

Vehicle Licensing Guide

Farm Vehicle Plates & Permanent Farm Use Placards VLIC-4.215

Original Date: 06/01/1995
Revision Date: 07/01/2024

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POLICY	
Title: Farm Vehicle Plates & Permanent Farm Use Placards (Farm Placards)	
Effective Date: 06/01/1995	Revision Date: 07/01/2024
Authority: Code of Virginia §§ 46.2-105.2 , 46.2-664 through 46.2-670 , 46.2-697 , 46.2-698 , 46.2-706 , 46.2-1081 , 46.2-712 , et al., and 58.1-2701 , 58.1-2702 , 46.2-684.2	
Policy: Vehicles used on a farm in Virginia that qualify as farm vehicles may be registered or may remain unregistered. Registered farm vehicles are issued F-Tags/Farm Vehicle plates and the customer must complete a certification form (VSA131) to obtain the plates. Customers obtaining F-Tags/farm vehicle plates pay one-half the annual registration fee charged per 1,000 pounds for private carriers, with a minimum fee of \$15.00 (§ 46.2-698). Unregistered farm vehicles may display no tags or must be issued a permanent farm use placard: <<<<<REVISION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unregistered farm use trailers, semitrailers and vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 7,500 lbs. may display no tags.• Unregistered farm use panel trucks, pickup trucks, and sport utility vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) less than or equal to 7,500 pounds are issued permanent farm use placards. Customers obtaining permanent farm use placards pay the applicable fees and must complete a certification form (VSA 132). END REVISION>>>>> Exceptions: Vehicles used on a tree farm are not eligible for farm registration unless the tree farm is also a nursery, a Christmas tree farm, or is part of what is otherwise a farm. (§ 46.2-698) Farm placards may not be issued to vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 7,500 pounds, trailers, or semitrailers. (§ 46.2-684.2) <<<<<REVISION Farm placards may only be issued to pickup and panel trucks and sport utility vehicles that qualify as farm vehicles using the VSA-132 . (§46.2-684.2) END REVISION>>>>> Vehicles (except farm use pickup and panel trucks and sport utility vehicles) with a GVWR under 7,500 lbs. are NOT subject to placards OR agricultural or horticultural registration exemptions. They must be registered, for reference, see VLIC-4.000 .	

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DEFINITIONS

FARM PLACARD – a device containing letters, numerals, or a combination of both attached to a pickup or panel truck or sport utility vehicle that is used for one of the exempt purposes set forth in §§ [46.2-665](#), [46.2-666](#), [46.2-670](#), [46.2-672](#), or [46.2-673](#).

FARM VEHICLE – a vehicle used exclusively for agricultural or horticultural purposes that is a pickup or panel truck, sport utility vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or farm vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 7,500 pounds.

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FARM VEHICLE QUICK REFERENCE CHART

FARM VEHICLE QUICK REFERENCE CHART					
Use this chart for vehicles used EXCLUSIVELY for agricultural or horticultural purposes					
Vehicle Type	EXEMPT from Titling & Registration	Eligible for a Farm Placard (plate image)	Eligible for an F-Tag/Farm Vehicle Plate (plate image)	Eligible for SUT Exemption ONLY if issuing a Farm Placard	Insurance Required
Pickup Truck		✓	✓	✓	✓
Panel Truck		✓	✓	✓	✓
Sport Utility Vehicle		✓	✓	✓	✓
Trailer or Semitrailer					(may be covered under motor vehicle's policy)
Tractor Truck			✓		✓
Farm Tractor	✓				
Farm Machinery	✓				
Farm Vehicle with attachment for spraying fruit trees and plants	✓				
Tree Farm Vehicle					✓
Tree Farm Nursery or Christmas Tree Farm Vehicle		✓ (only a pickup truck, panel truck, or sport utility vehicle)	✓		✓
For Hire Farm Vehicle					✓
Farm Utility Vehicle	✓				
Covered Farm Vehicle (Box Truck)			✓		✓
<p>NOTE 1: Trailers and semitrailers are NOT subject to farm placards and have the option to be unregistered if used exclusively for agricultural or horticultural purposes. Registered trailers and semitrailers are subject to standard or permanent trailer plates only. (Refer to VLIC-4.275)</p> <p>NOTE 2: Vehicles with a GVWR greater than 7,500 lbs. are NOT subject to farm placards and have the option to be unregistered if used exclusively for agricultural or horticultural purposes.</p> <p>NOTE 3: Vehicles (with the exception of farm use pickups, sport utility vehicles, or panel trucks) with a GVWR under 7,500 lbs. are NOT subject to farm placards OR agricultural or horticultural registration exemptions. They require registration.</p> <p>NOTE 4: Unless noted above, all farm use vehicles require a title. (Refer to the relevant VLIC)</p>					

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CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS

- Complete the following application(s):
 - For F-Tags/Farm Vehicle Plates** - Vehicle Registration Application ([VSA-14](#)), and Farm Vehicle Plate Certification ([VSA-131](#)) if the vehicle is not currently registered with F-Tags/farm vehicle plates
 - The VSA-14 is not required in service locations with credit card terminals when **renewing** or **reissuing** a farm vehicle plate provided no changes will be made to the vehicle record.
 - Any time the vehicle information (gross weight, vehicle color, body type, etc.) is changed in the system as part of the renewal or reissue transaction, or the license plate requires submission of certifications or other documents to authorize its issuance, required application(s) must be submitted.

- **For Permanent Farm Use Placards** – Farm Placard Certification ([VSA-132](#)).
2. Verify vehicle is covered with minimum liability insurance coverage by confirming the insurance certification box is checked.
 3. Verify vehicle is used for one or more exempt purposes by confirming the exempt purposes box is checked or the certification box is signed.
 4. Pay the appropriate fees and personalized license fee, if applicable.

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FRONT COUNTER CSR

1. Verify the submitted application:
 - [VSA 14](#), and
 - Not required when renewing or reissuing a farm vehicle plate unless changes will be made to the vehicle record.
 - [VSA-131](#), if the vehicle is not currently registered with F-Tags/farm vehicle plates, or
 - [VSA-132](#), if the vehicle does not currently have a farm placard
2. Determine if the customer is applying for permanent farm vehicle plates, or a farm placard.
3. Verify the customer has certified by checking the box that the vehicle is covered by the required minimum liability insurance on the application.

OR

For registration renewals or reissues of F-Tags/farm vehicle plates only, enter the vehicle registration information into the system and certify minimum liability insurance coverage.

4. Process personalized license plate requests following guidelines in [VLIC-4.420](#).
 - Farm placards are not eligible for personalization.
5. Process the registration or placard transaction according to data entry procedures.
 - For personalized farm vehicle plates, process multi-use 30-day synthetic paper license plates in accordance with the guidelines in [VLIC-4.225](#).
6. Collect the registration fee and personalized plate fee if applicable; or a one-time fee for the farm placard.
 - Applicants registering a 3rd or subsequent truck or tractor truck as a farm vehicle will be charged Motor Fuels Road Tax automatically by the system, regardless if the vehicle is used exclusively for farm use. The exemption from Motor Fuels Road Tax pursuant to § [58.1-2702](#) applies only to the **first two** Virginia-licensed trucks and tractor trucks used for farm use, as defined in § [46.2-698](#).
7. Issue the license plate(s) or placard(s) and registration card, if applicable, to the customer.
 - For personalized farm vehicle plates, issue the multi-use license plate(s) and temporary registration, and
 - Advise the customer they will receive the personalized plate(s) and registration card in the mail.
 - For permanent farm use placards, no registration card is issued; provide the receipt to the customer, along with the placard(s) if in stock. If not on hand, advise the customer that they will receive the placard(s) in the mail. DO NOT issue the multi-use license plate(s) or temporary registration.
8. Complete DMV use section on [VSA-131](#) or [VSA-132](#), if applicable.
9. Retrieve barcode cover sheet.
10. Match the barcode coversheet with the completed [VSA-131](#) or [VSA-132](#) and place it in the designated area for document preparation (if applicable).

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DMV CONTACT CENTER ACTIONS

1. Do NOT promise acceptability of customer documents.
2. Do NOT use phrases like:
 - "You have everything you need. Just go to a CSC and they will process your transaction."
3. Do use phrases like:
 - "The documents you have sound like they may be acceptable. You will need to take the documents to the CSC and have them verified. The CSC will make the final determination of your eligibility for your desired transaction."

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POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. The owner of vehicles registered as farm vehicles must notify DMV within 30 days, or at the time of the next registration renewal, whichever comes first, whenever the vehicle is no longer being used exclusively for farm use.
2. Farm vehicles with a gross weight of 7,500 pounds or more are eligible for permanent F-Tags/farm vehicle plates. Owners are billed annually or biennially. To discontinue billing statements for permanent F-Tags/farm vehicle plates, the vehicle owner must surrender the plates or notify DMV to update the vehicle record indicating that the vehicle is no longer used on the highways.
3. For motor vehicles (including trailers and semitrailers) registered in another state that are contracted for use by the owner or lessor of a farm to harvest crops, DMV will issue temporary "Harvest" permits that exempt the vehicle from Virginia registration requirements (refer to [VLIC-4.230](#)).
4. Choosing not to register a farm vehicle does not exempt the vehicle owner or lessee from complying with applicable farm use restrictions in accordance with Va. Code. Additionally, even though registration is not required, unregistered farm vehicles must be titled unless specifically exempted under Code.
5. Farm placards are non-transferable and must be surrendered to the department if the farm vehicle is no longer operated for farm use.
6. Lost, stolen, or damaged farm placards may be reissued for a fee.
7. Farm tractors or self-propelled units of farm equipment designed to operate at speeds less than 25 miles per hour or normally operated at speeds no more than 25 miles per hour must display a triangular slow-moving vehicle emblem on the rear of the vehicle when traveling on a public highway, regardless of the time of day or night (Va. Code § [46.2-1081](#)).
8. It is a Class 2 misdemeanor to operate or to permit the operation of any farm motor vehicle for purposes that would require a farm vehicle registration without having paid the fee for such registration, or for the operation of any motor vehicle registered as a farm vehicle for purposes other than those provided for in § [46.2-698](#).
9. For no-fee overload permits for registered farm vehicles, refer to [VLIC-4.231](#).
10. For Motor Fuel Road Tax exemptions for registered farm vehicles, refer to Farm Vehicle FAQs ([DMV 28](#)).

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RELATED LINKS

- Farm Vehicle FAQs ([DMV 28](#))
- [Registration Exempt Vehicles](#)
- [Vehicle Reissue/Renewal on DMV Credit Card Terminals EZ Guide](#)
- [Fee Chart](#)

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CONTACT

For additional information contact:

- Your CSC Manager/Assistant Manager
- DMV Contact Center Help Desk at (804) 367-6646
- VSA/Special Registration Work Center (804) 367-0492