



# Unlicensed Farm Vehicle Laws

## Code of Virginia

### *Excerpts from Chapter 6 - Titling and Registration of Motor Vehicles*

#### **§ 46.2-664. Vehicles used for spraying fruit trees and other plants**

No person shall be required to obtain the registration certificate, license plates, or decals for or pay a registration fee for any vehicle on which is securely attached a machine for spraying fruit trees and other plants of the owner or lessee of the truck.

#### **§ 46.2-665. Vehicles used for agricultural or horticultural purposes.**

- A. No person shall be required to obtain the registration certificate, license plates, or decals for or pay a registration fee for any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer used exclusively for agricultural or horticultural purposes on lands owned or leased by the vehicle's owner.
- B. This exemption shall only apply to (i) pickup or panel trucks, (ii) sport utility vehicles, (iii) vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 7,500 pounds, and (iv) trailers and semitrailers that are not operated on or over any public highway in the Commonwealth for any purpose other than:
1. Crossing a highway;
  2. Operating along a highway for a distance of no more than 75 miles from one part of the owner's land to another, irrespective of whether the tracts adjoin;
  3. Taking the vehicle or attached fixtures to and from a repair shop for repairs;
  4. Taking another vehicle exempt from registration under any provision of §§ [46.2-664](#) through [46.2-668](#) or [46.2-672](#), or any part or subcomponent of such a vehicle, to or from a repair shop for repairs, including return trips;
  5. Operating along a highway to and from a refuse disposal facility for the purpose of disposing of trash and garbage generated on a farm;
  6. 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 and returning; or
  7. Transporting the vehicle's owner between his residence and the lands being used for agricultural or horticultural purposes.
- C. Any law-enforcement officer may require any person operating a vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer and claiming the exemption provided pursuant to this section to provide, upon request, the address of the lands owned or leased by the vehicle's owner for agricultural or horticultural purposes and the address of the residence address of the vehicle's owner. 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 lands.

#### **§ 46.2-666. Vehicles used for seasonal transportation of farm produce and livestock**

No person shall be required to obtain the registration certificate, license plates, or decals for or pay a registration fee prescribed for any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer owned by the owner or lessee of a farm and used by him on a seasonal basis in 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. The provisions of this section shall only apply to (i) pickup or panel trucks, (ii) sport utility vehicles, (iii) vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 7,500 pounds, and (iv) trailers and semitrailers. Any law-enforcement officer may require any person operating a vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer and claiming the exemption provided pursuant to this section to provide, upon request, the address of the farm owned or leased by the vehicle's owner. 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 lands.

#### **§ 46.2-667. Farm machinery and tractors**

No person shall be required to obtain the registration certificate, license plates, or decals for or pay the prescribed 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.

#### **§ 46.2-669. Tractors and similar vehicles owned by sawmill operators**

No person shall be required to obtain the registration certificate, license plates, or decals for or pay a registration fee for any tractor, trailer, log cart, or similar vehicle owned by a sawmill operator when the vehicle is operated or moved:

1. Along a highway from one sawmill or sawmill site to another;
2. To or from a repair shop for repairs; or
3. Across a highway from one contiguous tract of land to another.

**§ 46.2-670. Vehicles owned by farmers and used to transport certain wood products**

No person shall be required to obtain the registration certificate, license plates, or decals for or pay a registration fee for any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer owned by a farm owner when the vehicle is operated or moved along a highway for no more than 75 miles between a sawmill or sawmill site and his farm to transport sawdust, wood shavings, slab wood, and other wood wastes. The provisions of this section shall only apply to (i) pickup or panel trucks, (ii) sport utility vehicles, (iii) vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 7,500 pounds, and (iv) trailers and semitrailers. Any law-enforcement officer may require any person operating a vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer and claiming the exemption provided pursuant to this section to provide, upon request, the address of the farm owned by the vehicle's owner. 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 lands.

**§ 46.2-672. Certain vehicles transporting fertilizer, cotton, or peanuts**

No person shall be required to obtain the registration certificate, license plates, or decals for or pay a registration fee for any motor vehicle or trailer, semitrailer, 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 unginmed cotton, peanuts, or fertilizer owned by the farmer, cotton ginner, 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.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to vehicles operated on a for-hire basis.

**§ 46.2-673. Return trips of exempted farm vehicles.**

No person shall be required to obtain the registration certificate, license plates, or decals for or pay a registration fee for any farm vehicle exempted from registration under the provisions of this article when that vehicle is:

1. Making a return trip from any marketplace;
2. Transporting back to a farm ordinary and essential food and other products for home and farm use; or
3. Transporting supplies to the farm.

**§ 46.2-674. Vehicles used by commercial fishermen**

No person shall be required to obtain the registration certificate, license plates, or decals for or pay a registration fee for any motor vehicle, trailer, boat trailer, or semitrailer, or any combination thereof not having a gross vehicle weight exceeding 12,000 pounds used by commercial fishermen, their agents, or employees for the purpose of:

1. Transporting boats or other equipment used in commercial fishing no more than 50 miles between his place of residence or business and the waters within the territorial limits of the Commonwealth or the adjacent marginal seas;
2. Any return trip to his place of residence or business; or
3. Transporting harvested seafood no more than 50 miles between the place where the seafood is first brought ashore and the transporter's place of business or the location of the seafood's first point of sale.

**§ 46.2-668. Vehicles validly registered in other states and used in conjunction with harvesting operations**

A. No person shall be required to obtain the registration certificate, license plates, or decals for or pay a registration fee for any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer which is validly registered in another state and bears valid license plates issued by that state when the use of the vehicle has been contracted for by the owner or lessee of a farm as an incidental part of the harvesting of a crop from his farm. This exemption shall only be valid while the vehicle is engaged principally in transporting farm produce from the farm:

1. As an incidental part of harvesting operations;
2. Along a public highway for a distance of not more than 20 miles to a storage house, packing plant, market, or transportation terminal;
3. When the use is a seasonal operation; and
4. When the owner of the vehicle has secured from the Commissioner an exemption permit for each vehicle.

B. The Commissioner, upon receipt of an application certifying that a vehicle is entitled to the exemption set forth in this subsection and, if the vehicle is a qualified highway vehicle under § 58.1-2700, payment of \$150, shall issue an exemption permit on a form prescribed by him. The exemption permit shall be carried at all times by the operator of the vehicle for which it is issued or displayed in a conspicuous place on the vehicle. The exemption permit shall be valid for a period of 90 days from date of issue and shall be renewable by the procedure set forth in the foregoing provisions of this section.

**Penalty for violating Unlicensed Farm Vehicle code sections §§ 46.2-665, 46.2-666, and 46.2-670**

**From Va Code § 46.2-613. Offenses relating to registration, licensing, and certificates of title; penalties.**

6. Willfully and intentionally violate the limitations imposed under §§ 46.2-665, 46.2-666, and 46.2-670 while operating an unregistered vehicle pursuant to the agricultural and horticultural exemptions allowed under those sections. A first violation of this subdivision 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.