HAULIN’ AG:
A Guide to Transporting Farm Products & Equipment in North Carolina
Third Edition
North Carolina Farm Bureau enjoys a good working relationship with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Most recently, our collaboration with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol has been geared toward helping Farm Bureau members decipher the laws that apply to them when they are transporting agricultural products or equipment from farm to farm, farm to market or market to farm.

North Carolina Farm Bureau’s Hauling Ag handbook is a result of our ongoing efforts to smooth out the many regulatory bumps and potholes that exist along the state’s agricultural highways and rural routes. The handbook was designed to fit in the glove box of your farm truck and other vehicles so that it can be readily available to be used as a quick-reference guide to assist you in preventing or responding to traffic stops by law enforcement agencies.

For the sake of utility, Hauling Ag reduces many state and federal highway laws (as of October 1, 2012) to their essence, but it is not intended as a comprehensive explanation of all of the transportation laws that may affect the farmer. We hope you find it useful.
# HAULIN’ AG:
A Guide to Transporting Farm Products & Equipment in North Carolina

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GENERAL RULE

Operators of vehicles with a gross combined vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more; operators of vehicles designed to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver; and operators of vehicles hauling placardable quantities of hazardous materials are required to have a commercial driver’s license (CDL). (N.C.G.S 20-37.12)

AGRICULTURAL EXEMPTION

An operator of a farm vehicle is exempt from CDL requirements if the vehicle he or she is operating meets all of the following four criteria: (N.C.G.S. 20-37.16(e))

1) It is controlled and operated by the farmer or the farmer’s employee and is used exclusively for farm business;

2) It is used to transport either agricultural products, farm machinery or farm supplies to or from a farm;

3) It is not being used for hire (remember that “for hire” is interpreted by Motor Carrier Enforcement as including work done for a neighbor if the farmer receives anything of value in return)

4) It is used within 150 miles of the farmer’s farm.

*See MAP-21

LIMITATION OF EXEMPTION

1) Drivers of school buses that have been converted for farm use require a CDL with a passenger endorsement if the title for the vehicle lists it as a school bus. For the CDL farm exemptions to apply, the title must be changed to reflect that the vehicle is no longer a school bus.
Operators of farm vehicles that are exempt from the requirement of a Commercial Driver’s License *(See Commercial Driver’s License* still need to be sure that they are operating with the correct class of regular North Carolina driver’s license. (*N.C.G.S. 20-7*)

Class A – A Class “A” driver’s license is required for operators of all combinations of vehicles that include a towed unit with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of at least 10,001 pounds.

Class B – A Class “B” driver’s license is required for operators of all single motor vehicles with a GVWR of at least 26,001 pounds and all combinations of vehicles with a GVWR of at least 26,001 pounds that include a towed unit with a GVWR of less than 10,001 pounds.

Class C – All operators of vehicles that are exempt from CDL requirements and do not require a Class “A” or Class “B” license may operate with a Class “C” license.

Exempt from NC Driver’s License – A nonresident who possesses a valid driver’s license issued by his home state or country is exempt from having a NC driver’s license. (The nonresident must operate the vehicle in accordance with the license restrictions and vehicle classifications that would be applicable to him under the laws and regulations of his home state or country). (*N.C.G.S. 20-8(3*))

- A “Resident” is any person who resides within this State for other than a temporary or transitory purpose for more than six months. (*20-4.01(34)*)

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**GENERAL RULE**

**AGRICULTURAL EXEMPTION**
Registration of Vehicles and Trailers

GENERAL RULE

Commercial vehicles and trailers that are intended to be operated on any state highway are required to be registered with the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). (N.C.G.S. 20-50)

AGRICULTURAL EXEMPTIONS

(N.C.G.S. 20-51)
The following are exempt from registration:
1) Farm tractors and trailers when used to transport farm implements, supplies, or products from farm to market or farm to farm.
2) Farm tractors and trailers on any trip within 10 miles from point of loading, not to exceed 35 miles per hour.
3) Farm trailers attached to licensed motor vehicles used to transport most agricultural commodities, livestock, supplies or equipment from farm to market or farm to farm.
4) Agricultural spreader vehicles designed for off-road use so long as they:
   a. do not exceed 35 miles per hour,
   b. do not exceed 50 miles from source,
   c. are driven by licensed person,
   d. are covered by liability insurance, and
   e. have had a federal safety inspection.

LIMITATION OF EXEMPTIONS

1) For-hire farm tractors and trailers are not exempt from registration.
Annual registration fees for self-propelled, property-hauling (commercial) vehicles are required. The fees are based on the Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) of the vehicle, including the weight of the truck, trailer, and load. Annual or multiyear registration fees are also required for trailers or semi-trailers. (N.C.G.S. 20-88)

1) Farm equipment and trailers that are exempt from registration are also exempt from the registration fees. *See Registration of Vehicles and Trailers

2) Farm tagged vehicle annual registration fees are approximately one half the full rate. (N.C.G.S. 20-88(b))

3) Farm tags may be purchased for any 3-month period for one quarter of the farmer rate. (N.C.G.S. 20-88(b)(5a))

License plates issued at the farmer rate shall be placed upon trucks and truck-tractors that are operated for the primary purpose of carrying or transportation of applicant’s farm products, raised or produced on his farm, and farm supplies and not operated in hauling for hire. (N.C.G.S. 20-88(b)(3))

A person may not drive a vehicle on a highway if the vehicle’s gross weight exceeds its declared gross weight. A vehicle driven in violation of this subsection is subject to axle-group weight penalties. The penalties apply to the amount by which the vehicle’s gross weight exceeds its declared weight. (N.C.G.S. 20-88(k))
3) For a vehicle to be eligible for the farm weight exemptions *See Weight of Vehicles and Loads* the vehicle must be registered for the maximum amount of gross weight allowed for the axle spacing listed in N.C.G.S. 20-118(b).

4) For a vehicle to be eligible for the federal MAP-21 exemptions, the vehicle must be registered with a farm tag. *See MAP-21*
Vehicle Inspections

GENERAL RULE

State Regulations – All registered motor vehicles are required to have an annual safety inspection performed by an authorized person. Certain motor vehicles in designated counties are subject to an annual emissions inspection. (N.C.G.S. 20-183.2)

Federal Regulations – All commercial motor vehicles over 10,000 pounds GVWR are subject to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations related to inspection, repair, and maintenance if engaged in intrastate or interstate commerce. (14A NCAC 09J .0101 & 49 CFR Part 396)

AGRICULTURAL EXEMPTIONS

State Regulations

The following are exempt from State safety inspections: (N.C.G.S. 20-183.2(a))

1) Commercial vehicles subject to inspection through Fed Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

2) Trailers with gross weight less than 4,000 lbs.

The following are exempt from State emissions inspections: (N.C.G.S. 20-183.2(b))

1) A motor vehicle registered with a farm tag.

2) A motor vehicle that is a 1996 model or older, is one of the three most recent model years, or has less than 70,000 miles.

Federal Regulations — A “covered farm vehicle” is exempt from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety inspection requirements if operated intrastate or has a GVW or GVWR of more than 26,000 and operated interstate within 150 miles of the farm. *See MAP-21

LIMITATION OF EXEMPTION

1) Motor vehicles with a farm tag are not exempt from the State safety inspection.

2) Farm commercial motor vehicles are not exempt from Federal inspection requirements if hazardous materials placarding is required. *See Hauling Hazardous Materials
G E N E R A L  R U L E

Vehicles and trailers shall not exceed maximum width, length, or height limitations:
(N.C.G.S. 20-116, 115.1, 119)

1) Width shall not exceed 102 inches.

2) A single vehicle with two or more axles shall not exceed 40 feet in length.

3) Truck tractors are allowed with trailers not exceeding 53 feet. Trailer lengths exceeding 48 feet may be operated only on interstate highways and primary routes not excluded by DOT (Department of Transportation). Routes limiting trailer length are posted on DOT maps but are not posted on road signage. DOT maps web site can be found at www.ncdot.org.

4) Height shall not exceed 13 feet, 6 inches.

5) For indivisible loads exceeding any of the above dimensions, an oversize permit may be obtained from DOT. Permit requirements typically require the use of a certified escort.

A G R I C U L T U R A L  E X E M P T I O N S

The following are vehicle size exemptions:

1) Self propelled farm equipment, including cotton module haulers, is allowed up to 10 feet in width. (N.C.G.S. 20-116(j))

2) Self propelled farm equipment is allowed in excess of 10 feet but not exceeding 25 feet with the following conditions: (N.C.G.S. 20-116(j))
   a. During daylight hours only
   b. Equipment must display a red flag on the front and rear of the equipment or a flashing warning light
   c. If traveling more than 10 miles, a flag vehicle with flashing lights must be positioned in front and behind the equipment
d. Equipment must be operated to the right of the center line when meeting opposing traffic
e. Equipment must be folded to its minimal width

3) Cotton and sage module haulers shall not exceed 50 feet in length. (N.C.G.S. 20-116(d)(2))

4) Annual oversize permits for hauling farm equipment up to 14 feet are available at no charge. (N.C.G.S. 20-119(b))

5) Hauling ag equipment from the farm to dealer is allowed under permit without certified escorts, other destinations require an escort if designated in the permit. (N.C.G.S. 20-119 (g)(1))

DOT OVERSIZE/OVERWEIGHT PERMIT OFFICE:
1-800-221-8166

LIMITATIONS OF EXEMPTIONS

1) None of the farm exemptions apply on interstate highways.

2) Typically, a farm vehicle can be issued a 12 feet and/or a 14 feet overwidth permit. The 12 feet permit does not require a certified escort but a 14 feet permit will require a certified escort. Fully read and understand the requirements of the permit.

3) Equipment may be operated on a fully controlled access highway or interstate only after approval by NCDOT. DOT Traffic Safety Unit. (919) 773-2893.
Weight of Vehicles and Loads

**GENERAL RULE**

Vehicles and trailers shall not exceed maximum single-axle, tandem-axle, or gross weight limitations:
(N.C.G.S. 20-118)

1) Single-axle weight shall not exceed 20,000 pounds.
2) Tandem-axle weight shall not exceed 38,000 pounds.
3) Gross weight shall not exceed the amount determined by the distance between the first and last axle of any axle group as determined by the Bridge Formula Table.
4) The posted weight on any bridge or light-traffic road shall not be exceeded.
5) The actual weight may not exceed the declared gross weight on the vehicle registration. *See Registration Weight and Fees for Vehicles and Trailers

6) Any vehicle or combination with a GVWR exceeding 10,000 pounds or hauling placarded hazardous material is required to enter a permanent or temporary weigh station. (N.C.G.S. 20-118.1)

**AGRICULTURAL EXEMPTIONS**

The following are vehicle weight exemptions:

1) Vehicles hauling agricultural products or supplies within 150 miles of the farm are allowed:
   a. For any axle configuration: a single-axle weight of 22,000 pounds, a tandem-axle weight of 42,000 pounds, and a gross weight of 90,000 pounds;
   b. For a five or more axle combination: a single-axle weight of 26,000 pounds, a tandem-axle weight of 44,000 pounds, and a gross weight of
90,000 pounds with at least 48 feet between the center of the first and last axle and at least 11 feet between the first and second axle;

c. For a two-axle vehicle: a single-axle weight of 27,000 pounds and a gross weight of 37,000 pounds with at least 14 feet between the center of the axles. (N.C.G.S. 20-118(c)(12))

2) Vehicles hauling agricultural equipment or materials are exempt from the light-traffic road weight limits if the farm or destination is located solely on the light-traffic road. Vehicles are exempt only to either one of the two closest roads that is not posted as a light-traffic road. (N.C.G.S. 20-118(c)(5))

3) Privately owned, noncommercial horse trailers constructed for 4 or fewer horses is not required to stop at a weigh station while transporting horses unless directed by a law enforcement officer. (N.C.G.S. 20-118.1)

LIMITATIONS OF EXEMPTIONS

1) There are no exemptions for posted bridge weights.

2) Weight exemptions do not apply on interstate highways.
Securing of Cargo

GENERAL RULE

State Regulations — Vehicles must be constructed and loaded to prevent any of the load from falling, blowing, dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping from the vehicle. When hauling rock, gravel, stone, or similar substance the load must be 6 inches below the top of the walls and covered with a tarp. (N.C.G.S. 20-116(g))

Federal Regulations — All commercial motor vehicles over 26,000 pounds GVWR are subject to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations related to load securement if engaged in intrastate commerce (operating within NC boundaries). Commercial vehicles over 10,000 pounds GVWR are subject to federal regulations if engaged in interstate commerce (crossing state lines). (14A NCAC 09J .0101 & 49 CFR Part 393)

AGRICULTURAL EXEMPTIONS

State Regulations are not applicable to transportation of seed cotton, poultry or livestock, or silage or other feed grain used in the feeding of poultry or livestock. (N.C.G.S. 20-116(g)(4))

Federal Regulations only apply to farm vehicles that cross state lines or exceed 26,000 pounds when operating solely within the state.

SPECIFIC FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations for securing cargo are listed specifically in 49 CFR Parts 393.100 through 393.136. These regulations are very detailed; listing the specific standards for each type of tiedown, number of tiedowns required, and cargo specific requirements. In general the requirements that are imposed under the regulations are:
• Cargo must be contained, immobilized or secured to prevent the loss of any part of the load and prevent any shifting of the load that could adversely affect the vehicle's stability (Part 393.100).

• The systems and devices used to secure cargo must meet minimum performance criteria for breaking strength and working load limit, typically 50% of the weight of the load. Equivalent to the performance criteria is complete immobilization of the load (Part 393.102).

• For cargo that requires tiedowns, the number of tiedowns used is determined by the length and weight of the individual cargo articles and whether the trailer has a headerboard. As an example, only one tiedown is needed for articles 5 feet or less and weighing less than 1,100 pounds (Part 393.110).

• Heavy equipment (>10,000 pounds) must be secured with a minimum of four tiedowns as close to the front and rear of the equipment as possible. Accessory equipment must be lowered and separately secured to the trailer (Part 393.120).
**GENERAL RULE**

Vehicles hauling hazardous materials in bulk packaging (a tank with a capacity of greater than 119 gallons), including diesel fuel, are required to be placarded. Operators of vehicles required to be placarded are required to have a commercial driver license.

**AGRICULTURAL EXEMPTIONS**

1) Farmers engaged in the transportation of “agricultural products,” including fuels and other hazardous materials that support the production of an agricultural commodity, over local roads, between fields of the same farm are exempt from all placarding requirements. (N.C.G.S. 20-381(b), 40 CFR Part 173.5(a))

2) Vehicles hauling agricultural products intrastate to and from the farm within 150 miles of the farm are required to be placarded but are exempt from the specific packaging requirements, training requirements and emergency response information requirements contained in federal regulations for placarded vehicles. Drivers of such placarded vehicles must maintain shipping papers in the cab of the vehicle that describe the type of hazardous material being hauled, but are still exempt from CDL requirements. (N.C.G.S. 20-381(b), 40 CFR Part 173.5(b))

**LIMITATIONS OF EXEMPTIONS**

1) None of the exemptions (CDL or placarding) apply to someone who is hauling fuel “for hire.” For hire is defined broadly to include a farmer who is bringing fuel to a neighbor in exchange for anything of value.
Federal safety regulations set maximum consecutive and weekly working hours for commercial drivers. These rules are in place to keep fatigued drivers off the road. Under these rules, a commercial driver must get off the road after 11 consecutive hours driving or 14 consecutive hours on duty, whether driving or not. Also a commercial driver may not drive after being on duty for 70 hours in any eight-day period. The driver must have at least 34 hours off duty to be allowed to get behind the wheel of a commercial motor vehicle. Co-drivers may take over for the off duty driver to keep the vehicle on the road.

Drivers of commercial motor vehicles are required to keep time logs showing driving status and duty status. Failure to properly maintain time logs can subject the driver and his employer to fines of up to $1,000.00 per violation day. (49 CFR Part 395.1)

**AGRICULTURAL EXEMPTIONS**

1) Hours of Service and recordkeeping regulations don’t apply to drivers transporting agricultural commodities or farm supplies within a 150 air-mile radius from the source of the commodities or the distribution point for the farm supplies. The specific exemptions are:

- a) Drivers transporting agricultural commodities within 150 air-miles from the source.
- b) Drivers transporting farm supplies from a wholesale or retail distribution point to where the supplies are intended to be used, within 150 air-miles.
- c) Drivers transporting farm supplies from a wholesale distribution point to a retail distribution point, within 150 air-miles.
2) Hours of service and recordkeeping regulations do not apply to drivers of “covered farm vehicles.”

*See MAP-21

Agricultural commodity is defined as any agricultural commodity, nonprocessed food, feed, fiber, or livestock. Farm supplies for agricultural purposes is defined as products directly related to the growing or harvesting of agricultural commodities during the planting and harvesting seasons within each State, as determined by the State, and livestock feed at any time of the year.
Seatbelt Use

**GENERAL RULE**

Each occupant of a motor vehicle shall wear a seatbelt when the vehicle is in motion on a street or highway. (N.C.G.S. 20-135.2A)

**AGRICULTURAL EXEMPTIONS**

The following are exempt from mandatory seatbelt use:

1) Any vehicle registered and licensed as a property-carrying vehicle, while being used for agricultural purposes. Property-carrying vehicles include farm and commercial registrations. (N.C.G.S. 20-135.2A(c)(4))

2) A motor vehicle not required to have seatbelts under federal law.

**LIMITATIONS OF EXEMPTIONS**

Seatbelt exemption does not apply if the vehicle is not being used for agricultural purposes, even if the vehicle has farm tags.

Mobile Phone Use

**GENERAL RULES**

1) It is unlawful to operate a vehicle on a public street or highway while “texting” (N.C.G.S. 20-137.4A(a))

2) Commercial Motor Vehicles engaged in interstate commerce or intrastate commerce that have a gross vehicle weight greater than 26,000 pounds may not be operated while using a mobile phone. Handsfree technology is allowed. (N.C.G.S. 20-137.4A(a1))
The federal transportation reauthorization bill, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act ("MAP-21; P.L. 112-141) was effective Oct. 1, 2012. MAP-21 contains modified agriculture exemptions from federal motor carrier regulations as more fully described below:

1) The Hours of Service (HOS) exemption for drivers hauling agricultural commodities is expanded to 150 air miles. The exemption applies to:
   a) Drivers transporting agricultural commodities within 150 air-miles from the source;
   b) Drivers transporting farm supplies from a wholesale or retail distribution point to where the supplies are intended to be used, within 150 air-mile radius from the distribution point;
   c) Drivers transporting farm supplies from a wholesale distribution point to a retail distribution point, within 150 air-mile radius from the wholesale distribution point.

Note: This exemption applies regardless of the type of vehicle used (farm truck, for-hire truck, etc.). A farm tagged vehicle is not a requirement.

2) The operation of “covered farm vehicles” by farm and ranch operators are exempt from most of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, including CDLs, medical card requirements, and inspections. The operation of “covered farm vehicles” is exempt from:
   • 49 CFR Part 383: Commercial Driver’s License Standards, Requirements and Penalties.
   • 49 CFR Part 382: Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use and Testing.
   • 49 CFR Part 395: Hours of Service.
   • 49 CFR Part 396: Inspection, Repair and Maintenance.
A “Covered Farm Vehicle” (including an articulated motor vehicle) must meet the criteria below in order for the exemptions to apply:

1) Must be operated by a farm or ranch owner or operator (includes employees and family members).
2) Used to transport agricultural commodities, livestock, or machinery or supplies to a farm or ranch.
3) Shall not be transporting hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placards.
4) Shall be equipped with a special license plate or other designation by the State in which it is registered to allow for identification. (North Carolina’s designation is the farm license plate).
5) Has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), gross combination weight rating (GCWR) or gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight, whichever is greater, that is:
   a) 26,001 pounds or less and operating anywhere in the United States; or
   b) Greater than 26,001 pounds and operating within North Carolina, or
   c) Greater than 26,001 pounds and operating outside of North Carolina within 150 air miles of the farm.

Note: Drivers of “farm vehicles” that meet the criteria of state CDL exemptions are not required to have a CDL license, whether or not the vehicle is displaying a farm tag. *See Commercial Driver’s License
Other Registrations

**MOTOR FUELS TAX**

- Motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight greater than 26,000 pounds, or with three or more axles on the power unit, are required to be licensed, display decals, and keep records related to motor fuel taxes.

- Qualified vehicles described above must apply for an International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) license if traveling in two or more states or a North Carolina Highway Fuel Use Tax (NCHFUT) license if traveling exclusively in North Carolina.

- Farmers can apply for IFTA and NCHFUT licenses through the N.C. Department of Revenue (NCDOR) website at www.dor.state.nc.us/

- NCDOR requires records to be maintained for all vehicles greater than 10,000 pounds. Requirements include:
  - All fuel receipts-highway and off-road.
  - Quarterly odometer readings.
  - Purchase and disposition dates of vehicles.
  - List of current vehicles by registered gross weight.

- Additional record keeping requirements apply to on-site bulk fuel tanks:
  - All fuel receipts-highway and off-road.
  - Withdrawal statements of fuel from bulk tanks.
Commercial motor vehicles (including farm trucks) with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) greater than 26,000 pounds are required to have a USDOT number and company name displayed on both sides of the vehicle.

This requirement became effective Dec. 1, 2012 for intrastate vehicles but enforcement is limited to a warning until Nov. 30, 2013. This is an ongoing requirement for interstate commercial vehicles over 10,000 pounds. (N.C.G.S. 20-101).

Farmers can apply for a DOT number (no charge) through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) website at www.fmcsa.dot.gov

The International Registration Plan (IRP) is a registration reciprocity agreement among jurisdictions in the United States and Canada, which provides for payment of license fee on the basis of fleet miles operated in various jurisdictions.

Commercial motor vehicles with a combined gross vehicle weight greater than 26,000 pounds, or with three or more axles, that travel in two or more states is required to be registered as an Apportioned Vehicle with the IRP.

Vehicles with farm tags are not apportionable and do not have to be registered with IRP.

Farmers can register with IRP through the NCDOT website at www.ncdot.gov/dmv/vehicle/irp/
Unified Carrier Registration (UCR)

• The Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) program requires individuals and companies that operate commercial motor vehicles in interstate commerce to register their business and pay an annual fee based on the size of their fleet.

• Farmers that operate commercial motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight greater than 10,000 pounds that travel in two or more states are required to register with the UCR system.

• Farmers can register with UCR through the national UCR website at www.ucr.in.gov.
Important Phone Numbers

**NC STATE HIGHWAY PATROL**

Motor Carrier Enforcement Section .......... (919) 715-8683  
Troop A (Greenville) ......................... (252) 758-5300  
Troop B (Fayetteville) ......................... (910) 486-1058  
Troop C (Raleigh) ................................ (919) 733-3911  
Troop D (Greensboro) ......................... (336) 334-5621  
Troop E (Salisbury) ............................. (704) 639-7595  
Troop F (Newton) ............................... (828) 466-5504  
Troop G (Asheville) ............................. (828) 298-4253  
Troop H (Monroe) ............................... (704) 283-8559  

**NC DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

Motor Fuels Tax Division ..................... (919) 733-3409  

**NC DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION**

Oversize/Overweight Permit Unit ............. (888) 221-8166  
Division of Motor Vehicles  
Registration Section .......................... (919) 733-3915  
Traffic Engineering & Safety Systems  
Branch (STAA Routes) ......................... (919) 773-2800  

*For more information or answers to questions about transporting farm workers, contact the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, (866) 487-9243; or, its North Carolina office, (919) 790-2741.*
Haulin’ Ag will be periodically updated to reflect changes in transportation regulations affecting agriculture. To see the most recent version of this publication go to: www.HaulinAg.org
North Carolina Farm Bureau (NCFB) is the unified, statewide Voice of Agriculture®. Working through our grassroots organizations to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural North Carolinians, we strive to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities. We are a private, non-profit, grassroots organization that has been actively promoting farm and rural issues since 1936 through legislative and policy initiatives, member services, field representation, agricultural education, public relations and other programs.