

CHAPTER 214  
AGRICULTURAL RULES  
[Prior to 9/7/22, see Revenue Department[701] Ch 226]

**701—214.1(423) Sale or rental of farm machinery and equipment and items used in agricultural production that are attached to a self-propelled implement of husbandry.** The sales price from the sale or rental of farm machinery and equipment directly and primarily used in production of agricultural products and certain items used in agricultural production that are attached to or towed by a self-propelled implement of husbandry is exempt from sales and use tax.

**214.1(1) Farm machinery and equipment.**

*a. Exempt.* Under this rule, to be eligible for the exemption from the tax, the farm machinery or equipment must be directly and primarily used in production of agricultural products and must also be one of the following:

- (1) A self-propelled implement; or
- (2) An implement customarily drawn or attached to a self-propelled implement; or
- (3) A grain dryer; or
- (4) An auxiliary attachment which improves the performance, safety, operation, or efficiency of a qualifying implement or grain dryer; or
- (5) A replacement part for any item described in subparagraph (1), (2), (3), or (4).

*b. Taxable.* A vehicle subject to registration as defined in Iowa Code section 423.1, an implement customarily drawn by or attached to a vehicle subject to registration, an auxiliary attachment for a vehicle subject to registration, or any replacement part for a vehicle, implement, or auxiliary attachment for a vehicle subject to registration is not eligible for the exemption allowed under this rule.

**214.1(2) Attachments to self-propelled implements of husbandry.**

*a. Exempt.* Exempt from the tax under this rule are the following items if, and only if, they are used in agricultural production:

- (1) A snow blower that is to be attached to a self-propelled implement of husbandry; or
- (2) A rear-mounted or front-mounted blade that is to be attached to or towed by a self-propelled implement of husbandry; or
- (3) A rotary cutter that is to be attached to a self-propelled implement of husbandry.

*b. Used in agricultural production.* Under this subrule, the items must be used in agricultural production, and not “directly and primarily” used in production of agricultural products as is required under subrule 226.1(1).

EXAMPLE: Farmer Jones purchases a front-mounted blade that will be attached to a self-propelled implement of husbandry (e.g., farming tractor). Farmer Jones primarily uses the blade to prepare previously uncultivated land—a use that is not for agricultural production. See subrule 226.1(3). However, Farmer Jones sporadically uses the front-mounted blade for agricultural production. Even though Farmer Jones does not directly and primarily use the front-mounted blade in agricultural production, the front-mounted blade is exempt from sales or use tax because the blade is occasionally used in agricultural production and it is attached to a self-propelled implement of husbandry.

**214.1(3) Definitions and specific provisions.** For the purposes of this rule, the following definitions and provisions apply.

*a. Production of agricultural products.* The term “production of agricultural products” means the same as the term “agricultural production,” which is defined in rule 701—200.1(423) to mean a farming operation undertaken for profit by the raising of crops or livestock. Nonexclusive examples of items not included within the meaning of the term “agricultural production” are the clearing or preparation of previously uncultivated land, the creation of farm ponds, and the erection of machine sheds, confinement facilities, storage bins, or other farm buildings. Machinery and equipment used for these purposes would be used for activities which are preparatory to, but not a part of, the production of agricultural products and, therefore, are not exempt.

*b. Farm machinery and equipment.* The term “farm machinery and equipment” means machinery and equipment specifically designed for use in the production of agricultural products and machinery

and equipment that are not specifically designed for use in the production of agricultural products but are directly and primarily used for that purpose.

EXAMPLE: Farmer Jones raises livestock, and his farming operation requires that fences be repaired to confine the livestock. Farmer Jones purchases a posthole digger that is customarily attached to a tractor and uses the digger to repair the fences used to confine the livestock. The posthole digger is not specifically designed for use in the production of agricultural products but is directly and primarily used in the production of agricultural products. Therefore, the exemption would apply.

*c. Self-propelled implement.* The term “self-propelled implement” means an implement which is capable of movement from one place to another under its own power. An implement is not self-propelled merely because it has moving parts. The term “self-propelled implement” includes, but is not limited to, the following items: skid loaders and tractors. The term also includes, but is not limited to, the following machinery if capable of movement under its own power: combines, corn pickers, fertilizer spreaders, hay conditioners and windrowers, sprayers, and bean buggies.

*d. Implements customarily drawn or attached to self-propelled implements.* The following is a nonexclusive, representative list of implements customarily drawn or attached to self-propelled implements: augers, balers, blowers, combines, conveyers, cultivators, disks, drags, dryers (portable), farm wagons, feeder wagons, fertilizer spreaders, front- and rear-end loaders, harrows, hay loaders, hay mowers, hay rakes, husking machines, manure spreaders, planters, plows, rotary hoes, sprayers and tanks, and tillage equipment.

*e. Directly used in agricultural production.*

(1) Property is “directly used” only if it is used to initiate, sustain, or terminate an exempt activity. In determining whether any property is directly used, consideration should be given to the following factors:

1. The physical proximity of the property to other property clearly exempt as directly used in agricultural production. The closer the property is to exempt property, the more likely it is that the property is directly used in agricultural production.

2. The chronological proximity of the use of the property in question to the use of property clearly exempt as directly used in agricultural production. The closer the proximity of the property’s use within the production process to the use of exempt property, the more likely the use is direct rather than remote.

3. The active causal relationship between the use of the property in question and agricultural production. The fewer intervening causes between the use of the property and the production of the product, the more likely it is that the property is directly used in agricultural production.

(2) The fact that particular machinery or equipment is essential to the production of agricultural products because its use is required either by law or practical necessity does not, of itself, mean that the machinery or equipment is directly used in the production of agricultural products. Machinery or equipment that comes into actual physical contact with the soil or crops during the operations of planting, cultivating, harvesting, and soil preparation will be presumed to be machinery or equipment used in agricultural production.

*f. Primarily used in agricultural production.* Property is “primarily used” in agricultural production based on the total time it is used in agricultural production in comparison to the time it is used for other purposes. Any property used in agricultural production more than 50 percent of its total use time is eligible for exemption.

*g. Beginning and end of agricultural production.* Agricultural production begins with the cultivation of land previously cleared for the planting of crops or begins with the purchase or breeding of livestock or domesticated fowl. Agricultural production ceases when an agricultural product has been transported to the point where it will be sold by the producer or processed for further use.

EXAMPLE: Farmer Brown uses a tractor and wagon to haul harvested corn from a field to a grain dryer located on the farm. After the corn is dried, the same tractor and wagon are used to move the grain to a storage bin, also located on the farm. Later, the same tractor and wagon are used to deliver the corn from the farm to the local elevator where the corn is sold. After Farmer Brown deposits the corn there, the local elevator uses its own tractor and wagon to move the corn to a place of relatively permanent storage. Farmer Brown has used the tractor and wagon in the production of agricultural products, and

the exemption would apply to Farmer Brown's tractor and wagon. However, the elevator has not used its tractor and wagon in agricultural production; thus, the exemption would not be allowed for the elevator's tractor and wagon.

*h. Grain dryer.* The term "grain dryer" includes the heater and the blower necessary to force the warmed air into a grain storage bin. The term "grain dryer" does not include equipment, such as augers and spreaders, used in grain storage or movement, nor does it include any other equipment, such as specialized flooring, that is not a grain dryer. Equipment that is not a grain dryer but is used in grain drying may be exempt if the equipment is a self-propelled implement or customarily drawn or attached to a self-propelled implement and is directly and primarily used in agricultural production.

*i. Replacement parts.* The term "replacement parts" means any farm machinery or equipment which is substituted for another part that has broken, worn out or has become obsolete or otherwise unable to perform its intended function. Replacement parts are those parts which materially add to the value of farm machinery or equipment, appreciably prolong its life or keep it in its ordinarily efficient operating condition. Excluded from the meaning of the term "replacement parts" are supplies and computer software. Sales of supplies and computer software are taxable. Nonexclusive examples of supplies include: lubricants, oils, greases, and coolants.

Tangible personal property which has an expected useful life of 12 months or more and is used in the operation of farm machinery or equipment is rebuttably presumed to be a replacement part. Tangible personal property which is used in the same manner but has an expected useful life of less than 12 months is rebuttably presumed to be a supply.

(1) For periods prior to July 1, 2008, the sale or lease of a replacement part is exempt from tax if the replacement part is essential to any repair or reconstruction necessary to the exempt piece of farm machinery or equipment used in the production of agricultural products. The term "replacement parts" does not include attachments and accessories which are not essential to the operation of the farm machinery or equipment. Nonexclusive examples of attachments or accessories that are not essential include: cigarette lighters, radios, portable global positioning devices, and add-on air-conditioning units.

(2) For periods beginning on and after July 1, 2008, the sale or lease of a replacement part is exempt from tax if the replacement part is used in any repair or reconstruction of the exempt piece of farm machinery or equipment used in the production of agricultural products. Nonexclusive examples of replacement parts to machinery and equipment which would be exempt include: air-conditioning parts, computer equipment parts, fire equipment parts, glass parts, mirrors, headlights, communication systems, and global positioning equipment parts.

*j. Implement of husbandry.*

(1) The term "implement of husbandry" means any tool, equipment, or machinery necessary to the carrying on of the business of agricultural production and without which that could not be done. To be an implement of husbandry, the following must both be true:

1. The tool, equipment, or machine must be necessary to the carrying on of the business of agricultural production; and

2. Agricultural production must be impossible without the use of the tool, equipment, or machine.

(2) Whether a given item is an implement of husbandry depends on the facts of each particular case (*Hester v. State*, 108 So.2d 385, 388 (1959)), and in each particular case the person claiming the exemption has the burden of proving that the person is entitled to the exemption. *Dial Corp. v. Iowa Dep't of Revenue*, 634 N.W.2d 643, 646 (Iowa 2001).

*k. Snow blower.* "Snow blower" as used in this rule means an attachment that has the primary purpose of snow removal by the throwing of snow and that is ordinarily thought of as a snow blower.

*l. Rear-mounted or front-mounted blade.* "Rear-mounted or front-mounted blade" as used in this rule means a stationary attachment that has a primary purpose of pushing or leveling, for example, sand, dirt, snow, gravel, or manure. The term "rear-mounted or front-mounted blade" does not include mounted buckets or loaders that have a primary purpose of loading or digging.

*m. Rotary cutter.* "Rotary cutter" as used in this rule means an attachment used for mowing of grassy areas, pastures, and brush, but does not include attachments often referred to as "finishing mowers" and "mid-mount mowers."

**214.1(4) Taxable and nontaxable transactions.** The following are nonexclusive examples of sales and leases of and services for farm machinery or equipment subject to or exempt from tax. Taxable services performed on farm machinery or equipment are subject to tax even when the replacement parts are exempt.

*a.* A lessor's purchase of farm machinery or equipment is not subject to tax if the machinery or equipment is leased to a lessee who uses it directly and primarily in the production of agricultural products and if the lessee's use of the machinery or equipment is otherwise exempt. To claim exemption from tax, the lessor does not need to make an exempt use of the machinery or equipment as long as the lessee uses the machinery or equipment for an exempt purpose. On and after July 1, 2004, the lease of tangible personal property is treated as the sale of that property for the purposes of Iowa sales and use tax law because leases of tangible personal property are taxable retail sales of that property.

*b.* A lessor's purchase of a snow blower, rear-mounted or front-mounted blade, or rotary cutter is not subject to tax if such item is leased to a lessee who uses the item in agricultural production and the item will be attached to an implement of husbandry.

*c.* The owner or lessee of farm machinery or equipment need not be a farmer as long as the machinery or equipment is directly and primarily used in the production of agricultural products and the owner or lessee and the machinery or equipment meet the other requirements of this rule. For example, a person who purchases an airplane designed for use in agricultural aerial spraying and who uses the airplane directly and primarily for agricultural production is entitled to the benefits provided under this rule even though that person is not the owner or occupant of the land where the airplane is used.

*d.* The owner or lessee of a snow blower, rear-mounted or front-mounted blade, or rotary cutter need not be a farmer as long as the snow blower, rear-mounted or front-mounted blade, or rotary cutter is used in agricultural production and the snow blower, rear-mounted or front-mounted blade, or rotary cutter is attached to an implement of husbandry.

*e.* The sale or lease, within Iowa, of any farm machinery, equipment, or replacement part for direct and primary use in agricultural production outside of Iowa is a transaction eligible for the exemption if the transaction is otherwise qualified for an exemption under this rule.

*f.* The sale or lease, within Iowa, of any snow blower, rear-mounted or front-mounted blade, or rotary cutter which is used, outside of Iowa, in agricultural production while attached to an implement of husbandry is a transaction eligible for the exemption, if the transaction is otherwise qualified for an exemption under this rule.

**214.1(5) Auxiliary attachments.** The following is a nonexclusive list of auxiliary attachments for which the sale or use in Iowa is exempt from tax: auxiliary hydraulic valves, cabs, coil tine harrows, corn head pickup reels, dry till shanks, dual tires, extension shanks, fenders, fertilizer attachments and openers, fold kits, grain bin extensions, herbicide and insecticide attachments, kit wraps, no-till coulters, quick couplers, rear-wheel assists, rock boxes, rollover protection systems, rotary shields, stalk choppers, step extensions, trash whips, upper beaters, silage bags, and weights.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 423.3(8) and 423.3(11).

[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 0466C, IAB 11/28/12, effective 1/2/13; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.2(423) Packaging material used in agricultural production.** The sales price from the sale of property which is a container, label, carton, pallet, packing case, wrapping, baling wire, twine, bag, bottle, shipping case, or other similar article or receptacle sold for use in agricultural, livestock, or dairy production is exempt from sales tax.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(15).

[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.3(423) Irrigation equipment used in agricultural production.** The sales price from the sale or rental of irrigation equipment used in agricultural production is exempt from tax. The term "irrigation equipment" includes, but is not limited to, circle irrigation systems and trickle irrigation systems, whether installed aboveground or belowground, as long as the equipment is sold to or rented by a contractor or

farmer and the equipment is directly and primarily used in agricultural production. The term “agricultural production” is defined in rule 701—200.1(423).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 423.3(12) and 423.3(13).  
[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.4(423) Sale of a draft horse.** The sales price from the sale of draft horses, when they are purchased for use and used as draft horses, is not subject to tax. Draft horses are horses that pull loads, including loads in shows, or transport persons or property. For purposes of this rule, horses commonly known as Clydesdales, Belgians, Shires, and Percherons are draft horses. However, upon proper showing by the person or entity claiming exemption, the sales price exemption will be granted by the director for other breeds. However, the burden of proof lies with the person or entity claiming exemption.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(14).  
[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.5(423) Veterinary services.** Veterinary services are not subject to sales tax. Purchases of food, drugs, medicines, bandages, dressings, serums, tonics, and the like which are used in treating livestock raised as part of agricultural production are exempt from tax. Where these same items are used in treating animals maintained as pets or for hobby purposes, sales tax is due. Purchases of equipment and tools used in the veterinary practice are subject to tax. Rule 701—226.17(423) explains the exemption for machinery or equipment used in livestock or dairy production which may be applicable to veterinarians, but should only be claimed with caution. A veterinarian must charge sales tax on any sales of tangible property or enumerated services, such as pet grooming, that are not part of professional veterinarian services.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(5).  
[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.6(423) Commercial fertilizer and agricultural limestone.**

**214.6(1) Commercial fertilizer.** Sales of commercial fertilizer are exempt from sales and use tax. Plant hormones are considered to be commercial fertilizer.

**214.6(2) Agricultural limestone.** Sales of agricultural limestone are exempt from sales and use tax only if the purchaser intends to use the limestone for disease control, weed control, insect control, or health promotion of plants or livestock produced for market as part of agricultural production. Rule 701—200.1(423) contains definitions of “agricultural production” and “plants.” Sales of agricultural limestone used for other purposes are subject to sales tax. Examples of taxable sales include, but are not limited to, sales of agricultural limestone for application on a lawn, golf course, or cemetery.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 423.3(4) and 423.3(5).  
[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 4117C, IAB 11/7/18, effective 12/12/18; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.7(423) Sales of breeding livestock.** The sale of agricultural livestock is exempt from tax only if at the time of purchase the purchaser intends to use the livestock primarily for breeding. The sale of agricultural livestock that is capable of breeding, but will not be used for breeding or primarily for breeding, is not exempt from tax. However, sales of most nonbreeding agricultural livestock to farmers would be a sale for resale and exempt from tax. Rule 701—200.1(423) contains a definition of “livestock.”

EXAMPLE 1: A breeding service purchases a prize bull from a farmer. At the time of sale, the intent of the purchaser is to use the bull for breeding other cattle. The sale of the bull is exempt from tax even though three years later the breeding service sells the bull to a meat packer.

EXAMPLE 2: A farmer purchases dairy cows. To ensure production of milk over a sustained period of time, dairy cows must be bred to produce calves. If a farmer purchases dairy cows for the primary purpose of using them to produce milk and incidentally breeds them to ensure that this milk will be produced, the sale of the dairy cows to the farmer is not exempt from tax. If the farmer purchases the

dairy cows for the primary purpose of using them to produce calves and, incidental to that purpose, at times sells the milk which the cows produce, the sale of the dairy cows to the farmer is exempt from tax.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(3).

[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.8(423) Domesticated fowl.** The purchase of any domesticated fowl for the purpose of providing eggs or meat is exempt from tax, whether purchased by a person engaged in agricultural production or not. Rule 701—200.1(423) contains a definition of the term “domesticated fowl.”

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(3).

[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.9(423) Agricultural health promotion items.**

**214.9(1) Definitions.** For purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply:

“*Adjuvant*” means any substance which is added to a herbicide, a pesticide, or an insecticide to increase its potency.

“*Agricultural production*” means the same as defined in rule 701—200.1(423).

“*Food*” includes vitamins, minerals, other nutritional food supplements, and hormones sold to promote the growth of livestock.

“*Herbicide*” means any substance intended to prevent, destroy, or retard the growth of plants including fungi. The term shall include preemergence, postemergence, lay-by, pasture, defoliant, and desiccant herbicides and fungicides.

“*Insecticide*” means any substance used to kill insects. Any substance used merely to repel insects is not an insecticide. Mechanical devices which are used to kill insects are not insecticides.

“*Livestock*” means the same as defined in rule 701—200.1(423). For the purposes of this rule, “livestock” includes domesticated fowl.

“*Medication*” includes antibiotics or other similar drugs administered to livestock.

“*Pesticide*” means any substance which is used to kill rodents or smaller vermin, other than insects, such as nematodes, spiders, or bacteria. For the purposes of this rule, a disinfectant is a pesticide. Excluded from the term “pesticide” is any substance which merely repels pests or any device, such as a rat trap, which kills pests by mechanical action.

“*Plants*” means the same as defined in rule 701—200.1(423).

“*Surfactant*” means a substance which is active on a surface.

**214.9(2) Sales of agricultural health promotion items and adjuvants.** Sales of herbicides, pesticides, insecticides, food, and medication which are to be used in disease, weed, or insect control or health promotion of plants or livestock produced as part of agricultural production for market are exempt from tax. Sales of adjuvants, surfactants, and other products which enhance the effects of herbicides, pesticides, or insecticides used in disease, weed, or insect control or health promotion of plants or livestock produced as part of agricultural production for market are also exempt from tax. Sales of herbicides, pesticides, insecticides, food, medication, and products to any person not engaged in agricultural production for market are exempt if the property sold will be used for an exempt purpose, e.g., in disease control or on the behalf of another person engaged in agricultural production for market.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 423.3(5) and 423.3(16).

[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.10(423) Drainage tile.** The sale or installation of drainage tile which is to be used in disease control or weed control or in health promotion of plants or livestock produced as part of agricultural production for market is exempt from tax. In all other cases, drainage tile will be considered a building material and subject to tax under the provisions of Iowa Code section 423.2. Sales of the following materials associated with the installation of agricultural drainage tile are also exempt from tax: tile intakes, outlet pipes and outlet guards, aluminum and gabion structures, erosion control fabric, water control structures, and tile fittings.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3.

[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.11(423) Materials used for seed inoculations.** Materials used for seed inoculations are exempt from sales tax. All forms of inoculation, whether for promotion of better growth and healthier plants or for the prevention or cure of plant mildew or disease of seeds and bulbs, are intended for the same general purpose and are therefore exempt.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3.  
 [ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.12(423) Fuel used in agricultural production.**

**214.12(1) Definitions.** For purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply:

“*Aquaculture*” means the same as defined in rule 701—200.1(423).

“*Fuel*” includes electricity.

“*Implement of husbandry*” means the same as defined in rule 701—200.1(423).

“*Livestock*” means the same as defined in rule 701—200.1(423) and includes domesticated fowl.

**214.12(2) Exemptions.**

a. *Fuel used for livestock buildings.* The sale of fuel used to provide heating or cooling for livestock buildings is exempt from tax.

b. *Fuel used for flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production buildings.*

(1) Sales of fuel for heating or cooling greenhouses, buildings, or parts of buildings used for the production of flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants intended for sale in the ordinary course of business are exempt from tax. See subparagraph (3) for the formula for calculating exempt use if a building is only partially used for growing flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants.

(2) Fuel used in a flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production building for purposes other than heating or cooling (e.g., lighting) or for purposes other than direct use in flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production (e.g., heating or cooling office space) is not eligible for this exemption. Examples of nonexempt purposes for which a portion of a greenhouse might be used include, but are not limited to, portions used for office space; loading docks; storage of property other than flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants; housing of heating and cooling equipment; and packaging flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants for shipment.

(3) Calculating proportional exemption. It may be possible to calculate the amount of total fuel used in plant production by dividing the number of square feet of the greenhouse heated or cooled and used for raising flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants by the number of square feet heated or cooled in the entire greenhouse. It may be necessary to alter this formula (by the use of separate metering, for example) if a greenhouse has a walk-in cooler and the cooler is used directly in flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production. See 701—subrule 15.3(3) regarding fuel exemption certificates and subrule 226.18(12) regarding seller’s and purchaser’s liability for sales tax.

EXAMPLE 1: Bill Brown’s herb farming operation has a separate greenhouse used to grow his herbs. All other aspects of his farm operations are conducted in other facilities. Because the greenhouse is used exclusively for raising flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants, Bill Brown is able to claim exemption from sales tax on the cost of fuel used to heat and cool the greenhouse.

EXAMPLE 2: Martha Green’s greenhouse has a separate meter to track the electricity used only for heating or cooling. Her greenhouse is used partially for growing flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants and partially for a nonexempt purpose. Martha Green is able to claim a proportional exemption from sales tax on the cost of fuel used to heat and cool her growing flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants. Martha Green calculates her exempt amount by dividing the number of heated or cooled square feet of her greenhouse that are used for raising flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants by the total number of square feet heated or cooled in the entire greenhouse.

Total square footage used for raising flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants	=	800
Total square footage	=	1,000
TOTAL:	$800 \div 1,000$	= .80 or 80%

Thus, 80 percent of the cost of the fuel used to heat and cool Martha Green's greenhouse is exempt from sales tax.

*c. Sales of fuel used for aquaculture.* Sales of fuel used in the raising of agricultural products by aquaculture are exempt from tax.

*d. Sales of fuel, gas, electricity, water, and heat consumed in implements of husbandry.* The sale of fuel used in any implement of husbandry, whether self-propelled or not, is exempt from tax if the fuel is consumed while the implement is engaged in agricultural production. For example, the sale of fuel used not only in tractors or combines, but also used in implements which cannot move under their own power, is exempt from tax. The sale of fuel used in milk coolers and milking machines, grain dryers, and stationary irrigation equipment and in implements used to handle feed, grain, and hay and to provide water for livestock is exempt from tax even though these implements of husbandry would not ordinarily be considered self-propelled.

**214.12(3) Partial use.** If a building is used partially for an exempt agricultural purpose and partially for a nonexempt purpose, a proportional exemption from sales tax may be claimed based upon a percentage obtained by dividing the number of square feet of the building heated or cooled and used for an exempt agricultural purpose by the number of square feet heated or cooled in the entire building.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(6).

[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 5309C, IAB 12/2/20, effective 1/6/21; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.13(423) Water used in agricultural production.** Water sold to farmers who are purchasing water for household use, sanitation, swimming pools, or other personal use is subject to sales tax. Water sold to farmers and others and used directly as drinking water for livestock production (including the production of domesticated fowl) is exempt from sales tax. When water is used for exempt purposes, as in livestock production, as well as for taxable purposes, the water may, when practical, be separately metered and separately billed to clearly distinguish the water consumed for exempt purposes from taxable purposes. When it is impractical to separately meter exempt water from taxable water, the purchaser may furnish to the seller a statement enabling the seller to determine the percentage of water subject to exemption. In the absence of proof to the contrary, the retailer of the water shall bill and collect tax on the first 5,000 gallons of water per month. The first 5,000 gallons of water per month will be considered to be for nonexempt use, and the balance will be considered to be used as part of agricultural production.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(5).

[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.14(423) Bedding for agricultural livestock or fowl.** The sales price from the sale of woodchips, sawdust, hay, straw, paper, or any other materials used for bedding in the production of agricultural livestock (including domesticated fowl) is exempt from tax. Rule 701—200.1(423) contains definitions applicable to this rule.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(9).

[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.15(423) Sales by farmers.** The sale of grain, livestock, or any other farm or garden product by the producer thereof ordinarily constitutes a sale for resale, processing, or human consumption, and is not subject to tax. Farmers selling tangible personal property not otherwise exempt to ultimate consumers or users shall hold a permit and collect and remit sales tax on the sales price from their sales.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 423.3(2), 423.3(51), and 423.3(57).

[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.16(423) Sales of livestock (including domesticated fowl) feeds.** Tax shall not apply to the sale of feed for any form of animal life when the product of the animals constitutes food for human consumption. Tax shall apply on feed sold for consumption by pets. Antibiotics that are administered



as an additive to feed or drinking water and vitamins and minerals that are sold for livestock (including domesticated fowl) are exempt from tax.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(16).  
[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.17(423) Farm machinery, equipment, and replacement parts used in livestock or dairy production.**

**214.17(1)** Sales or rentals of farm machinery, equipment, and replacement parts used in livestock or dairy production are exempt from sales and use tax.

**214.17(2)** Definitions and special provisions. For purposes of this rule, the following definitions and special provisions apply.

*a. Machinery.* The term “machinery” means major mechanical machines, or major components thereof, which contribute directly and primarily to the livestock or dairy production process. Usually, a machine is a large object with moving parts which performs work through the expenditure of energy, either mechanical (e.g., gasoline or other fuel) or electrical.

*b. Equipment.* The term “equipment” means tangible personal property (other than a machine) that is directly and primarily used in livestock or dairy production. Equipment may be characterized as property which performs a specialized function and which has no moving parts, or if the equipment does possess moving parts, its source of power is external to it. The following nonexclusive examples differentiate between machinery and equipment:

EXAMPLE 1: An auger places feed into a cattle feeder. The auger is a piece of machinery; the cattle feeder is a piece of equipment.

EXAMPLE 2: An electric pump is used to pump milk into a bulk milk tank. The electric pump is a piece of machinery; the bulk milk tank is equipment.

*c. Property used in livestock or dairy production which is neither equipment nor machinery.*

(1) Real property. The ground or the earth is not machinery or equipment. A building is not machinery or equipment. See *Cloverleaf Cold Storage Co. v. Dep’t of Revenue and Fin.*, 2002 WL 31769009 (Iowa Dept. Insp. App. July 26, 2002). Therefore, tangible personal property which is sold for incorporation into the ground or a building in such a manner that the property will become a part of the ground or the building is taxable except for machinery and equipment. Generally, property incorporated into the ground or a building has become a part of the ground or the building if its removal would substantially damage the property, ground, or building or would substantially diminish the value of the property, ground, or building. Fence posts embedded in concrete, electrical wiring, light fixtures, fuse boxes, and switches are examples of property sold for incorporation into the ground or a building, respectively. For the purpose of the following example, assume that property is being sold to a contractor rather than a person engaged in livestock or dairy production. If the property is sold to a contractor, the retailer would be required to consider the property building material and charge the contractor sales tax upon the purchase price of the building material. If the property is building material, sale of the property is not exempt from Iowa sales tax. Rule 701—219.3(423) contains a characterization of building material and a list of specific examples of building material.

(2) Supplies. Supplies are neither machinery nor equipment. Tangible personal property is a farm supply if it is used up or destroyed by virtue of its use in livestock or dairy production or, because of its nature, can only be used once in livestock or dairy production. A light bulb is an example of a farm supply which is not machinery or equipment. See subrule 226.19(4) for examples of farm supplies which could be mistaken for equipment and are not exempt from tax on other grounds.

*d. Hand tools.* The term “hand tools” means tools which can be held in the hand or hands and which are powered by human effort. Hand tools specifically designed for use in livestock or dairy production are exempt from tax as equipment. Mechanical devices that are held in the hand and driven by electricity from some source other than human muscle power are, if they meet all other qualifications, exempt from tax as farm machinery.

*e. “Directly used” in livestock or dairy production.* To determine if machinery or equipment is “directly used” in livestock or dairy production, one must first ensure that the machinery or equipment

is used during livestock or dairy production and not before that process has begun or after it has ended. See paragraph “g” of this subrule for an explanation of when livestock or dairy production begins and ends.

(1) Definition. If the machinery or equipment is used in livestock or dairy production, “directly used” means the use is an integral and essential part of production as distinguished from use that is incidental or merely convenient to production or use that is remote from production. Machinery or equipment may be necessary to livestock or dairy production, but its use is so remote from production that it is not directly used in that production.

(2) Determination. In determining whether machinery or equipment is directly used, consideration should be given to the following factors:

1. The physical proximity of the machinery or equipment to other machinery or equipment clearly exempt as directly used in livestock or dairy production. The closer the machinery or equipment is to exempt machinery or equipment, the more likely it is that the machinery or equipment is directly used in livestock or dairy production.

2. The chronological proximity of the use of machinery or equipment in question to the use of machinery clearly exempt as directly used in livestock or dairy production. The closer the proximity of the machinery’s or equipment’s use within the production process to the use of exempt machinery or equipment, the more likely the use is direct rather than remote.

3. The active causal relationship between the use of the machinery or equipment in question and livestock or dairy production. The fewer intervening causes between the use of the machinery or equipment and the production of the product, the more likely it is that the machinery or equipment is directly used in production.

*f. “Primarily used” in livestock or dairy production.* Machinery or equipment is “primarily used” in livestock or dairy production based on the total time it is used in livestock or dairy production in comparison to the time it is used for other purposes. Any unit of machinery or equipment directly used in livestock or dairy production more than 50 percent of its total use time is eligible for exemption.

*g. Beginning and end of livestock or dairy production.* Livestock or dairy production begins with the purchase or breeding of livestock or dairy animals. Livestock or dairy production ceases when an animal or the product of an animal’s body (e.g., wool) has been transported to the point where it will be sold by the farmer or processed.

*h. Machinery and equipment design.* Farm machinery and equipment used in livestock or dairy production is eligible for exemption if specifically designed for use in livestock or dairy production. Farm machinery and equipment which are not specifically designed for use in livestock or dairy production, but are directly and primarily used in livestock or dairy production, are eligible for exemption with the exception of common or ordinary hand tools.

EXAMPLE: Farmer Jones raises livestock and must use fans to cool the animals. Farmer Jones buys electric fans designed for use in a residence, but uses them directly and primarily to cool the livestock. The fans’ use would be considered exempt.

*i. Replacement parts.* The term “replacement parts” means the same as defined in subrule 226.1(2), paragraph “i.”

**214.17(3)** Examples of machinery and equipment directly used in livestock or dairy production.

*a.* Machinery and equipment used to transport or limit the movement of livestock or dairy animals (e.g., electric fence equipment, portable fencing, head gates, and loading chutes) are directly used in livestock or dairy production.

*b.* Machinery and equipment used in the conception, birth, feeding, and watering of livestock or dairy animals (e.g., artificial insemination equipment, portable farrowing pens, feed carts, and automatic watering equipment) are directly used in livestock or dairy production.

*c.* Machinery and equipment used to maintain healthful or sanitary conditions in the immediate area where livestock are kept (e.g., manure gutter cleaners, automatic cattle oilers, fans, and heaters if not real property) are directly used in livestock or dairy production.

*d.* Machinery and equipment used to test or inspect livestock during production are directly used in livestock or dairy production.

**214.17(4)** Taxable examples. The following are nonexclusive examples of machinery or equipment which would not be directly used in livestock or dairy production.

*a.* Machinery or equipment used to assemble, maintain, or repair other machinery or equipment directly used in livestock or dairy production (e.g., welders, paint sprayers, and lubricators).

*b.* Machinery or equipment used in farm management, administration, advertising, or selling (e.g., a computer used for record keeping, calculator, office safe, telephone, books, and farm magazines).

*c.* Machinery or equipment used in the exhibit of livestock or dairy animals (e.g., blankets, halters, prods, leads, and harnesses).

*d.* Machinery or equipment used in safety or fire prevention, even though the machinery or equipment is required by law.

*e.* Machinery or equipment for employee or personal use. Machinery or equipment used for the personal comfort, convenience, or use by a farmer, the farmer's family or employees, or persons associated with the farmer is not exempt from tax. Examples of such machinery and equipment include the following: beds, mattresses, blankets, tableware, stoves, refrigerators, and other equipment used in conjunction with the operation of a farm home, or other facilities for farm employees.

*f.* Machinery or equipment used for heating, cooling, ventilation, and lighting of farm buildings generally.

*g.* Vehicles subject to registration.

**214.17(5)** The sales price, not including services, of the following machinery or equipment is exempt from tax regardless of whether the machinery or equipment remains tangible personal property after installation or is incorporated into the realty: auxiliary attachments which improve the performance, safety, operation, or efficiency of the machinery and equipment, including auger systems, curtains and curtain systems, drip systems, fan and fan systems, shutters, inlets, shutter or inlet systems, refrigerators, and replacement parts if all of the following conditions are met:

*a.* The implement, machinery, or equipment is directly and primarily used in livestock or dairy production.

*b.* The implement is not a self-propelled implement or implement customarily drawn or attached to self-propelled implements.

*c.* The replacement part is used in a repair or reconstruction of the exempt piece of farm machinery or equipment used in the production of agricultural products.

**214.17(6)** Auxiliary attachments exemption. Sales of auxiliary attachments which improve the performance, safety, operation, or efficiency of exempt machinery or equipment are exempt from tax. Sales of replacement parts for these auxiliary attachments are also exempt.

**214.17(7)** Seller's and purchaser's liability for sales tax. The seller shall be relieved of sales tax liability if the seller takes from the purchaser an exemption certificate stating that the purchase is of machinery and equipment meeting the requirements of this rule. The exemption certificate must be fully completed. If items purchased tax-free pursuant to an exemption certificate are used or disposed of by the purchaser in a nonexempt manner, the purchaser is solely and directly liable for sales tax and shall remit the tax to the department.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 423.3(11) and 423.3(15).  
[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

### **701—214.18(423) Machinery, equipment, and replacement parts used in the production of flowering, ornamental, and vegetable plants.**

**214.18(1)** The sales or rentals of machinery, equipment, and replacement parts used in the production of flowering, ornamental, and vegetable plants are exempt from sales and use tax. The production of flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants by a grower in a commercial greenhouse or at another location is considered to be a part of agricultural production and exempt from sales tax. The term "flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants" does not include silvicultural products or fungi.

**214.18(2)** Definitions and special provisions. For purposes of this rule, the following definitions and special provisions apply.

*a. Machinery.* The term “machinery” means major mechanical machines, or major components thereof, which contribute directly and primarily to the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process. Usually, a machine is a large object with moving parts which performs work through the expenditure of energy, either mechanical (e.g., gasoline or other fuel) or electrical.

*b. Equipment.* The term “equipment” means tangible personal property (other than a machine) that is directly and primarily used in the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process. Equipment may be characterized as property which performs a specialized function which, of itself, has no moving parts, or if the equipment does possess moving parts, its source of power is external to it.

*c. Reserved.*

*d. Property used in the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process which is neither equipment nor machinery.*

(1) Real property. The ground or the earth is not machinery or equipment. A building is not machinery or equipment. See *Cloverleaf Cold Storage Co. v. Dep’t of Revenue and Fin.*, 2002 WL 31769009 (Iowa Dept. Insp. App. July 26, 2002). Therefore, tangible personal property which is sold for incorporation into the ground or a building in such a manner that the property will become a part of the ground or the building is taxable except for machinery and equipment. Generally, property incorporated into the ground or a building has become a part of the ground or the building if its removal would substantially damage the property, ground, or building or would substantially diminish the value of the property, ground, or building. Fence posts embedded in concrete, electrical wiring, light fixtures, fuse boxes, and switches are examples of property sold for incorporation into the ground or a building, respectively. For the purpose of this example, assume that the property is being sold to a contractor rather than a person engaged in the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process. If the property is sold to a contractor, the retailer would be required to consider the property building material and charge the contractor sales tax upon the purchase price of this building material. If the property is building material, sale of the property is not exempt from Iowa sales tax. Rule 701—219.3(423) contains a characterization of building material and a list of specific examples of building material.

(2) Supplies. Supplies are neither machinery nor equipment. Tangible personal property is a supply if it is used up or destroyed by virtue of its use in the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process or, because of its nature, can only be used once in the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process. A light bulb is an example of a supply which is not machinery or equipment. See subrule 226.19(4) for examples of supplies which could be mistaken for equipment and are not exempt from tax on other grounds.

*e. Hand tools.* The term “hand tools” means tools which can be held in the hand or hands and which are powered by human effort. Hand tools specifically designed for use in the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process are exempt from tax as equipment. Mechanical devices that are held in the hand and driven by electricity from some source other than human muscle power are, if they meet all other qualifications, exempt from tax.

*f. “Directly used” in the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process.* To determine if machinery or equipment is “directly used” in the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process, one must first ensure that the machinery or equipment is used during the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process and not before that process has begun or after it has ended. See paragraph “h” of this subrule for an explanation as to when the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process begins and ends.

(1) Definition. If the machinery or equipment is used in the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process, “directly used” means the use is an integral and essential part of production as distinguished from use that is incidental or merely convenient to production or use that is remote from production. Machinery or equipment may be necessary to the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process, but its use is so remote from production that it is not directly used in that production.

(2) Determination. In determining whether machinery or equipment is directly used, consideration should be given to the following factors:

1. The physical proximity of the machinery or equipment to other machinery or equipment clearly exempt as directly used in the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process. The closer

the machinery or equipment is to exempt machinery or equipment, the more likely it is that the machinery or equipment is directly used in the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process.

2. The chronological proximity of the use of machinery or equipment in question to the use of machinery clearly exempt as directly used in the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process. The closer the proximity of the machinery's or equipment's use within the production process is to the use of exempt machinery or equipment, the more likely the use is direct rather than remote.

3. The active causal relationship between the use of the machinery or equipment in question and the flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production process. The fewer intervening causes between the use of the machinery or equipment and the production of the product, the more likely it is that the machinery or equipment is directly used in production.

*g. "Primarily used" in flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production.* Machinery or equipment is "primarily used" in flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production based upon the total time it is used in flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production in comparison to the time it is used for other purposes. Any unit of machinery or equipment directly used in flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production more than 50 percent of its total use time is eligible for exemption.

*h. Beginning and end of flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production.* Flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production begins with the purchase of seeds or starter plants. Flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production ceases when a plant has grown to the size or weight at which it will be prepared for shipment to the destination where it will be marketed.

*i. Machinery and equipment design.* Machinery and equipment used in flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production are eligible for exemption if they were specifically designed for use in flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production. Machinery and equipment which are not specifically designed for use in flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production, but are directly and primarily used in flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production, are eligible for exemption with the exception of common or ordinary hand tools.

EXAMPLE: Bob Jones raises tulips and must use a thermometer to monitor the temperature in his greenhouse. Bob Jones buys a thermometer designed for use in a residence, but uses it directly and primarily to monitor the temperature in his greenhouse. The thermometer's use would be considered exempt.

*j. Replacement parts.* The term "replacement parts" means the same as defined in subrule 226.1(2), paragraph "i."

**214.18(3)** Examples of machinery and equipment directly used in flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production can be found in subrule 226.19(3).

**214.18(4)** Taxable examples. The following are nonexclusive examples of machinery or equipment which would not be directly used in flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production.

*a.* Machinery or equipment used to assemble, maintain, or repair other machinery or equipment directly used in flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production.

*b.* Machinery or equipment used in the growing operation's management, administration, advertising, or selling (e.g., calculators, office safes, telephones, books, and plant magazines).

*c.* Machinery or equipment used in the exhibit of flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants.

*d.* Machinery or equipment used in safety or fire prevention, even though the machinery or equipment is required by law.

*e.* Machinery or equipment for employee or personal use. Machinery or equipment used for the personal comfort, convenience, or use by a grower, the grower's family or employees, or persons associated with the grower is not exempt from tax. Examples of such machinery and equipment include the following: beds, mattresses, blankets, tableware, stoves, refrigerators, and other equipment used in conjunction with the operation of a grower's home, or other facilities for the grower's employees.

*f.* Machinery or equipment used for heating, cooling, ventilation, and lighting of office, retail, or display buildings where production does not occur.

*g.* Vehicles subject to registration.

**214.18(5)** Packing material used in flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production. The sales price for the sale of property which is a container, label, carton, pallet, packing case, wrapping, baling

wire, twine, bag, bottle, shipping case, or other similar article or receptacle sold for use in the production of flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants in commercial greenhouses or other places which sell such items in the ordinary course of business is not subject to sales tax. Containers and packaging materials include but are not limited to boxes, trays, labels, sleeves, tape, and staples.

**214.18(6)** Sales of self-propelled implements. Sales of self-propelled implements or implements customarily drawn or attached to self-propelled implements and replacement parts for the same are exempt from tax if the implements are used directly and primarily in the production of flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants in commercial greenhouses or elsewhere. Exempt implements include, but are not limited to, forklifts used to transport pallets of flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants, wagons containing sterilized soil, and tractors used to pull these items.

**214.18(7)** Sales of machinery and equipment used in flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production which are not self-propelled or attached to self-propelled machinery and equipment are exempt from tax. Rule 701—226.19(423) includes nonexclusive examples of machinery and equipment which are not self-propelled or attached to self-propelled machinery and equipment and which are directly and primarily used in flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production.

**214.18(8)** Fuel used in plant production. See subrule 226.12(2), paragraph “b.”

**214.18(9)** Sales of water used in the production of plants are exempt from tax. If water is not separately metered, the plants’ grower must determine by use of a percentage the portion of water used for a taxable purpose and the portion used for an exempt purpose. Nonexclusive examples of taxable usage include rest rooms, sanitation, lawns, and vehicle wash.

**214.18(10)** Agricultural health promotion items. Sales to a commercial greenhouse of fertilizer, limestone, herbicides, pesticides, insecticides, plant food, and medication for use in disease, weed, and insect control or in other health promotion of flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plants are exempt from tax. For the purposes of this rule, a virus, bacteria, fungus, or insect which is purchased for use in killing insects or other pests is an insecticide or pesticide. Refer to rule 701—226.9(423) for more information regarding these exemptions.

**214.18(11)** Miscellaneous exempt and taxable plant sales.

*a.* Sales of pots, soil, seeds, bulbs, and starter plants for use in plant production are not the sale of machinery or equipment, but can be sales for resale and exempt from tax if the pots and soil are sold with the final product or become the finished product.

*b.* Sales of portable buildings which will be used to display plants for retail sales are taxable.

*c.* Sales of whitewash which will be painted on greenhouses to control the amount of sunlight entering those greenhouses are taxable sales of a supply rather than exempt sales of equipment.

**214.18(12)** Seller’s and purchaser’s liability for sales tax. The seller shall be relieved of sales tax liability if the seller receives from the purchaser an exemption certificate stating that the purchase is of machinery and equipment meeting the requirements of this rule. The exemption certificate must be fully completed. If items purchased tax-free pursuant to an exemption certificate are used or disposed of by the purchaser in a nonexempt manner, the purchaser is solely and directly liable for the sales tax and shall remit the tax to the department.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 423.3(11) and 423.3(15).

[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 5309C, IAB 12/2/20, effective 1/6/21; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.19(423) Nonexclusive lists.** The following tables list items that are taxable or exempt.

**214.19(1)** *Exempt for agricultural production.*

adjuvants	irrigation equipment
alternators and generators*	kill cones
augers*	limestone, agricultural
balers	manure spreaders
bale transportation equipment	mowers, hay
baling wire and binding twine	oil filters
batteries for exempt machinery	oil pumps
blowers, grain dryer	packing materials
brush hogs*	pesticides
combines, cornheads, platforms	pickers
conveyors, temporary or portable*	plants (seeds)
corn pickers	planters
crawlers, tractor	plows
cultipackers	piston rings
cultivators	pruning and picking equipment*
discs	replacement parts
draft horses	rock pickers
drags	rollers*
drainage pipe and tile	rotary blade mowers; not lawn mowers
dusters*	rotary hoes
ensilage cutters	seeders
ensilage forks and trucks (a pickup does not qualify)	seed cleaners*
farm wagons and accessories	seed planters
fertilizer, agricultural	seeds
fertilizer spreaders	self-propelled implements
filters	shellers*
forage harvesters, boxes	silo blowers, unloaders*
fuel for grain drying or other agricultural production	sowers
gaskets	spark plugs for exempt machinery
grain augers, portable*	sprayers*
grain drills	spreaders
grain dryer, heater and blower only	sprinklers
grain planters	subsoilers
harrows	surfactants
hay conditioners	tillers
hay hooks	tires for exempt machinery

hay loaders	tractor chains
herbicides	tractors, farm
implements customarily drawn or attached to a self-propelled implement	tractor weights
insecticides	vegetable harvesters
	weeders*

\*Exempt if drawn or attached to a self-propelled farm implement and directly and primarily used in agricultural production or, if portable, used directly and primarily in agricultural production.

**214.19(2)** *Exempt for dairy and livestock production.*

adjuvants	heaters, portable
alternators and generators <sup>1</sup>	hog feeders, portable
artificial insemination equipment	hog ringers <sup>3</sup>
auger systems	hoof trimmers, portable <sup>3</sup>
automatic feeding systems, portable	hypodermic syringes and needles, nondisposable
batteries for exempt machinery	implements customarily drawn or attached to a self-propelled implement
barn ventilators	incubators, portable
bedding materials <sup>2</sup>	inlets and inlet systems
breeding stock, agricultural	inoculation materials
bulk feeding tanks, portable	insecticides
bulk milk coolers and tanks, portable	kill cones
calf weaners and feeders, portable	livestock feeding, watering and handling equipment, portable
cattle feeders, portable	loading chutes, portable
chain and rope hoists, portable <sup>1</sup>	manure brooms, portable <sup>3</sup>
chicken pickers, plucking equipment	manure handling equipment, includes front-end and rear-end loaders, portable <sup>3</sup>
chick guards	manure scoops, portable <sup>1</sup>
clipping machines, portable <sup>3</sup>	medications
conveyors, temporary or portable <sup>1</sup>	milk coolers, portable
cow stalls, portable	milking equipment, includes cans, etc. <sup>3</sup>
cow ties, portable	milking machines
cow watering and feeding bowls, portable	milk strainers and strainer disks, if not disposable
crawlers, tractor	milk tanks, portable
currying and oiling machines, portable	pesticides
curtains and curtain systems	poultry feeders, portable
dehorner	poultry founts, portable
domestic fowl	poultry litters, portable
draft horses	poultry nests, portable
drip systems	refrigerators
electric fence equipment, portable	replacement parts
fans and fan systems	sawdust <sup>2</sup>
farm wagons and accessories	self-propelled implements



farrowing houses, crates, stalls, portable	shutters and shutter systems
feed	space heaters, portable
feed bins, portable	specialized flooring, portable
feed carts, portable	sprayers <sup>1</sup>
feed elevators, portable	squeeze chutes, stalls, portable
feed grinders, portable	stanchions, portable
feed scoops <sup>3</sup>	surfactants
feed tanks, portable	tires for exempt machinery
feeder chutes, portable	thermometers <sup>3</sup>
feeders, portable	tractor chains
fence and fencing supplies, temporary or portable	tractors, farm
foggers	tractor weights
fuel to heat or cool livestock buildings	vacuum coolers
gaskets	ventilators
gates, portable	water filters, heaters, pumps, softeners, portable
gestation stalls, portable	waterers/watering tanks, portable
grooming equipment, portable <sup>3</sup>	weaners
head gates, portable	wood chips <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Exempt if drawn or attached to a self-propelled farm implement and directly and primarily used in dairy or livestock production or, if portable, used directly and primarily in dairy or livestock production.

<sup>2</sup>Exempt when used as livestock and poultry bedding.

<sup>3</sup>Designed for farm use.

**214.19(3)** *Exempt for flowering, ornamental, or vegetable plant production.*

air-conditioning pads	greenhouse monorail systems*
airflow control tubes	greenhouse thermometers
atmospheric CO <sub>2</sub> control and monitoring equipment	handcarts used to move plants
backup generators	lighting which provides artificial sunlight
bins holding sterilized soil	overhead heating, lighting, and watering systems*
control panels for heating and cooling systems*	overhead tracks for holding potted plants*
coolers used to chill plants*	plant tables*
cooling walls* or membranes	plant watering systems*
equipment used to control water levels for subirrigation	portable buildings used to grow plants*
fans used for cooling and ventilating*	seeding and transplanting machines
floor mesh for controlling weeds	soil pot and soil flat filling machines
germination chambers	steam generators for soil sterilization*
greenhouse boilers*	warning devices which monitor excess heat or cold
greenhouse netting or mesh when used for light and heat control	watering booms

\*Exempt if not real property. "Real property" is defined in Iowa Code section 4.1(13) as "lands, tenements, hereditaments, and all rights thereto and interests therein, equitable as well as legal." See 701—Chapter 219.

**214.19(4)** *Taxable even if used in agricultural production.*

additives	lubricants and fluids
air compressors	lumber*
air conditioners, unless a replacement part for exempt machinery	marking chalk
air tanks	mops
antifreeze	motor oils
axes	nails
barn cleaner, permanent	office supplies
baskets	oxygen
belt dressing	packing room supplies
bins, permanent^	paint and paint sprayers
brooms	pliers
buckets	posthole diggers, hand tool
building materials* and supplies	poultry brooders, permanent
burlap cleaners	poultry feeders, permanent
cattle feeders, permanent	poultry nests, permanent
cement#	pruning tools
chain saws	pumps for household or lawn use
cleaning brushes	radios, unless a replacement part for exempt machinery
cleansing agents and materials	refrigerators for home use
computers (including laptop), for personal use	repair tools
computer software	road maintenance equipment
construction tools	road scraper
concrete#	roofing
conveyors, permanent	sanders
cow ties, permanent	scrapers
ear tags	screwdrivers
fence, posts, wire, permanent	shingles
field toilets	shovels
fire prevention equipment	silos
freon	snow fence unless portable and used directly in dairy and livestock production
fuel additives	snow plows and snow equipment
fuel tanks and pumps	space heaters, permanent
garden hoses and rakes	specialized flooring, permanent
glass	sprinklers, permanent
grain tanks, permanent*^	stalls, permanent
grease	staples
grease guns	stanchions, permanent
hammers	storage tanks
hog rings	tarps

hydraulic fluids	tiling machinery and equipment
hypodermic syringes, disposable	tractors, garden
lamps	welders
lanterns	wheel barrows
light bulbs (for household use)	wrenches

\* Contractors and sponsors that purchase building materials, other than grain bin materials, are responsible for paying sales tax to the vendor or supplier or accruing and remitting use tax on those materials.

^ Does not include grain bins used to hold loose grain for drying or storage.

# Does not include cement or concrete used in pads or foundations under grain bins.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 423.3(6), 423.3(8) and 423.3(11).  
[ARC 7870B, IAB 6/17/09, effective 7/22/09; ARC 0466C, IAB 11/28/12, effective 1/2/13; ARC 5098C, IAB 7/15/20, effective 8/19/20; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

**701—214.20(423) Grain bins.** The Iowa Code exempts from sales and use tax the sales price from the sale of a grain bin, including material or replacement parts used to construct or repair a grain bin. “Grain bin” is defined by Iowa Code section 423.3(16A). Grain bins are real property, and grain bin materials are building materials as that term is used in rule 701—219.3(423).

**214.20(1) Property considered to be a grain bin or material used to construct a grain bin.** In general, materials that are permanently attached to a grain bin and are required to hold loose grain for drying or storage are used to construct a grain bin and thus exempt from sales and use tax. This generally does not include equipment used to move loose grain into or out of a grain bin. The following lists of exempt or taxable property are not exhaustive.

a. Exempt property:

- (1) Grain bins, including hopper bins.
- (2) Corrugated metal or other similar material for the sides or roof of a grain bin.
- (3) Steps, ladders, or staircases permanently attached to a grain bin.
- (4) Structural support towers for a grain bin or for steps, ladders, or staircases providing access to a grain bin.
- (5) Catwalks.
- (6) Roof vents permanently attached to a grain bin.
- (7) Grain bin flooring and floor supports.
- (8) Concrete pad or foundation under a grain bin.
- (9) Stirring equipment permanently attached in a grain bin.
- (10) Fans permanently attached to a grain bin.
- (11) Temperature sensors or temperature cables permanently attached in a grain bin.
- (12) Spreaders permanently attached in a grain bin.
- (13) Sweeps or augers permanently attached in a grain bin.
- (14) Bolts and other builders’ hardware permanently attached to a grain bin.
- (15) Controls and devices to operate the above-listed property.
- (16) Motors for the above-listed property.
- (17) Replacement parts for the above-listed property.

b. Taxable property:

- (1) Bucket elevators.
- (2) Distributors.
- (3) Receiving stations, including drag conveyors and dump pits.
- (4) Pneumatic or air systems.
- (5) Conveyors, including chain conveyors, belt conveyors, and drag conveyors.
- (6) Anchors, bin jacks, or other construction equipment used to assemble, construct, repair, or replace a grain bin or part of a grain bin.
- (7) Samplers.

- (8) Scales or weighers.
- (9) Other items that remain tangible personal property and are not permanently attached to a grain bin.

**214.20(2)** *Primarily used to hold loose grain for drying or storage.* Property is deemed to be “primarily used to hold loose grain for drying or storage” if it is used more than 50 percent of the time to hold loose grain for drying or storage.

**214.20(3)** *Claiming the exemption.*

*a.* A contractor must provide an exemption certificate to its supplier when purchasing grain bins, grain bin materials, or grain bin replacement parts in order to purchase them free from sales tax. The contractor entering into a construction contract with a sponsor to erect a grain bin or entering into a contract to repair a grain bin must also obtain an exemption certificate from the sponsor of the construction/repair contract to avoid accruing and remitting use tax on the grain bins, grain bin materials, and the grain bin replacement parts that were purchased tax-free from the contractor’s supplier.

*b.* The contractor must accrue consumer’s use tax on the purchase price of the grain bins, grain bin materials, and grain bin replacement parts unless the contractor obtains an exemption certificate from the sponsor of the construction or repair contract. If the grain bin materials or replacement parts are not used in an exempt manner or if an exemption certificate is not obtained, it is the contractor’s responsibility to accrue and remit use tax. The contractor must not charge sales tax to the sponsor of a construction or repair contract because those materials and replacement parts remain building materials used in the performance of a construction contract.

EXAMPLE 1: Company A is in the business of constructing and repairing grain bins. Company A regularly purchases grain bin materials and replacement parts from its supplier. Company A may provide to its supplier an exemption certificate pursuant to Iowa Code section 423.3(16A) so that the materials and replacement parts are purchased tax-free.

A person, also known as a sponsor, enters into a construction contract with Company A to construct a grain bin on the sponsor’s property. The sponsor provides an exemption certificate to Company A also pursuant to Iowa Code section 423.3(16A). Company A may now fulfill the construction contract without accruing and remitting use tax on the grain bin materials purchased from its supplier tax-free.

EXAMPLE 2: Assume the same facts as in Example 1, except that Company A does not provide an exemption certificate to its supplier when it purchases grain bin materials and replacement parts. The supplier must charge and collect from Company A sales tax on the full sales price of the grain bin materials and replacement parts.

The sponsor enters into a construction contract with Company A to erect a grain bin. Whether or not the sponsor provides an exemption certificate to Company A pursuant to Iowa Code section 423.3(16A), Company A may now fulfill the construction contract without accruing and remitting use tax on the grain bin materials because Company A paid sales tax on the sale price of the grain bin materials when it purchased them from its supplier.

EXAMPLE 3: Assume the same facts as in Example 2. The sponsor enters into a construction contract with Company A to erect a grain bin and provides an exemption certificate to Company A pursuant to Iowa Code section 423.3(16A). Company A may now file a refund claim with the department requesting that the department refund the sales tax that Company A paid to its supplier when it purchased the grain bin materials used in fulfilling the construction contract with the sponsor. Alternatively, Company A may claim a credit on its sales tax return(s) equal to the amount of sales tax paid to its supplier when it purchased the grain bin materials used in fulfilling the construction contract with the sponsor. The burden is on Company A to prove that the building materials for which the credit or refund is claimed were used in erecting a grain bin.

EXAMPLE 4: Assume the same facts as in Example 1, except that the sponsor does not provide an exemption certificate to Company A. Company A must now accrue and remit use tax on the cost of the materials used in fulfilling this construction contract.

EXAMPLE 5: Assume the same facts as in Example 1, except that the sponsor enters into a construction contract with Company A for the construction of a structure that is not a grain bin. Company A uses the materials that it had purchased tax-free from its supplier to fulfill this contract.

Company A must now accrue and remit use tax on the cost of the materials used in fulfilling this construction contract.

**EXAMPLE 6:** Assume the same facts as in Example 1, except that the sponsor enters into a contract with Company A for the repair of a structure that is not a grain bin. Company A uses the materials that it had purchased tax-free from its supplier to fulfill this contract. When invoicing the sponsor, Company A must separately itemize the materials and the labor charges incurred in fulfilling this repair contract, and the sales price of the materials included on the invoice must include any mark-up. Company A is obligated to charge and collect sales tax on the materials and labor charges listed on the invoice.

**EXAMPLE 7:** Assume the same facts as in Example 1 except that, in addition to constructing the grain bin, the contractor provides and installs property, such as portable equipment, that remains tangible personal property after installation. As with the grain bin, grain bin materials, and grain bin replacement parts, the contractor purchases the portable equipment tax-free, not because it is exempt under this subrule, but because it is a purchase for resale. Unless the portable equipment qualifies for another exemption (such as in rule 701—226.1(423)), even if the contractor obtains an exemption certificate from the sponsor for the grain bin, grain bin materials, and replacement parts, the contractor must charge sales tax to the sponsor because the portable equipment remains tangible personal property and the contractor sells that equipment to the sponsor at retail.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3.  
[ARC 5098C, IAB 7/15/20, effective 8/19/20; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

#### **701—214.21(423) Farm implement repair of all kinds.**

**214.21(1) *In general.*** Persons engaged in the business of repairing, restoring, or renovating implements, tools, machines, vehicles, or equipment used in the operation of farms, ranches, or acreages on which crops of all kinds are grown and on which livestock, poultry, or fur-bearing animals are raised or used for any purpose are selling a service subject to sales tax.

**214.21(2) *Installation not taxable.*** Those services relating to the installation of new parts or accessories which are not replacements are not taxable.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.2(6) “r.”  
[ARC 6704C, IAB 11/30/22, effective 1/4/23]

#### **701—214.22(423) Warehousing of raw agricultural products.**

**214.22(1) *In general.*** The sales price on the warehousing of raw agricultural products is subject to sales tax unless the warehousing of raw agricultural products is storage in transit and has a destination outside of Iowa, regardless of whether the raw agricultural products originated within or outside of Iowa. Because the tax imposed by Iowa Code section 423.2(6) “ax” is imposed on the warehousing and not the sale of raw agricultural products, the interstate commerce exceptions found in Iowa Code section 423.3 do not apply.

**214.22(2) *Definition.*** For purposes of this rule:  
“Raw agricultural products” include but are not limited to corn, beans, oats, milo, fruits, vegetables, animal semen, and like items that have not been subjected to any form of processing. For purposes of this rule, grain drying is not considered processing.

**214.22(3) *Other charges.*** Other charges relating to warehousing of raw agricultural products may be subject to sales tax when separately invoiced. 701—Chapter 205 contains more information about bundled transactions.

**214.22(4) *Transit warehouses.*** The warehousing of raw agricultural products to be delivered within Iowa is subject to sales tax, while the warehousing of those products placed into interstate commerce is not subject to sales tax.

*a. Formula.* Transit warehouses may compute the tax on warehousing fees based upon a formula consisting of a numerator that is the quantity of raw agricultural products housed at the warehouse with intended intrastate delivery in Iowa and a denominator that is the total quantity of raw agricultural products housed in the warehouse.

*b. Definition.* For purposes of this rule:

“*Transit warehouses*” are those warehouses where raw agricultural products in bulk quantities are transported to and then shipped to different locations at different times.

*c. Numerator.* Raw agricultural products picked up at the warehouse or delivered to a location in Iowa must be included in the numerator, even if the products may be or are subsequently delivered to a common carrier for shipment outside of Iowa.

*d. Information used to calculate tax.* The information used in the formula for the computation of tax on storage fees must be, in most cases, supplied by the principal storing the products in the warehouse. The warehouse is responsible for acquiring and verifying the information used in the formula with the principal at least once every 90 days.

**214.22(5) Exemptions.** Warehousing service will not be subject to sales tax if a contract for the warehousing of raw agricultural products is with a tax-certifying or tax-levying body of the state of Iowa; any instrumentality of the state, county, or municipal government; the federal government or its instrumentalities; a tribal government as defined in Iowa Code section 216A.161; or an agency or instrumentality of a tribal government if used for public purposes.

*a. Consignment to federal government.* Fees for the warehousing of raw agricultural products placed into storage by a producer that are later consigned to the federal government under a loan agreement are subject to sales tax.

*b. Federal government activity.* Warehousing of raw agricultural products is exempt from sales tax only if the federal government makes payment to the warehouse for warehousing and the federal government actually owns the products or goods during the time the products or goods are warehoused.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 423.2(6) “ax” and 423.3(31).

[ARC 6704C, IAB 11/30/22, effective 1/4/23]

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