



# Georgia Department of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201

**Gary W. Black**  
Commissioner

Dear GATE Cardholder:

The 2018 Georgia General Assembly made several changes to the Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption program (GATE). This notification and the enclosed chart is intended to highlight some of those changes and provide you with informative resources moving forward.

The income requirement for qualification in the GATE program has been increased from \$2,500 to \$5,000 in annual production income. This income can be derived from multiple eligible program crops to reach the \$5,000 income threshold. GATE cards will be issued for a three-year period with initial implementation occurring over a multi-year, phased-in approach. The process will be determined alphabetically and prorated accordingly. This staggered approach is designed to balance the annual registration workload for our agency, allowing more enhanced customer service to our farmers. More information can be found on the enclosed chart.

Applications will now require a state taxpayer identification number that is recognized by the Georgia Department of Revenue (DOR) to help verify that farm income requirements are met. Acceptable state taxpayer identification numbers include; the applicant's Georgia Sales and Use Tax Number, a Georgia Individual Income Tax Number (social security number), or a Georgia Corporate Income Tax Number (Federal Employee Identification Number). If you do not know which of these options best applies, you are encouraged to register with the Georgia Tax Center (<https://gtc.dor.ga.gov>) prior to applying for your 2019 card.

The 2019 GATE renewal process will begin November 1, 2018 and will be online only (<https://forms.agr.georgia.gov/GATE/>). Mailed paper applications will no longer be accepted. Your local Cooperative Extension Service and county Farm Bureau offices have offered to help farmers who may need assistance making online applications. Our Customer Service Center (855-FARMTAX) will also be available to assist.

The Georgia Department of Agriculture is dedicated to keeping you informed of the upcoming program changes to provide for a smooth renewal process this fall. Please feel free to reach out to our office with any questions you may have. On behalf of our team, thank you for your continued contributions to Georgia agriculture!

Sincerely,

Gary W. Black, Commissioner  
Georgia Department of Agriculture

For assistance, call the Customer Service Center at 1-855-327-6829.  
You can also send an email to [farmtax@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:farmtax@agr.georgia.gov)



# GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM

## PROGRAM CHANGES FOR 2019

	New Changes (HB 886)	Old Regulations (HB 983)
<b>Income Qualification</b>	\$5,000- can be aggregated across multiple crops or NAICS codes	\$2,500 per NAICS code
<b>Long-term Agricultural Production</b>	Allowed if sufficient volumes exit to generate at least \$5,000 in aggregate crops on an annual basis; Livestock has also been added to this list.	Limited to timber, orchard crops, pecans, blueberries, blackberries, olives, and horticulture
<b>Tax Documentation</b>	Previous tax forms are still required and must demonstrate income of \$5,000 from combined crops, or provide agriculture commissioner with enough documentation to determine a discretionary approval. Satisfactory documentation could include business plan, tax returns, forms, sales receipt, FSA data, etc.	The following tax forms must be filed and verify an annual income of \$2,500:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IRS Schedule F</li> <li>• IRS Schedule E</li> <li>• IRS Form 1065</li> <li>• IRS Form 1120, 1120(s)</li> <li>• IRS Form 4835</li> <li>• IRS Form 4797</li> </ul>
<b>State Taxpayer Identification Number</b>	Acceptable state taxpayer identification numbers include; the applicant's Georgia Sales and Use Tax Number, a Georgia Individual Income Tax Number (social security number), or a Georgia Corporate Income Tax Number (Federal Employee Identification Number)	
<b>Application Process</b>	<b>All applications will be processed electronically, no mailed applications will be accepted.</b>  Apply online at <a href="https://forms.agr.georgia.gov/GATE">forms.agr.georgia.gov/GATE</a>	Previous applications were accepted by mail and online.
<b>Card Effective Dates</b>	As of 2019 production year, cards will be issued for a three-year term. This will be implemented in a three year phase-in process.  All applications will be processed electronically and charged a fee based on the expiration date of their card. One third of applicants will receive a three-year card (\$150), one third will receive a two year card (\$100), and one third will receive a one year card (\$50).	Previous exemptions were good for one year only and cost \$20 to apply online or \$25 by mail.
<b>Card Misuse and Violations</b>	Agriculture commissioner shall provide each applicant a warning message covering consequences of providing false information or misusing the exemption as well as an acknowledgment that all information will be shared with the Department of Revenue.  Commissioner may suspend eligibility for up to one year. If a second offense occurs within five years of original suspension, the commissioner may revoke eligibility. All revocations will result in mandatory program ineligibility for three years.	Previous regulations stated only that the agriculture commissioner may revoke the card for abuse or misuse.

**CONTINUES ON REVERSE**



# GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM

**2019 CHANGES CONTINUED**

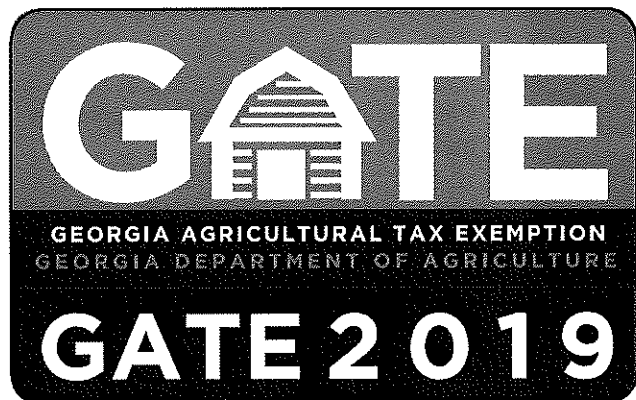
### New Changes (HB 886)

### Old Regulations (HB 983)

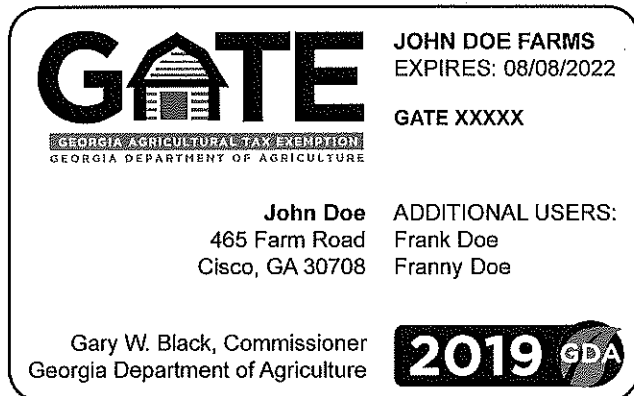
Physical Cards	<p>Wallet-sized plastic cards will be issued to cardholders and listed additional users. Cards will be mailed annually to all active accounts in order to signify the current year of eligibility.</p>	<p>Paper cards were printed or reproduced from the GATE website.</p>
Retailer Requirements	<p>Retailers must verify that the GATE card is valid during the current year by checking the card's design and expiration date upon first use. Seller is then authorized to honor the card unless they receive notice of suspension or revocation.</p> <p>Seller is prohibited from providing exemption if producer cannot provide valid GATE card.</p>	<p>Department of Revenue regulations previously held that any person making a sale or lease of agricultural production inputs, ag machinery/equipment, or energy must collect sales and tax unless the purchaser or lessee provides a GATE certificate.</p>

## 2019 WALLET CARD AND KEY FOB (ACTUAL SIZE)

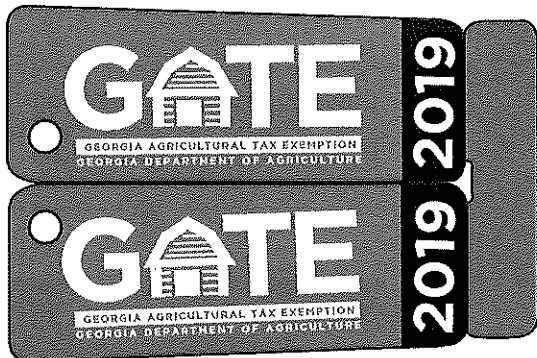
FRONT: WALLET CARD



REAR: WALLET CARD



FRONT: 2 KEY FOBS



REAR: 2 KEY FOBS

