

Fact Sheet #9 Farm Vehicle Regulations

Farm Vehicle Registration

Farm license plates are required to move equipment on public roads. However, in order to be eligible to get farm license plates, you need to own two or more farm vehicles or implements for your operation and farm at least five acres of land. Passenger vehicles, including sport-utility vehicles, are not eligible for farm plates.

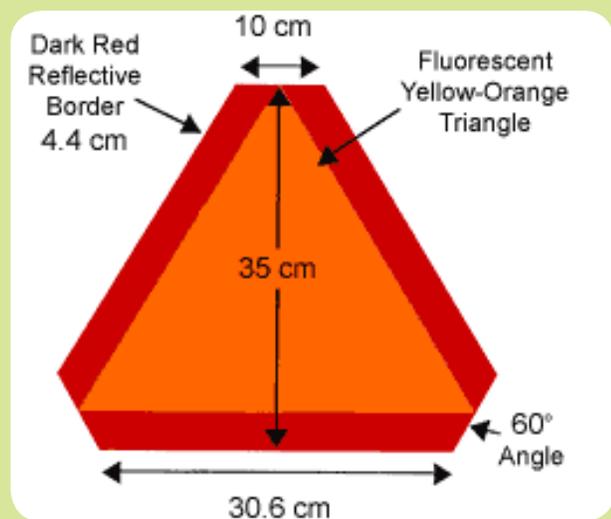
You can apply for farm plates at the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV), Section 5 Division [the RMV can be reached at (617) 351-4500 or (800) 858-3926]. It will take approximately six to eight weeks to receive farm license plates once you have applied. You will need to provide some sort of proof of farm income and the Schedule F tax form for the application. The process also includes a site visit by the State Police Compliance Unit. For more information and to download an application form, see the RMV's [farm plate information page](#).

Moving Farm Equipment on Public Roads

The “slow moving vehicle” emblem, a fluorescent or reflective orange triangle, must be displayed on the rear of vehicles drawn by animals, most farm vehicles, and most construction equipment. If the vehicle travels at a speed slower than 25 miles per hour, a slow moving emblem must be affixed. The triangle should be pointed up and as close to the center of the back of the vehicle as possible. These signs fade with time, so it is recommended to replace them every 2-3 years.

For more information on this subject, the Massachusetts Farm Bureau has detailed guides.

Call them at (508) 881-4766 or visit the Farm Bureau [website](#) and look under the “Brochures & Publications” section on the left of the page.



When considering driving out of state with your farm vehicle, be sure to check with your insurance provider to confirm coverage and check with the other states to make sure you can do so. Some states will accept Massachusetts farm plates, while others, such as [Maine](#), will not.

If on a public highway after dark, vehicle requirements include:

- brakes
- 2 white headlights on front of tractor
- one red tail lamp at the farthest end (tractor or implement) and as far to the left as practical
- 2 amber combined hazard warning and turn signal lamps at least 42 inches high, visible from front and rear. If just a tractor, these lights can be on the cab. If traveling with an implement, these lights need to be mounted at rear of implement.
- 2 red reflectors at the rear of the implement

Exceptions

Farm vehicles are exempt from over-wide but not over-weight requirements.

A tractor, trailer or truck may be **operated without registration**, but not without an inspection, under certain circumstances:

- for less than one-half mile, if that tractor, trailer or truck is used exclusively for agricultural purposes.
- between one-half mile and 10 miles if that tractor, trailer or truck is used exclusively for agricultural purposes and the owner maintains insurance liability on the vehicle.