



April 8, 2009

Proposed Fee Increases

As the legislature finishes its sixth week, the battle to balance the budget continues. One of the strategies to compensate for declining revenues from sales tax is to increase various fees. Two such proposals with significant impact on the agricultural industry are increases in registration fees for trucks and other farm vehicles and registration fees for seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.

Below is a comparison between the House and Senate proposals on truck registration fees, as put forth in SB 1778 by Sen. Mike Fasano, R-New Port Richey, and HB 5011 by Rep. Rich Glorioso, R-Plant City.

Gross Vehicle Weight	Current Fee	Proposed Fee House	Proposed Fee Senate
Less than 2000 lbs	\$14.50	\$29.00	\$16
2000-3000	\$22.50	\$45.00	\$24.75
3001-5000 (<i>Ranger</i>)	\$32.50	\$65.00	\$35.75
5001-6000 (<i>Equinox</i>)	\$45.00	\$90.00	\$49.50
6001-8000 (<i>F150/Tahoe</i>)	\$65.00	\$130.00	\$71.50
8001-10,000 (<i>F250</i>)	\$76.00	\$152.00	\$84
10,001-15,000 (<i>F350/F450</i>)	\$87.00	\$174.00	\$96
15,001-20,000	\$131.00	\$262.00	\$144
20,001-26,000	\$186.00	\$372.00	\$205
26,001-35,000	\$240.00	\$480.00	\$264
35,001-44,000	\$300.00	\$600.00	\$330
44,001-55,000	\$572.00	\$1,144.00	\$629
55,001-62,000	\$678.00	\$1,356.00	\$746
62,001-72,000	\$800.00	\$1,600.00	\$880
72,001 +	\$979.00	\$1,958.00	\$1,077
Farm Truck Restricted Tag (150 mile radius)			
Less than 44,000 lbs	\$65.00	\$130.00	\$71.50
44,000 lbs+	\$240.00	\$480.00	\$264
Goats	\$7.50	\$15.00	\$8.50

The next page features House proposals for the increase of registration fees for seeds, pesticides and fertilizers, as put forth in HB 5125 by Rep. Ralph Poppell, R-Indian River. The Senate companion, SB 1744 by Sen. Carey Baker, R-Eustis, does not include these fee increases.

Seeds:

Gross receipts	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Receipts less than \$2500	\$50	\$100
Receipts \$2500 - \$5000	\$100	\$200
Receipts \$5000 - \$10,000	\$175	\$350
Receipts \$10,000 - \$20,000	\$400	\$800
Receipts \$20,000 - \$40,000	\$500	\$1000
Receipts \$40,000 - \$70,000	\$600	\$1200
Receipts \$70,000 - \$150,000	\$800	\$1600
Receipts \$150,000 - \$400,000	\$1200	\$2400
Receipts \$400,000+	\$2,300	\$4600

Pesticides:

Currently

- ◆ One-year registrations (even-numbered years): \$350 per brand, plus \$100 for each special local label and experimental use permit
- ◆ Two-year registrations (odd-numbered years): \$700 per brand, plus \$200 for each special local label and experimental use permit

Proposed Increase (Retroactive to 1/1/09)

- ◆ One-year registrations (even-numbered years): \$350 per brand, plus \$100 for each special local label and experimental use permit, **plus a \$315 supplemental fee per brand for each brand that contains an active ingredient for which the US EPA has established a food tolerance limit**
- ◆ Two-year registrations (odd-numbered years): \$700 per brand, plus \$200 for each special local label and experimental use permit, **plus a \$630 supplemental fee per brand for each brand that contains an active ingredient for which the US EPA has established a food tolerance limit**

Fertilizer:

Currently

Annual fee of \$100 for each specialty fertilizer registered for the first five registrations; \$25 each for fertilizer beyond five.

Proposed Increase

Annual fee of \$100 for each specialty fertilizer (**with no price break after the first five**)

FYI: Unemployment Compensation Increase

Today the Farm Bureau received unofficial word that the state’s Unemployment Compensation Fund (UCF) will be depleted by August because of Florida’s high unemployment rate. With UCF, every employer pays an unemployment compensation tax on each employee. Gov. Charlie Crist is considering raising the UCF wage base, with the average employer having to pay an additional \$101 per employee. A tax break for small businesses with a limited number of employees has been requested. The proposed increase will be unveiled next week.

The House and Senate have returned home this week for a short break. They are expected to vote on their respective budgets at the end of next week. Farm Bureau members with concerns about these fee/tax increases should contact their legislators as soon as possible.

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