

LICENSING FARM TRUCKS

There are four general categories for licensing (registering) a truck in Illinois (see chart below). Each of these has some benefits and drawbacks. The table below addresses the key aspects of each form of registration.

TYPE USE	FLAT WEIGHT	IRP	MILEAGE	FARM
INTRASTATE (within Illinois)	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
INTERSTATE (out-of-state)	No – unless a trip permit is purchased.	Yes.	No. Trip permits are not available.	Yes.
FOR HIRE	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	No.
MILEAGE LIMITATION	None.	None.	Generally 7,000 per year – fewer for plates of 24,000 pounds or less.	None.
RADIUS OF OPERATION	No limit within Illinois.	No limit.	No limit within Illinois.	No limit.
CARGO TYPE LIMITATION	None.	None.	None.	Use only for farmer’s own farming operation – inputs and production.
WEIGHT RANGES	8,000 – 80,000 pounds	26,000 – 80,000 pounds	12,000 – 80,000 pounds	16,000 – 80,000 pounds
NUMBER OF PLATES PER OWNER	No limit.	No limit.	No limit.	Maximum of five trucks (not more than two may be over 59,000 pounds). Maximum of 2 farm plated trailers.
LICENSE FEE (relative to flat weight)	100%	100% (Apportioned by the percent of miles run in each state.)	About 50% on average across all applicable weight classes. Percentage varies by weight.	About 59% on average across all applicable weight classes. Percentage varies by weight.
REGISTRATION YEAR	July 1 – June 30	April 1 – March 31	July 1 – June 30	July 1 – June 30

1. Trip permits are generally available for periods up to 72 hours. Most states limit the number of trip permits issued each calendar year to not more than three.
2. Under interstate agreements of reciprocity, the farm plate is accepted in every state adjoining Illinois. Other states most probably also accept Illinois “farm plated” trucks but call ahead to be certain.
3. Trip permit required for out-of-state travel if not for agriculture use or for agriculture use and over 150 air-miles.

FARM PLATE

Farm plates offer several advantages:

1. Farm trucks generally run a lower number of miles and therefore justify a lower cost.
2. Due to that lower mileage and the restrictions on uses of farm plates, the cost associated with farm plates is approximately 59% that of the flat weight plates. It varies by weight category.
3. A Farm plate is one (out of six) requirement that it takes to operate as a Covered Farm Vehicle (CFV).

TRAILERS

SEMI-TRAILER

1. Special Designations: Semi-Trailer: "ST"
2. Relative Cost: N/A.
3. One-time flat tax of \$19, which includes the registration fee, for a permanent non-transferable plate.
4. Range: Intrastate & Interstate Travel.
5. Use: Private & For-hire.
6. Weight: No limit / no weight tax - weight to be covered by plate on power unit.
7. Commercial Distribution Fee: No.

