

# STARTING A FARM OR RANCH BUSINESS IN IDAHO

## LICENSES & PERMITS

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Business in Idaho is regulated and/or licensed by multiple entities, spanning the local, state, and federal levels. There is not one statewide business license issued in Idaho. Exactly which kinds of licenses or permits your business requires depends upon your business type, the enterprises on your farm or ranch, and your location. Many licenses are required before beginning business operations. Paying a fee to obtain a license is common and sometimes an inspection of the business site or equipment is required.

You as the owner are responsible for ensuring your business is licensed properly and following applicable statutes and regulations. Your City or County Clerk and the Idaho Small Business Development Center can help you identify what licenses and permits are applicable to your business. Below are a few licenses commonly applicable to farm and ranch businesses. This list is not meant to be comprehensive and may not include all of the licenses required to operate your business. Remember, it is always wise to investigate the licenses needed before you start operating your business or add a new enterprise to your business.

### LICENSES

#### *Commercial Vehicle Licensing*

Visit the county assessor's office for help with commercial and farm vehicle licensing. The Department of Motor Vehicles provides commercial and operator's driver's licenses.

#### *Farm Labor Contractor Licensing*

Businesses hoping to hire migrant or seasonal agricultural workers must apply for a Farm Labor Contractor License. (See Fact Sheet 2.7 *Farm Labor & Contractors for more information*).

#### *Food Safety Related Permits*

See Chapter 5 *Food Safety* for regulations and requirements for food processors.

#### *Specialty Licenses*

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture requires and issues licenses for many agriculture-related businesses. Businesses usually licensed and/or regulated include: beekeepers, dairy product processors and dealers, egg distributors and graders, farm products dealers, livestock dealers, pesticide dealers, plant industries, restaurants and food handling businesses, seed companies, and transportation businesses. (See Fact Sheet 4.4 *Value Added & Processed Products for more information*).

#### *Pesticide Applicator License*

Federal law requires any person who applies or supervises the use of restricted use pesticides (RUPs) to be certified in accordance with EPA regulations and state, territorial and tribal laws. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is the certifying agency in Idaho. You must be certified in Idaho, and in each area of tribal land where you make RUP applications. Additionally, Idaho requires all commercial applicators, not only those using RUPs, to be certified.

### REMEMBER...

Keep in mind that rules and laws change. It is always wise to check with the agencies responsible for the most current information on business licensing, permits, and legal obligations. Remember to check at the federal, state, and local levels.