

Farm Vehicles and Equipment on Roads

As per the Traffic Safety Act and associated regulations, a vehicle used for farming operations is considered a commercial vehicle and must abide by legislation for commercial vehicles. This means that farm vehicles over a certain height, weight and width may require a permit when transporting cargo and all cargo must be properly secured.

Vehicles with farm plates are still considered to be commercial vehicles and must abide by legislation for commercial vehicles.

Disclaimer

Leduc County has provided the following information as a resource for our farming community. This information is intended to help the farming community develop an increased understanding of traffic laws in Alberta. It is up to each individual to follow the rules and regulations set out by all current legislation including the Traffic Safety Act of Alberta, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation of Alberta and the Commercial Vehicle Dimension & Weight Regulation of Alberta.

*Please refer to the latest versions of the Traffic Safety Act of Alberta and all associated regulations for the most current and detailed traffic laws and requirements. Additional resources are available at www.transportation.alberta.ca or by calling the Alberta Transportation Central Permitting Office at **1-800-662-7138**.*

Leduc County

Enforcement Services

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LEDUC COUNTY FARM VEHICLES ON ROADS



Farm/Commercial Vehicles

Classes of vehicles in Alberta

Alberta recognizes two classes of vehicles:

1. **Private Passenger**
2. **Commercial**

Note: a vehicle used for farming operations is a Class 2 Commercial Vehicle.

What is a commercial vehicle?

A commercial vehicle is a vehicle operated on a highway (including county roads) by or on behalf of a person for the purpose of providing transportation.

If a vehicle is used for any type of business, it's considered a commercial vehicle. Farming has always been a commercial enterprise; therefore, the commercial legislation for weights and dimensions has always applied. **This means that farm vehicles over a certain height, weight and width may require a permit when transporting cargo.**

Farm Plates

If your vehicle has farm plates, it is still considered to be a commercial vehicle.

Farm plates are used for registration purposes and to distinguish farmers from other industries when purchasing/possessing marked fuel. They do not carry with them any other value or exception related to height, width, weights, permits or securing loads.

Properly secured loads

All commercial vehicles must have properly secured cargo. Even if a vehicle has farm plates, the load must still be secured during transport to ensure it won't leak, spill, blow off, fall from, fall through or otherwise be dislodged from the commercial vehicle or shift upon or within the vehicle to such an extent that the commercial vehicle's stability is adversely affected. If the load is not properly secured, the driver may face a **\$776** fine.

Securing and hauling hay/straw

The National Safety Code rules for commercial vehicle cargo securement do not apply to farm-plated vehicles hauling hay or straw within a 50-kilometre radius of the load's origin. *In order for this exemption to apply, the vehicle must not exceed 80-kilometres per hour.*

In instances such as these, you will not require a permit, BUT the load must still be properly secured and not overweight. If the load is not properly secured, you will face a **\$776** fine. If the cargo is not fully contained within the vehicle, it must still be properly secured using a system (i.e. tie straps) that provides a downward force equal to at least 20 per cent of the weight of the cargo.



Permits

Permits are required for the following reasons:

1. To ensure the safety of other road users
2. To ensure there is proper ability to maneuver the commercial vehicle(s) at intersections and farm entrances.

Did you know that farmers aren't charged permit fees?

Even though farmers are not charged permit fees, permits are still required according to law.

How to obtain a free permit:

If you need a permit for a Leduc County road, please call RoaData Services at **1-888-444-9288**.

For more information or to obtain a permit for a provincial road, please call the Alberta Transportation Central Permitting Office at **1-800-662-7138**. Permit staff will provide assistance with applications.

Height, width and length requirements

Dimensions

If the farm equipment/commercial vehicle and its load exceed any or all of the following dimensions, you will need a permit:

- 2.6 metres in width (8.5 feet)
- 4.15 metres in height (13.6 feet)
- 23 metres in length (75 feet)