

**701—285.44(422,423) Sale or rental of farm machinery and equipment.** On and after July 1, 1987, the gross receipts from the sale or rental of farm machinery and equipment will be exempt from tax. Effective July 1, 1996, the gross receipts 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 are not subject to sales tax.

**285.44(1) Characteristics of and limitations upon farm machinery and equipment.** To be eligible for exemption from or refund of tax under this rule the machinery or equipment must:

- a. Be directly and primarily used in production of agricultural products; and
- b. 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 if sale or first use in Iowa is on or after July 1, 1995; or
  - (5) A replacement part for any item described in subparagraph (1), (2), (3), or (4).
  - (6) Effective July 1, 1996, the gross receipts 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.
- c. No vehicle subject to registration, as defined in Iowa Code subsection 423.1(7), implement customarily drawn or attached to a vehicle, auxiliary attachment, or any replacement part for a vehicle, implement, or auxiliary attachment is eligible for the exemption or refund allowed under this rule.

**285.44(2) Definitions and characterizations.** For the purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply.

a. Production of agricultural products means the same as the term “agricultural production” which is defined in 701—subrule 17.9(3), paragraph “a,” to mean a farming operation undertaken for profit by raising crops or livestock. Production of agricultural products begins with the cultivation of land previously cleared for planting of crops or with the purchase or breeding of livestock or domesticated fowl. Not included within the meaning of the phrase are the clearing or preparation of previously uncultivated land, the creation of farm ponds or the erection of machine sheds, confinement facilities, storage bins or other farm buildings. See *Trullinger v. Fremont County*, 223 Iowa 677, 273 N.W. 124 (1937). 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. The production of agricultural products ceases when an agricultural product has been transported to the point where it will be sold by the farmer or processed.

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 it 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 refund or exemption would apply. The elevator has not used its tractor and wagon in such production; refund or exemption would not be lawful.

b. Farm machinery and equipment means machinery and equipment specifically designed for use in the production of agricultural products or equipment and machinery not specifically designed for this use but which are directly and primarily used in the production of agricultural products.

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

c. Self-propelled implement has the same meaning as in 701—subrule 17.9(5), paragraph “c,” where the term is defined to mean an implement which is capable of movement from one place to another

under its own power. The term self-propelled implement includes but is not limited to the following items: skidloaders and tractors; and the following machinery if capable of movement under its own power: combines, corn pickers, fertilizer spreaders, hay conditioners/windrowers, sprayers, and bean buggies.

*d.* Implements customarily drawn or attached to self-propelled implements. The following is a nonexclusive, representative list of implements which are 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, mowers and rakes, husking machines, manure spreaders, planters, plows, rotary blade mowers, rotary hoes, sprayers and tanks, and tillage equipment.

*e.* Direct use in agricultural production. In determining whether farm machinery, equipment or any grain dryer is directly used in agricultural production, 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 coming 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.* Grain dryer. The term grain dryer includes the heater and the blower necessary to force the warmed air into a grain storage bin. It does not include equipment used in grain storage or movement such as augers and spreaders or any other equipment that is not a grain dryer. Equipment other than a grain dryer which is used in grain drying may be exempt or subject to refund if the equipment is a self-propelled implement or customarily drawn or attached to a self-propelled implement.

*g.* Replacement parts, differing meanings of the term for the period ending June 30, 1988, and for the period beginning July 1, 1988.

(1) For the period beginning July 1, 1985, and ending June 30, 1988, a replacement part is refundable or exempt only if its cost is depreciable for state and federal income tax purposes. Replacement parts which are depreciable for state and federal income tax purposes include only those replacement parts which either materially add to the value of machinery or equipment or appreciably prolong its life. Replacement parts which only keep the machinery or equipment in its ordinarily efficient operating condition are not eligible for exemption or refund. Included within the meaning of replacement parts is any part the cost of which is depreciable for state and federal income tax purposes but which may also be deducted as a current expense. So long as the cost is depreciable the sale or lease of the replacement part is eligible for refund or exemption from tax. However, the person claiming the refund or exemption must show that the replacement part which was deducted as an expense could have been depreciated under state and federal income tax law.

(2) On and after July 1, 1988, 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 farm machinery or equipment's exempt use in the production of agricultural products. The term "replacement part" 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 are: cigarette lighters, radios, and add-on air-conditioning units.

**285.44(3)** *Taxable and nontaxable transactions.* The following are nonexclusive examples of sales and leases of farm machinery and equipment which are or are not subject to exemption and refund.

*a.* A lessor's purchase of farm machinery and equipment is not subject to tax, or is taxable subject to refund, 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 or subject to refund. To claim exemption from tax or a refund of tax paid, the lessor need not make exempt use of the machinery or equipment so long as the lessee does.

*b.* To claim refund or exemption, the owner or lessee of farm machinery or equipment need not be a farmer so long as the machinery and equipment is directly and primarily used in the production of agricultural products, and the owner or lessee and the equipment or machinery meet the other requirements of this rule. For example, a person who purchases an airplane designed for use in

agricultural aerial spraying and so used after purchase is entitled to the benefits of this rule even though that person is not the owner or occupant of the land where the airplane is used.

c. 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 refund or exemption if those transactions are otherwise qualified under this rule.

**285.44(4) Auxiliary attachments.** The following is a list (not inclusive) of auxiliary attachments described in 18.44(1) “b”(4), the sale or first use in Iowa which is exempt from tax on and after July 1, 1995: 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, upperbeaters, silage bags, and weights.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code subsections 422.43(3) and 422.45(26), Iowa Code chapter 422, Division IV, and Iowa Code section 422.45 as amended by 1996 Iowa Acts, chapter 1145.  
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