

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 214.1(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 214.1(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).

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