

# Farm Vehicle **REGULATIONS**

Reference guide provided by  
**Kentucky Farm Bureau**



In coordination with the  
**Kentucky State Police**

# Important Phone

## Numbers

### STATE OF KENTUCKY

Kentucky State Police Division of Commercial  
Vehicle Enforcement

KSP CVE Region 1 .....270.831.9888

KSP CVE Region 2 .....502.452.8983

KSP CVE Region 3 .....502.863.4559

KSP CVE Region 4 .....606.330.2105

KSP CVE Region 5 .....606.783.9541

KSP CVE Region 6 .....606.433.7791

[www.kentuckystatepolice.org/cve](http://www.kentuckystatepolice.org/cve)

Kentucky Division of Motor Carriers .....502.564.4540

[www.dmc.kytc.ky.gov](http://www.dmc.kytc.ky.gov)

Kentucky Division of Vehicle

Licensing .....502.564.5301

Kentucky State Police Emergency

Toll Free .....800.222.5555

Federal Motor Carrier Safety

Administration .....502.223.6779

Infoline .....800.832.5660

[www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov)

### KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Transportation Questions.....502.495.5000 (ext.7218)

- or - [Bryan.Alvey@kyfb.com](mailto:Bryan.Alvey@kyfb.com)

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## Foreword

Kentucky Farm Bureau is pleased to provide our membership this ***Farm Vehicle Regulations*** publication that highlights the guidelines, regulations, exemptions, registration fee schedules and other information needed when operating farm vehicles or implements on Kentucky's highways.

Many times it is difficult to decipher the statutes and regulations dealing with farm vehicles. We hope this publication will help. We urge our members to take this publication and keep it in the farm vehicles that will be traveling on federal, state and county highways. It is intended to be used as a quick reference guide.

*Note: The provisions included in this publication pertain to Kentucky Statutes (Intrastate) unless noted as being Federal Guidelines (Interstate).*

## Special Thanks

Kentucky Farm Bureau would like to thank the Kentucky State Police Division of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) for their help and cooperation in providing and reviewing information included in this publication. Their efforts have helped to ensure the accuracy and validity of this publication.



# Requirements for Moving

## Farm Implements

### ESCORT REQUIREMENTS

1. General escort vehicle requirements:
  - (a) A lead escort vehicle operating on a two (2) lane highway may serve as a tow vehicle.
  - (b) The distance requirement for an escort vehicle to lead or trail an overweight or overdimensional farm equipment shall be 300 feet (91.44 meters), but the distance may vary if necessary due to safety or road conditions.
  - (c) An escort vehicle shall keep its headlights on during an escort.
  - (d) A single vehicle and load that do not exceed forty-five (45) miles per hour operating on a four (4) lane highway shall have at least one (1) trail escort.
  
2. A single vehicle and load in excess of twelve (12) feet in width:
  - (a) Operating on a two (2) lane highway, shall have at least one (1) lead escort vehicle (a lead escort vehicle may also serve as a tow vehicle); and
  - (b) Operating on a four (4) lane highway, shall have at least one (1) trail escort vehicle.
  
3. A single vehicle and load in excess of eighty-five (85) feet in length operating on a two (2) lane highway, shall have at least one (1) lead vehicle.
  
4. A single vehicle and load 120 feet in length or more operating on a four (4) lane highway, shall have at least one (1) trail vehicle.
  
5. Convoy - More than one (1) farm equipment vehicle and load, exceeding twelve (12) feet in width or exceeding eighty-five (85) feet in length, being operated as a convoy on a two (2) lane highway, shall have at least one (1) lead vehicle for the total convoy.

When escorts are required, escort vehicles must post appropriate signage or shall use lights or flashers or flags.

**Flags.** A flag shall be: (a) Red or fluorescent orange; (b) At least eighteen (18) inches square; (c) Displayed at the widest point of the load or on the escort vehicle.

**Signage.** A sign shall: (a) Be at least six (6) to eight (8) feet in width; (b) State "Oversize Load"; (c) Have black letters on a yellow background. The black letters shall be at least eighteen (18) inches tall and 1.44 inches wide.

## PERMIT EXEMPTIONS

Farm Implements — unless movement occurs on fully-controlled access highway, a permit shall not be required for transport of overdimensional farm implements for the following trips:

- (a) From one farm to another;
- (b) From a farm to a repair shop or dealer; or
- (c) From a repair shop or dealer to a farm.

## State and Federal Guidelines

### Requirements

1. Federal DOT Number – 10,001 lbs and above, interstate – 26,001 lbs and above, intrastate. (DOT number may be obtained from the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) website at [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov).)

*Note: Based on manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating or actual weight, license plate weight designation does not determine actual weight or gross vehicle weight rating.*

2. Classifications and weight limits on state roads.
- Class A allows 44,000 lbs gross weight
  - Class AA allows 62,000 lbs gross weight
  - Class AAA allows 80,000 lbs gross weight
  - County road maximum weight is 36,000 lbs

*Note: A vehicle hauling building materials (agriculture products as defined in KRS 189.2226) shall be allowed to travel the most direct route, in the opinion of the operator, to the vehicle's point of destination, provided that any road traveled as the most direct route shall not be further than fifteen (15) miles from a state road that is classified to carry the registered weight of the vehicle.*

# State and Federal Guidelines

## Exemptions

1. Exempt from additional fuel usage tax in Kentucky (IFTA and KIT).
2. Exempt from weight distance tax in Kentucky (KYU).
3. Exempt from medical certificate (intrastate).
4. Exempt from periodic annual inspection (intrastate).
5. Exempt from axle weights (gross highway weight rates still apply) if licensed as a farm vehicle and not traveling on an interstate highway.
6. Do not have to be 21 years of age if driving within 150 miles of the farm (minimum age 18).
7. Do not have to furnish a list of violations to authorities (if within 150 miles of the farm).
8. Not required to have commercial drivers license (intrastate unless transporting a type or quantity of hazardous materials that requires the vehicle to be placarded).
9. A motor vehicle which is used exclusively in intrastate commerce and exclusively in farm-to-market agriculture transportation, when operated during daylight hours, shall not be required to comply with 49 C.F.R. 393.9 to 393.33, relative to lighting device requirements. (Still required to have working stop lamps and mechanical turn signals.)
10. A motor vehicle which is used exclusively in intrastate commerce and exclusively for the transportation of primary forest products from the harvest area to a mill or other processing facility which is located at a point not more than fifty (50) air miles

(eighty and five-tenths (80.5) air kilometers) from the harvest area when operated during daylight hours shall not be required to comply with 49 C.F.R. 393.9 to 393.33, relative to lighting devices requirements.

11. Not required to keep Hours of Service (HOS) Record of Duty Status (log book) if transporting agriculture commodities or farm supplies for agriculture purposes if such transportation:

- (a) Is limited to an area within a 150 air mile radius from the source of the commodities or distribution point for farm supplies.

## Kentucky Registration

### Fee Schedule

KRS 186.050 is the statute that sets forth registration fees for motor vehicles.

Subsection (4)(a) 1 and 2 states that any farmer owning a truck having a gross weight of twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds or less or; any farmer owning a truck having a gross weight of twenty-six thousand one (26,001) pounds to thirty-eight thousand (38,000) pounds may have it registered as a farmer's truck and obtain a license for eleven dollars and fifty cents (\$11.50). The applicant's signature upon the certificate of registration and ownership shall constitute a certificate that he/she is a farmer engaged in the production of crops, livestock, or dairy products, that he/she owns a truck of either twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds or less or; any farmer owning a truck having a gross weight of twenty-six thousand one (26,001) pounds to thirty-eight thousand (38,000) pounds (whichever is applicable) and **that during the next twelve (12) months the truck shall not be used in for-hire transportation** and may be used in transporting persons, food, provender, feed, machinery, livestock,



material, and supplies necessary for his/her farming operation, and the products grown on his/her farm. (b) Any farmer owning a truck having a declared gross weight in excess of thirty-eight thousand (38,000) pounds shall not be required to pay the fee set out in subsection (3) of this section and in lieu thereof, shall pay forty percent (40%) of the fee set out in subsection (3) of this section and shall be exempt from any fee charged under the provisions of KRS 281.752.

The applicant's signature upon the registration receipt shall be considered to be a certification that he/she is a farmer engaged solely in the production of crops, livestock, or dairy products and that during the current registration year the truck will be used only in transporting persons, food, provender, feed, and machinery used in operating his/her farm and products grown on his/her farm.

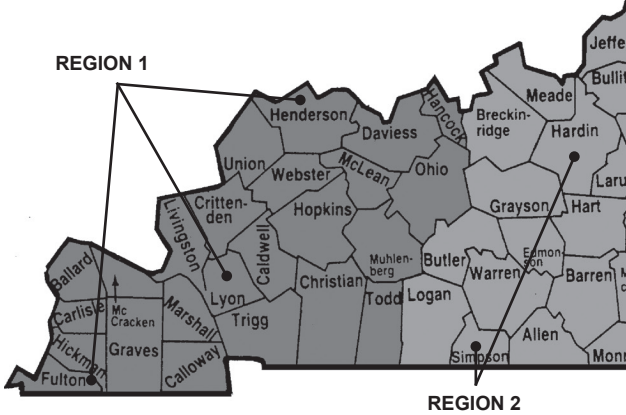
Subsection (3) states that the fees will be as follows:

<b>Declared gross weight of vehicle and any towed unit (weight in pounds)</b>	<b>Registration Fee</b>	<b>Farm Rate at 40%</b>
38,000 and less	\$11.50	N/A
38,001 - 44,000	\$474.00	\$189.00
44,001 - 55,000	\$669.00	\$267.60
55,001 - 62,000	\$1,007.00	\$402.80
62,001 - 73,280	\$1,250.00	\$500.00
73,281 - 80,000	\$1,410.00	\$564.00

\* KFB has calculated this at the 40% farm rate. Rate is not printed in KRS 186.050.

# COMMERCIAL VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT REGIONAL MAP - SCALE FACILITY

REG



## REGION 1

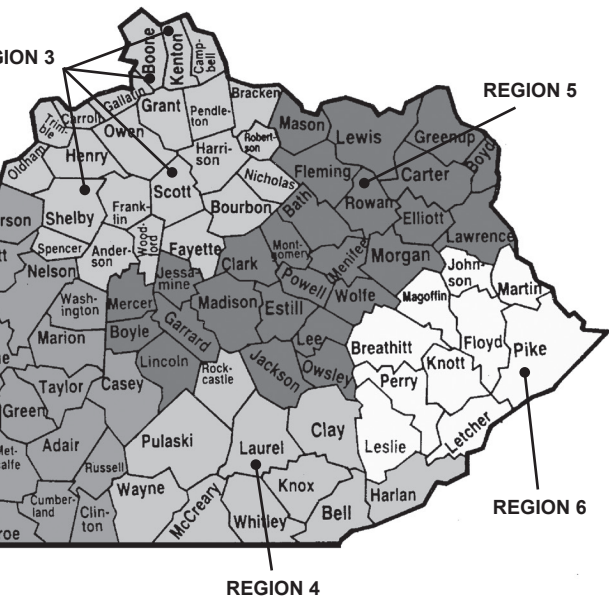
Lyon County I-24 E & W (mm 36)	270.388.7131
	270.388.2982
Fulton County - US 51 (Exit 0)	270.472.1910
Henderson US 41 (mm 1)	812.425.2613
Henderson Supv. Office	270.831.9888

## REGION 2

Simpson County - I-65 N (mm 4)	270.586.9036
Hardin County I-65 S (mm 90)	270.769.1037

## REGION 3

Shelby County I-64 E (mm 38.5)	502.633.2924
Scott County I-75 (mm 130)	502.863.4559
Boone County I-71 (mm76)	859.485.6778
Kenton County I-75 (mm 168)	859.356.1111



**REGION 4**

- Laurel County I-75 N 606.330.2116
- Laurel County I-75 S (mm 33) 606.330.2140

**REGION 5**

- Rowan County I-64 W (mm148) 606.783.0016

**REGION 6**

- Pike County 606.433.7791
- Pike County Toll Free District Office 877.433.7791

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. How do I obtain DOT numbers?

DOT numbers can be obtained online from the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) website at [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov).

## 2. Do trailers have to be licensed?

If the trailer is being towed by a vehicle that is licensed with the **Farm Plate**, the trailer is **NOT required** to be licensed if engaged exclusively in agriculture. If the trailer is being towed by a vehicle licensed with the **Farm Limited Plate**, then it **IS required** to be licensed.

## 3. What about farm license plates?

There are 3 designations of farm plates in Kentucky:

- **Farm Plate (0-26,000 lbs.) or (0-38,000 lbs.)**  
The Farm Plate is typically found on pickups and straight trucks. This plate can be used for the farmer's general travel and hauling supplies and equipment for the farm, as well as for private business. **YOU CANNOT HAUL FOR-HIRE ON ANY FARM PLATE.** It must be for a farm or for your private use. Kentucky statutes require the individual to sign the registration receipt attesting that they are a farmer engaged in the production of crops or livestock and for the next 12 months the vehicle will not be used in a for-hire operation.
- **Farm Limited Plate (44,000-80,000 lbs.)**  
This is typically found in larger trucks and tractor trailers. Kentucky statutes require that this plate only be used by the farmer to haul farm supplies and equipment to and from his/her farm.

#### **4. Is there an additional 10% weight allowance for vehicles hauling agricultural products?**

Yes. Vehicles registered under KRS 186.050(4)(b) (declared gross weight in excess of 38,000 lbs) that are engaged exclusively in the transportation of:

- (a) Meats or agriculture crop products originating from farm to first market;
- (b) Livestock or poultry from their point of origin to first market; or
- (c) Primary forest products, including but not limited to, saw dust, wood chips, bark, slabs or logs originating from their points of origin to first market.

May exceed the gross weight provisions set forth in KRS 189.222 subsection (1)(c) by a weight tolerance of ten percent (10%) except on the interstate highway system.

#### **5. If I am stopped by an enforcement officer while hauling livestock during extreme temperatures, will I be allowed to offload my livestock?**

Enforcement officers may allow you to take one of several actions:

- (a) Allow you to continue to your destination to offload if the destination is close.
- (b) Allow you to call for another vehicle, **which meets proper specifications**, to transfer the livestock from your vehicle.
- (c) Allow you to move to a shaded area if you are an excessive distance from your destination.

*Note: This is not a formal law but does fall under policy guidelines which call for humane treatment of animals being transported in vehicles.*

## Additional Information

### List of items needed to be present in farm trucks:

- Registration
- Proof of insurance

### The following are required:

- Fire extinguisher (charged)
- Safety warning triangles
- DOT Number

### Compliance Tips

- Make sure your farm vehicle is in compliance with weight and mechanical standards
- Ensure that you have all items (listed above) required to be in larger farm trucks
- Review the *Requirements*, *Frequently Asked Questions* and *Definitions* sections
- Make sure you understand the difference between agriculture and non-agriculture hauling. (Agriculture “custom hauling” operations may be considered commercial instead of agricultural hauling.)
- If traveling across state lines, contact respective state for their specific farm vehicle compliance guidelines.

## Definitions

### **Agriculture** – the business of raising or producing:

- (a) Crops, the products of which are used for food, feed, fiber, energy, or pharmaceuticals;
- (b) Horticulture products;
- (c) Tobacco;
- (d) Aquaculture products;
- (e) Livestock, poultry, and ratite birds and eggs;
- (f) Milk and milk products;
- (g) Eggs and egg products;
- (h) Bees and bee products;
- (i) Timber.

**Covered farm vehicle –**

1. Means a straight truck or articulated vehicle:
  - (a) Registered in a State with a license plate or other designation issued by the State of registration that allows law enforcement officials to identify it as a farm vehicle;
  - (b) Operated by the owner or operator of a farm or ranch, or an employee or family member of a an owner or operator of a farm or ranch;
  - (c) Used to transport agricultural commodities, livestock, machinery or supplies to or from a farm or ranch; and
  - (d) Not used in for-hire motor carrier operations; however, for-hire motor carrier operations do not include the operation of a vehicle meeting the requirements of paragraphs (1)(a) through (c) of this definition by a tenant pursuant to a crop share farm lease agreement to transport the landlord's portion of the crops under that agreement.
  
2. Meeting the requirements of paragraphs (1)(a) through (d) of this definition:
  - (a) With a gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating, whichever is greater, of 26,001 pounds or less may utilize the exemptions in § 390.39 anywhere in the United States; or
  - (b) With a gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating, whichever is greater, of more than 26,001 pounds may utilize the exemptions in § 390.39 anywhere in the State of registration or across State lines within 150 air miles of the farm or ranch with respect to which the vehicle is being operated.

**Daylight hours** – the period of time one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise through one-half (1/2) hour after sunset.

**Farmer** – any person who operates a farm or directly involved in the cultivation of land, crops or livestock which:

- (a) Are owned by that person; or
- (b) Are under the direct control of that person.

**Farm implement or equipment** – machinery, equipment or vehicle used exclusively in a farm or agriculture operation including those items which are not required by KRS Chapter 186 to be registered.

**Farm Vehicle Driver** – a person who drives only a commercial motor vehicle that is:

- (a) Controlled and operated by a farmer as a private motor carrier of property;
- (b) Being used to transport either:
  - (1) Agricultural products;
  - (2) Farm machinery, farm supplies, or both, to or from a farm;
  - (3) Not being used in the operation of a for-hire motor carrier;
  - (4) Not carrying hazardous materials of a type or quantity that requires the commercial motor vehicle to be placarded; and
  - (5) Being used within 150 air miles of the farmer's farm.

**Fully-controlled access highway** – a highway which:

- (a) Gives preference to through traffic;
- (b) Has access only at selected public roads or streets; and
- (c) Has no highway grade crossing or intersection.

**Interstate commerce** – trade, traffic, or transportation in the United States:

- (a) Between a place in a state and a place outside such state (including a place outside the United States);
- (b) Between two places in a state through another state or a place outside of the United States; or
- (c) Between two places in a state as part of trade, traffic, or transportation originating or terminating outside the state or the United States.

**Intrastate commerce** – trade, traffic, or transportation in any State which is not described in the term “interstate commerce.”

**Kentucky's harvesting season and Kentucky's planting season** – January 1 to December 31 of each year. (year round)



# ANNUAL VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORT

**Example Only**

VEHICLE HISTORY RECORD	
REPORT NUMBER	FLEET UNIT NUMBER
DATE	

MOTOR CARRIER OPERATOR	INSPECTOR'S NAME (PRINT OR TYPE)
ADDRESS	THIS INSPECTOR MEETS THE QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 396.19. <input type="checkbox"/> YES
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION (✓) AND COMPLETE <input type="checkbox"/> LIC. PLATE NO. <input type="checkbox"/> VIN <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
VEHICLE TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> TRACTOR <input type="checkbox"/> TRAILER <input type="checkbox"/> TRUCK <input type="checkbox"/> (OTHER)	INSPECTION AGENCY / LOCATION (OPTIONAL)

## VEHICLE COMPONENTS INSPECTED

OK	NEEDS REPAIR	REPAIRED DATE	ITEM	OK	NEEDS REPAIR	REPAIRED DATE	ITEM
			1. BRAKE SYSTEM a. Service Brakes b. Parking Brake System c. Brake Drums or Rotors d. Brake Hose e. Brake Tubing f. Low Pressure Warning Device g. Tractor Protection Valve h. Air Compressor i. Electric Brakes j. Hydraulic Brakes k. Vacuum Systems				d. Steering Gear Box e. Pitman Arm f. Power Steering g. Ball and Socket Joints h. Tie Rods and Drag Links i. Nuts j. Steering System
			2. COUPLING DEVICES a. Fifth Wheels b. Pintle Hooks c. Drawbar/Towbar Eye d. Drawbar/Towbar Tongue e. Safety Devices f. Saddle-Mounts				8. SUSPENSION a. Any U-bolt(s), spring hanger(s), or other axle positioning part(s) cracked, broken, loose or missing resulting in shifting of an axle from its normal position. b. Spring Assembly c. Torque, Radius or Tracking Components.
			3. EXHAUST SYSTEM a. Any exhaust system determined to be leaking at a point forward of or directly below the drive/sleeper compartment. b. A bus exhaust system leaking or discharging to the atmosphere in violation of standards (1), (2) or (3). c. No part of the exhaust system of any motor vehicle shall be so located as would be likely to result in burning, charring, or damaging the electrical wiring, the fuel supply, or any combustible part of the motor vehicle.				9. FRAME a. Frame Members b. Tire and Wheel Clearance c. Adjustment Axle Assemblies (Sliding Subframes)
			4. FUEL SYSTEM a. Visible leak b. Fuel tank filler cap missing c. Fuel tank securely attached				10. TIRES a. Tires on any steering axle of a power unit. b. All other tires.
			5. LIGHTING DEVICES All lighting devices and reflectors required by Section 393 shall be operable.				11. WHEELS AND RIMS a. Lock or Slide Ring b. Wheels and Rims c. Fasteners d. Welds
			6. SAFE LOADING a. Part(s) of vehicle or condition of loading such that the spare tire or any part of the load or dunnage can fall onto the roadway. b. Protection against shifting cargo.				12. WINDSHIELD GLAZING Requirements and exceptions as stated pertaining to any crack, discoloration or vision reducing matter (reference 393.60 for exceptions)
			7. STEERING MECHANISM a. Steering Wheel Free Play b. Steering Column c. Front Axle Beam and All Steering Components Other Than Steering Column				13. WINDSHIELD WIPERS Any power unit that has an inoperative wiper, or missing or damaged parts that render it ineffective.  List any other condition which may prevent safe operation of this vehicle.  _____ _____ _____ _____

INSTRUCTIONS: MARK COLUMN ENTRIES TO VERIFY INSPECTION: **X** OK, **X** NEEDS REPAIR, **NA** IF ITEMS DO NOT APPLY, \_\_\_ REPAIRED DATE

CERTIFICATION: THIS VEHICLE HAS PASSED ALL THE INSPECTION ITEMS FOR THE ANNUAL VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH 49 CFR 396.

## Disclaimer

This is not a legally-binding publication. The State and Federal Regulations are subject to change at any time. This publication is not necessarily all inclusive and there may be additional guidelines and regulations that are not listed.

## Sources

KRS TITLE XVI: Chapter 186, Chapter 189

KRS TITLE XXI: Chapter 246

KRS TITLE XXIV: Chapter 281

601 KAR 1:005: Section 1 and 3

601 KAR 1:018: Section 1, 2, 9, and 10

601 KAR 1:019

Regulatory Guidance for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs): Parts 390-396

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Information Memorandum - "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st century (MAP-21)". Dated: October 3, 2012

Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement Farm Truck Regulations

*Note: This publication, printed February 2016, may also be viewed online and printed by clicking on the Federation tab at [kyfb.com](http://kyfb.com).*





*Kentucky Farm Bureau is a voluntary organization of farm families and their allies dedicated to serving as the voice of agriculture by identifying problems, developing solutions and taking actions which will improve net farm income, achieve better economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life for all.*



For further information, questions, comments or to request a copy of this guide, contact:

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Public Affairs Division  
Kentucky Farm Bureau  
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Louisville, KY 40220  
(502) 495-5000 ext. 7218  
kyfb.com**

