

Agricultural Production

100

Sales Tax
Fact Sheet

Agricultural production

Agricultural production includes the following activities *when they result in a product that will ultimately be sold at retail*:

- **Agriculture** - cultivating soil; planting, raising and harvesting crops; rearing, feeding and managing animals
- **Aquaculture** - cultivating plants and animals in water, including hydroponics and fish farms
- **Floriculture** - cultivating flowering plants
- **Horticulture** - cultivating fruits, vegetables and plants
- **Maple syrup harvesting**

Agricultural production *does not* include processing agricultural products at places such as co-ops, grain elevators, dairies or meat packers, or raising animals for your own use.

Animals

Sales and purchases of the following animals are not taxable:

- **Agricultural animals** - cattle, sheep, swine, goats, poultry, honey bees, fish or any other animals raised for sale
- **Fur-bearing animals** - mink, fox, fitch, chinchilla, karakul, martens, nutria or fisher that are second generation or later raised in captivity for sale
- **Cervidae** - members of the deer and elk family raised for producing fiber, meat and animal byproducts for sale or as breeding stock. Cervidae must be fenced in and registered with the Board of Animal Health.
- **Ratitae** - ostriches, emus and rheas raised for producing fiber, meat and animal byproducts for sale or as breeding stock
- **Llamas** - members of the genus llama raised for producing fiber, meat and animal byproducts for sale or as breeding stock
- **Horses** - Horses and all materials such as feed, bedding and horseshoes used or consumed in raising, breeding and keeping horses are not taxable. This includes *all horses*, even if they are working stock or pets.

Sales and purchases of animals used for **research and development** are *not taxable*.

Sales and purchases of farm **working stock**, including mules, oxen and herd dogs, are *taxable*.

Sales and purchases of **pets** are *taxable*. This includes farm dogs that are used for security purposes.

Breeding

Breeding stock are not taxable if the offspring will not be taxable. For example, the sale of a breeder rabbit to a person who sells rabbits for food is not taxable, but the sale of a breeder rabbit to a person who sells rabbits for pets is taxable.

Breeding and stud fees are not taxable.

Artificial insemination

Semen used in agricultural production is not taxable.

Liquid nitrogen used to process agricultural semen is not taxable. Disposable inseminating gloves and catheters are not taxable.

Supplies such as charts, office records, and reusable inseminating gloves and catheters are taxable.

Feed

Feed, feed additives and feed supplements for agricultural and other nontaxable animals are not taxable. This includes feed for pets raised for sale, farm working stock and breeding stock.

Feed for agricultural animals that are raised for your own consumption is taxable, except feed for poultry is exempt (beginning July 1, 2000) if the poultry is raised for human consumption.

Feed for pets is taxable.

Veterinarian services

Veterinarian services, drugs and medicines for agricultural and other nontaxable animals are not taxable. Examples include calf boluses, dehorning paste, foot rot spray, mastitis tubes and terramycin powder.

Medications and supplies for pets are taxable. Request Fact Sheet 144, Veterinary Practice, for more information.

Materials consumed in production

Persons in the business of agricultural production may buy some items without paying tax. This applies to items used or consumed in the production process, whether or not they become part of the product produced. ***To buy items without tax, the purchaser must give the supplier a properly completed Certificate of Exemption, Form ST3.***

Chemicals

Chemicals applied to fertilize agricultural crops or control weeds, disease and insect infestation in agricultural crops are not taxable.

Chemicals used to control or eradicate animal diseases are not taxable. This includes insecticides, pesticides and rodenticides used in the eradication of insects, predators and other pests for the health and protection of agricultural and other nontaxable animals.

Chemicals used to clean or sanitize food processing machinery or equipment are not taxable. This includes chemicals used to clean the outside of the equipment but not the surrounding work surfaces.

Disinfectants that are not merely additives of detergents, and are applied to agricultural and nontaxable animals or used in disinfecting their environment are not taxable. For example, disinfectants applied to dwellings to control or eradicate animal disease or pests are not taxable.

Detergents or other chemicals used to clean any animal dwellings are taxable.

Chemicals used for odor control are taxable.

Fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides for home, garden or lawn use are taxable.

Fuel and electricity

Fuel and electricity used or consumed in agricultural production are not taxable. Examples include electricity used to run a milking machine or fuel used to heat a chicken brooder.

Fuel and electricity used for heating or lighting farm buildings or to operate a yard light are taxable.

Request Fact Sheet 129, Utilities Used in Production, for more information.

Petroleum products

Fuels, lubricants and antifreeze are not taxable if they are used or consumed:

- in production of agricultural products,
- to dry grain, or
- to construct, maintain or repair drainage ditches, tile drainage systems, grass waterways and erosion control structures.

Packaging materials

Nonreturnable packaging materials (berry boxes, egg cartons, paper bags) are not taxable. Returnable containers, such as milk cans, used to package food products are not taxable.

Returnable containers used to package non-food items are taxable.

Plants and seed

Plants and seed used in agricultural production are not taxable. For example, seed used to grow crops for sale or as feed for agricultural animals is not taxable.

Plants and seed used for home vegetable gardens, lawns or flower beds are taxable.

Tree seedlings purchased for windbreaks are taxable unless they are part of a federal program, as described on page 3.

Machinery and equipment

New and used farm machinery is exempt from sales and use tax. Repair and replacement parts for farm machinery, except tires, are also not taxable.

Other equipment, such as trucks, trailers and storage bins that do not qualify for the exemption are taxable.

Request Fact Sheet 106, Farm Machinery, for more information.

Accessory tools, equipment and other short lived items are not taxable if they:

- are separate, detachable units,
- produce a direct effect on the product, and
- have a useful life of less than twelve months when used continuously in production under normal conditions.

To be nontaxable, the item must meet all three criteria. Examples of items that qualify are milk filter discs and mower sickle sections.

Building materials

Materials and supplies used to construct, repair or maintain farm *buildings, residences, greenhouses*, etc., are taxable. If a contractor buys the materials and uses them on a contract to improve real property, the contractor pays tax on the purchases and does not charge tax to the building owner.

Farm machinery that is installed and becomes part of real property qualifies for the exemption. This includes machinery such as barn cleaners, milking systems, automatic feeding systems, grain dryers and irrigation equipment. This exemption applies whether the farmer or a contractor installs the machinery. Repair and replacement parts for this machinery are not taxable.

Request Fact Sheet 128, Contractors, for more information about construction contracts.

Fencing used in agricultural production is taxable. However, fencing used only for confining farmed cervidae qualifies for exemption as farm machinery. Request Fact Sheet 106, Farm Machinery, for more information.

Services

Some services that are usually taxable can be nontaxable if the services are used for agricultural production. Examples of nontaxable services are:

- Spraying, tilling, fertilizing and tree trimming services for an apple orchard
- Exterminating services used to prevent or control insect infestation of growing crops or to control or eradicate predators and other pests for the health and protection of agricultural animals
- Disinfecting services used to control or eliminate disease or pests for the health and protection of agricultural animals
- Electronic surveillance services used to ensure that turkeys are in good condition and have water and food available

Service providers may buy materials or fuels used or consumed to provide nontaxable services without paying sales or use tax by giving the seller a properly completed Certificate of Exemption, Form ST3. Request Fact Sheet 112, Building Cleaning and Maintenance, 121, Lawn and Garden Care, Tree and Bush Service, and Landscaping, and Fact Sheet 114, Detective and Security Services, for more information.

Federal and state programs

Feeds, seeds, trees, fertilizers, and herbicides purchased for use by farmers in a federal or state farm or conservation program are not taxable.

Miscellaneous sales by agricultural producers

Most sales by agricultural producers are not taxable. However, there are some instances when sales tax must be collected. These taxable sales include:

- Hay bales to a contractor to be used for erosion control
- Manure to be used by the purchasers on their lawns or in their flower or vegetable gardens
- Animals used as farm working stock
- Animals that will be pets
- Snow blowers, hand tools, grain bins, fencing and other equipment that did not qualify for the farm machinery exemption when it was purchased

Farm auction sales are not taxable. Farm auctions are public auctions conducted by licensed auctioneers where substantially all of the property sold consists of property used in the trade or business of farming and non-business property such as household goods.

Use tax

If you buy taxable items or services that are used, stored or consumed in Minnesota without paying sales tax, you owe use tax. If you buy taxable items and pay another state's sales tax at a lower rate, you owe use tax based on the difference in tax rates. Request Fact Sheet 146, Use Tax for Businesses, for more information.

Local sales and use taxes

If you are located or working in an area with a local tax, local sales or use tax may also be due. Local taxes are listed and explained in detail in Fact Sheet 164, Local Sales and Use Taxes.

Duluth administers its own sales and use tax. For more information, contact Duluth Sales Tax, 105 City Hall, Duluth, MN 55802, phone 218-723-3271.

References

M. S. 297A.61, Subd. 12, Farm Machinery
M. S. 297A.61, Subd. 13, Aquaculture Production Equipment
M. S. 297A.69,
Subd. 3. Farm machinery repair parts
Subd. 4. Farm machinery
Subd. 5. Used farm tires
8130.1100, Utilities and residential heating fuels
8130.5500, Agricultural and industrial production
8130.8700, Veterinarians

Other fact sheets that may be of interest:

Fact Sheet 106, Farm Machinery
Fact Sheet 129, Utilities Used in Production
Fact Sheet 144, Veterinary Practice
Fact Sheet 170, Step-by-Step Guide to Filing and Paying Sales and Use Tax Electronically