

## **Minor Farm License**

Individuals under the age of 16 are currently unable to drive, unsupervised by an adult, for farm purposes. The following chart lays out the current Iowa driver license law for minors.

<b>License</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Allows for</b>
<b>Instructional Permit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be at least 14 years old</li> <li>• Written and vision test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driving at any time with Adult Supervision</li> </ul>
<b>Minor School License</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be at least 14 ½ years old</li> <li>• Driver education course</li> <li>• Hold an instruction permit and clean driving record for 6 consecutive months before applying</li> <li>• Live 1 mile or more from the school student is enrolled</li> <li>• Affidavit signed by parent and school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driving from home to school or school-sponsored activities using the most direct and accessible route</li> <li>• Public school students must remain in the school district</li> <li>• Private school students must remain within 25-mile driving distance</li> <li>• Stop for fuel while on route or at the closest filling station off route</li> </ul>
<b>Intermediate License</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be at least 16 years old</li> <li>• Driver education course</li> <li>• Hold an instruction permit and clean driving record for 6 consecutive months before applying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot drive without adult supervision between 12:30 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.</li> </ul>
<b>Full License</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Available at age 17</li> <li>• Meet all intermediate license conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full driving privileges with no restrictions</li> </ul>

Kansas, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Washington all have special licenses allowing minors to operate a motor vehicle for farm purposes without an accompanying adult. All of the states with juvenile farm licenses, require the individual to pass a driving test or driver education course before obtaining the license.

Age of eligibility varies greatly ranging from no minimum age in Washington to 16 or 17 years old in New Jersey. Who qualified for a farm license also depends on the state. Minnesota allows a minor to operate a vehicle solely for “assisting the person’s parents or guardians with farm work.” The limitation prevents a minor farmhand from operating a vehicle for their employer. Kansas chose to extend the privilege to individuals who “resides upon a farm” or who are “employed for compensation upon a farm.” Many states have implemented distance restrictions to minor farm drivers. Minnesota requires the driver to remain within a 20 miles radius of the farm home and in cities with a population of fewer than 100,000 people. Washington requires the driver to provide a map outlining the farm, roads, silos, and fields where the minor will be driving to the state driver license office.

### *Discussion Questions:*

1. What restrictions should be placed upon a minor with a farm license?
2. Should the right be extended to both minors assisting their parents and juveniles working for a non-relative farm employer?