

LICENSING FARM TRUCKS

FOR ILLINOIS FARMERS



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 of the forms of registration.

| USE \ TYPE | 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# 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# to 80,000# | 26,000# to 80,000# | 12,000# to 80,000# | 16,000# to 80,000 |
| NUMBER OF PLATES PER OWNER | No limit | No limit | No limit | Maximum of five trucks (not more than two may be over 59,000#.) 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 |
| CDF | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| 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.
4. The CDF (Commercial Distribution Fee) adds 14.35% above the cost of the license plate for trucks registered in Illinois. It must be paid annually.
5. The 14.35% is pro-rated based on the percent of miles the truck is operated in Illinois.

Farm Plate:

Farm plates offer several advantages:

1. Farm trucks are 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) requirements that it takes to operate as a Covered Farm Vehicle (CFV).

Additional information about truck plates is available from the Secretary of State's Office, Commercial & Farm Truck Division at 309-785-1819 or on the web at <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/vehicles/cft/home.html>

Trailers

Semi Trailer:

Special Designation: Semi Trailer: "ST"

Relative Cost: N/A

One-time flat tax of \$19, which includes the registration fee, for a permanent non-transferable plate.

Range: Intrastate & Interstate Travel

Use: Private & For-hire

Weight: No limit/ no weight tax—weight to be covered by plate on power unit.

Commercial Distribution Fee: No

Fertilizer Trailers:

Required on:

- NH₃ nurse tanks (up to 3000 gallons)
- Fertilizer buggies

Covers 2-year period (beginning January 1 of even-numbered years.)

\$13 fee (not prorated)

More Information

- Illinois Farm Bureau® www.ilfb.org
 - * Kevin Rund 309-557-3274 krund@ilfb.org
 - * Kirby Wagner 309-557-3662 kwagner@ilfb.org
- Secretary of State— Commercial and Farm Trucks <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/vehicles/cft/cft.html#farmplates>

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