Illinois requires that both the truck and the trailer be registered for “farm” license plates. For small trucks (pickups and duallys) that can pose a problem. The smallest available farm plate is the “VF” for up to 16,000 pounds. But there is a work-around. Owners of small trucks registered for 12,000 pounds or less may instead purchase a $10 Covered Farm Vehicle (CFV) designation that serves in lieu of the farm plate. That designation for the truck—along with a farm plate on the trailer—will satisfy the CFV’s requirement that both the truck and trailer be farm-plated.

**Trailers:** When operating a truck and trailer combination, Illinois law generally requires that both the truck and the trailer display a “farm” license plate in order to qualify as a CFV.

**Exceptions:** Semi-trailers are allowed to use the standard “ST” semi-trailer plate, so long as the truck-tractor is farm-plated. When operating a truck pulling an implement of husbandry, only the truck needs to have the “farm” license plate (or in the case of pickups and duallys registered CFV Designation) in order to satisfy the “farm” registration requirement for the CFV.

**Pickups and Duallys:** Illinois’ smallest “farm” plate is the “VF” at 16,000 pounds. That’s far larger than typically necessary for a pickup truck or dually. Instead, these smaller trucks may be registered with any license plate for a second division vehicle that is 12,000 pounds or less to be eligible to qualify for the ($10) CFV designation. That designation—plus a “farm” plate on the trailer—will satisfy the “farm” registration requirement for that combination vehicle. When not operating as a CFV, these trucks may be used as any other standard-plated truck, including non-farm business and personal use.

**How to Apply:** Application for the CFV Designation may be done through the Secretary of State’s local driver services facilities. The form on the back of this page (current as of February 2, 2017) is the form you’ll need to complete.

To ensure you use the most current version of the form, download it from: http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/vsd878.pdf

**Fees:** The annual fee for this designation is $10 and runs concurrent with the vehicle’s registration year. It will be automatically renewed each year, unless you request to have it stopped. This fee is over and above the standard fee for the license plate.

**Registration Cycle:** If applying during the truck’s registration year, you’ll have to carry paperwork documenting the designation. However, if applying at the normal time of registration renewal—and upon automatic renewal—the CFV Designation will be printed directly on the vehicle’s registration card, eliminating the need for extra documentation.

Don’t forget, you’ll still need to meet the other five conditions of the CFV exemption to qualify.

*(See pages 3 and 7 in this booklet.)*