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

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 § 46.2-698

Who may use farm vehicle 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 § 46.2-698B

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
Do I need insurance for farm vehicles licensed with an F-tag? Yes. When you register the vehicle, you must certify that it is insured or you must pay the $500 uninsured motor vehicle fee at the time of registration.

Va. Code § 46.2-706

When do I need a commercial driver’s license (CDL) to operate a registered farm vehicle? A CDL is required if your farm vehicle is operated 150 miles or more from your Virginia-based farm and meets the following definition of a commercial vehicle:

- has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more; or
- is a combination of vehicles with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more if the (i) GVWR of the combination is greater than 10,000 pounds; or
- can carry 16 or more passengers including the driver; or
- requires hazardous material placards; or
- the vehicle is used in the operation of a contract or common carrier; or
- used in another state. (Additional licensing requirements may be necessary for out-of-state operations.)

Va. Code § 46.2-341.4

Based on federal and state law, these vehicles require a pre-trip inspection. For additional information refer to the Virginia Commercial Driver’s License Manual.

How do I cancel the farm registration (F-tag) for a vehicle? When a vehicle no longer qualifies for registration as a farm vehicle, notify DMV within 30 days or at the time of vehicle registration renewal, whichever comes first. You will need to replace your farm plates with appropriate license plates.

Va. Code §46.2-608(B)

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 (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 grinding fruit and nuts, and operated along a highway from one sawmill to another, or from a repair shop for repairs or across a highway from one adjoining tract of land to another.

Va. Code § 46.2-669

- pickup or panel trucks, sport utility vehicles, vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 7,500 pounds and trailers or semi-trailers owned by a farm owner or lessee of a farm and used for no more than 75 miles between a sawmill or sawmill site and the farm to transport sawdust, wood shavings, slabs, wood and other wood waste.

Va. Code § 46.2-670

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.

Va. Code §§ 46.2-663, 46.2-664

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 owner or lessee of the vehicle’s owner for agricultural or horticultural purposes. If such address is unavailable or unknown, the law enforcement officer may require such person to provide the real property parcel identification number of such land.

When are hauling permits required for Farm Vehicles?

In Accomack and Northampton counties, 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 $45. Such permits shall allow the vehicle 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 tri-axle grouping weight of no more than 40,000 pounds. Additionally, any five-axle combination 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 60,000 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.

Va. Code § 46.2-1148

For more information about hauling permits, visit www.dmvNOW.com/vahps.

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. If the vehicle and/or equipment is not registered or required to be registered and fuel tax has been paid for dyed fuel, fuel tax may be refunded or a tax credit may be applied for a tax refund.

Va. Code §58.1-2259(A)(14) (13)(b)(20) and (b)

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

Va. Code § 46.2-662 through 46.2-684

Va. Code § 58.1-2265

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 designated for highway use and are required to be registered in Virginia.

Va. Code § 58.1-2267

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 §§ 46.2-662 through 46.2-684.

Va. Code § 58.1-2267(B)

Unlawful / improper use of dyed diesel fuel is a crime and subjects the owner or lessee of the vehicle to a penalty as assessed by DMV.

Va. Code § 58.1-2273

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.

Va. Code § 18.2-1788

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