



## **OVERWEIGHT PERMIT EXEMPTION FOR SEASONALLY HARVESTED PRODUCTS**

State law allows carriers to avoid the requirement of getting overweight permits for their farm trucks but still exceed the maximum legal weight limit by 15% during the harvest season. In order to qualify for the overweight exemption, haulers must meet the following criteria:

- 1) The vehicle(s) hauling the products must, at a minimum, be registered for the maximum gross weight by which the vehicle(s) is allowed to be registered under state law. The maximum registration weight by vehicle axles for overweight exemption purposes are:
  - 2 axles – 20 tons (or more)
  - 3 axles – 30 tons (or more)
  - 4 axles – 40 tons (or more)
  - 5 axles – 43 tons (or more)
  - 6 axles – 45 tons (or more)
  - 7 axles – 47 tons (maximum legal registration weight)
- 2) Haulers may transport grain or other seasonally harvested products from the field to storage, market, or stockpile in the field or from stockpile or farm storage to market or factory. **The overweight exemption is only good when hauling within 70 miles of the origination point.** Seasonal harvest permits will continue to be issued to carriers needing to travel more than 70 miles.
- 3) The owner or a representative of the owner of the agricultural product must furnish the driver of the loaded vehicle with a signed statement of origin and destination. **Farm Bureau has developed a generic form which can be used by farmers to meet this requirement.**
- 4) The overweight exemption **does NOT apply** to the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

There may be situations where a county or city may have some special weight restrictions on its jurisdictional roads so farmers still may have to check with their local government entities for weight permit requirements – especially if the city or county required special permits in the past.

**Statutory language** - Any motor vehicle, semitrailer, or trailer carrying grain or other seasonally harvested products may operate from the field where such grain or products are harvested to storage, market, or stockpile in the field or from stockpile or farm storage to market or factory up to seventy miles with a load that exceeds the maximum load permitted by section 60-6,294 by fifteen percent on any tandem axle, group of axles, and gross weight. Any truck with no more than a single rear axle carrying grain or other seasonally harvested products may operate from the field where such grain or products are harvested to storage, market, or stockpile in the field or from stockpile or farm storage to market or factory up to seventy miles with a load that exceeds the maximum load permitted by section 60-6,294 by fifteen percent on any single axle and gross weight. The owner or a representative of the owner of the agricultural product shall furnish the driver of the loaded vehicle a signed statement of origin and destination.