

## Nonregistered Farm Vehicle (FARM USE)

## Quick Reference Card

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

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

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; or
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.

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

§ 46.2-667. Farm machinery and tractors.

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

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

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

*Note: The above Code sections listed have details about each, please review those.*

**What types of vehicles can use the FARM Use exemption when used for the correct purposes?** (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. (NO CARS)) §§ 46.2-665, § 46.2-666, and § 46.2-670

**Is a FARM USE vehicle required to be inspected?** No, only vehicles "required to be registered" are required to be inspected. § 46.2-1157

**How far can you drive a FARM USE vehicle when used for a proper use?** Currently 75 miles as stated in Code Sections §§ 46.2-665, 46.2-666, and 46.2-670 for approved uses.

**Do you need a driver's permit to drive a FARM USE vehicle?** No, drivers of FARM USE vehicles are specifically exempt from being required to have a valid driver's license in § 46.2-303. HOWEVER, those restricted by the court from doing so cannot operate a motor vehicle on public roads. Those restricted can still drive a farm tractor from one farm to another not to exceed five (5) miles. §§ 46.2-301, 46.2-304, and 46.2-357.

**What are the insurance requirements for a FARM USE vehicle? As of July 1, 2022,** any motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer that is exempt from motor vehicle registration requirements such as Farm Use, must be insured under a general liability policy that includes personal injury liability insurance and property damage liability insurance under a policy of motor vehicle insurance, or under an umbrella or excess insurance policy. If asked to show proof, the operator must produce proof of coverage within 30 days of the request by law enforcement. § 46.2-684.1.

**Can dyed diesel fuel be used in unlicensed farm vehicles?** Yes. Dyed diesel fuel may be used in vehicles that are not registered and operated in accordance with the provisions of the exempting code sections. §§ 46.2-662 through 46.2-684.

**Is a FARM USE vehicle required to have seat belts?** The short answer is no, they do not have to have seat belts because the law that requires seat belts in Virginia states vehicles registered in the Commonwealth and manufactured after 1963 must be equipped with seat belts in the front (§ 46.2-1092). HOWEVER, the law requires them to be used if the vehicle is so equipped (§ 46.2-1094) § 46.2-1092, § 46.2-1094

**Is there a penalty for operating a FARM USE for non-exempted purposes on a Virginia highway?** Yes. The first violation of these exemptions constitutes 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." § 46.2-613

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\*\*Starting July 1, 2023, You will be required to obtain Permanent Farm Use Placards from DMV

## Registered Farm Vehicle (F-tag)

## Quick Reference Card

§ 46.2-698. Fees for farm vehicles

The fees for registration of farm motor vehicles having gross weights of 7,500 pounds or more, when such vehicles are used exclusively for farm use as defined in this section, shall be one-half of the fee per 1,000 pounds of gross weight for private carriers as calculated under the provisions of § 46.2-697 and one-half of the fee for overload permits under § 46.2-1128, but the annual registration fee to be paid for each farm vehicle shall not be less than \$15.

**What uses may a Registered Farm Vehicle (F-tag) be used for? Situations when used exclusively for farm use:**

When owned by a person who is engaged either as an owner, renter, or operator of a farm of a size reasonably requiring the use of such vehicle or vehicles and when such vehicle is:

- a. Used in the transportation of agricultural products of the farm he is working to market, or to other points for sale or processing, or when used to transport materials, tools, equipment, or supplies which are to be used or consumed on the farm he is working, or when used for any other transportation incidental to the regular operation of such farm;
- b. Used in transporting forest products, including forest materials originating on a farm or incident to the regular operation of a farm, to the farm he is working or transporting for any purpose forest products which originate on the farm he is working; or
- c. Used in the transportation of farm produce, supplies, equipment, or materials to a farm not worked by him, pursuant to a mutual cooperative agreement.

**What nonfarm uses may I use a F-tag for?** When the nonfarm use of such motor vehicle is limited to the personal use of the owner and his immediate family in attending church or school, securing medical treatment or supplies, or securing other household or family necessities.

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**I am a Volunteer emergency responder; can I drive my F-tag when called to duty?** Yes, these may be used by volunteer emergency medical services personnel and volunteer firefighters in responding to emergency calls, in reporting for regular duty, and in attending emergency medical services agency or fire company meetings and drills.

**I don't own a farm, but I haul farm products for other people for hire; can I register my truck with F-tags?** No, the allowance for Registered Farm Vehicles are owned by a person who is engaged either as an owner, renter, or operator of a farm of a size reasonably requiring the use of such vehicle or vehicles used for the purposes listed to the left.

**What are the insurance requirements for a F-tag vehicle?** When registering the vehicle, you must certify that it is insured, or you must pay the \$500 uninsured motor vehicle fee at the time of registration. § 46.2-706

**Is there a penalty registering a vehicle with F-tag if I am not using it for the intended purposes?**

Yes, knowingly making a false statement on a registration application is a Class 6 felony. § 46.2-605

**Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Requirements**

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 vehicle(s) being towed has a GVWR of more 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 required for out-of-state operation.* § 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 far can you drive a FARM USE vehicle when used for a proper use?** Currently 75 miles as stated in Code Sections §§ 46-2-665, 46-2-666, and 46-2-670 for approved uses.

**Do you need a driver's permit to drive a FARM USE vehicle?** No, drivers of FARM USE vehicles are specifically exempt from doing so cannot operate a motor vehicle on public roads. Those restricted can still drive a farm tractor from one farm to another not to exceed five (5) miles. §§ 46-2-301, 46-2-304, and 46-2-357.

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