

## **MULTIPURPOSE AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES**

In recent years the legislature has recognized the increasing importance of small utility vehicles (such as all-terrain vehicles) to the welfare of the farm operation and has attempted in the Vehicle Code to accommodate for use of these vehicles in and around the farm. The Vehicle Code has created a new class of vehicle known as the "multipurpose agricultural vehicle" which allows limited use of these vehicles on roads.

A multipurpose vehicle is defined in the Vehicle Code as a motor vehicle which is not greater than 60 inches or less in width and 1,200 pounds in dry weight and which is exclusively used for agricultural operations (PVC § 102). If the vehicle is used at all for recreational purposes, the vehicle does not meet the definition as a multipurpose agricultural vehicle.

Multipurpose agricultural vehicles are exempt from vehicle registration if they are operated on farms owned or operated by the owner of the vehicle, on roads that immediately adjoin the vehicle owner's farm, or between farms of the vehicle owner that are located not more than 2 miles apart (PVC § 1302(17)). Since multipurpose agricultural vehicles are specifically excluded from the definition of all terrain vehicle (PVC § 7702), multipurpose agricultural vehicles and their drivers should not be subject to ATV registration and other requirements the imposed under the Vehicle Code on all terrain vehicles and ATV drivers.