a gross weight of no more than 60,000 pounds, and any two-axle combination may have a gross weight of no more than 40,000 pounds.

For vehicles hauling farm animal feed, the permit fee is $130 for one year. Permits will be issued to vehicles with specially designed five-axle semi-trailer combinations used in bulk feed distribution movements and at least 51 feet of axle spacing between the first and last axle and used exclusively for hauling farm animal feed. Permits are valid for one year from the date of issuance. Such permits shall not be combined with any other overweight permits or extension of weight limits. The permits do not authorize travel on the Federal Interstate system. The gross weight cannot exceed 64,000 pounds, and a tandem axle weight cannot exceed 37,400 pounds.

For more information about hauling permits, visit www.dmv.Va. comet/altip.

Diesel Fuel

These laws apply to both registered and unregistered farm vehicles.

What is the difference between dyed and undyed diesel fuel?

Dyed diesel fuel is taxable. It can be used in registered or non-registered vehicles or equipment. If the vehicle and/or equipment is not registered or required to be registered and fuel tax has been paid for fuel used in the vehicle, the vehicle owner must file a tax return for fuel tax paid. The tax return must be filed within a tax return period ending on or before the last day of the calendar year for which filing is required. The tax return must contain the information required by the applicable tax law. The tax return must be filed with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles in accordance with the provisions of Sections 46.2-662 through 46.2-664.

Is there a penalty for unlawfully use of dyed diesel fuel?

Yes. The civil penalty is a minimum of $1,000 or $10 per gallon of fuel, based on the maximum storage capacity of the tank(s). Penalties are charged on the propulsion tanks of the vehicles as well as any storage tanks on the vehicles. Penalties can also be charged on the storage tank at the farm if that was the source of the dyed diesel fuel found in the vehicle.

Any person who refuses to allow an inspection or collection of a fuel sample is subject to a $5,000 penalty for each refusal. If the refusal is for a vehicle fuel sample the penalty is assessed to the registered owner of the vehicle. If the refusal is for a sample to be taken from any other storage tank or container, the penalty is assessed to the owner of the storage tank or container. 

Unlawful / improper use of dyed diesel fuel is a crime and subject to a penalty in the form of civil penalties as assessed by DMV. 

A person who attempts to alter the strength or composition of any dye or dye marker in any dyed diesel fuel may be charged with a Class 6 felony. Any person who refuses to allow an inspection or collection of a fuel sample is subject to a $5,000 penalty for each refusal. If the refusal is for a vehicle fuel sample the penalty is assessed to the registered owner of the vehicle. If the refusal is for a sample to be taken from any other storage tank or container, the penalty is assessed to the owner of the storage tank or container. 

Dyed diesel fuel is untaxed and can be used in farm vehicles that are not registered or required to be registered.

Can dyed diesel fuel be used in vehicles registered for farming purposes (F-tags)?

No. Since federal or state tax has not been paid on dyed diesel fuel, it cannot be used in vehicles that are designed for highway use and are required to be registered in Virginia.

Can dyed diesel fuel be used in unlicensed farm vehicles?

Yes. Dyed diesel fuel may be used in vehicles that are not registered or required to be registered in the state and operated in accordance with the provisions of Sections 46.2-662 through 46.2-664.