Who needs a USDOT number?
49 CFR 390.200T

A USDOT number is a number issued through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). This number is used for purposes of tracking safety and vehicle inspections. It is generally issued to interstate carriers with vehicles over 10,000 pounds, and intrastate carriers with vehicles over 26,000 pounds, with some exceptions. Visit FMCSA's USDOT Number website to determine if you need a USDOT number, to apply for a USDOT number, or to update your information associated with your USDOT number, such as updating your address. FMCSA requires that all carriers update their information every two years, which is known as the "biennial update." For more information regarding DOT numbers, contact FMCSA.

Who needs a Commercial Driver License (CDL)?
49 CFR 383.3

A CDL is required to operate a commercial and some farm vehicles:

- A vehicle or combination of vehicles owned by a farmer or rancher that is operated over public highways and used exclusively to transport unprocessed agricultural, dairy, or livestock products raised, owned, and grown by the owner of the vehicle to market or place of storage; and
- A vehicle or combination of vehicles owned by a farmer or rancher that is operated over public highways and used exclusively to transport unprocessed agricultural commodities, livestock, machinery or supplies to or from a farm or ranch.

A farm vehicle is defined as follows:

- A vehicle or combination of vehicles owned by a farmer or rancher that is operated over public highways and used exclusively to transport unprocessed agricultural, dairy, or livestock products raised, owned, and grown by the owner of the vehicle to market or place of storage; and
- A vehicle or combination of vehicles owned by a farmer or rancher that is operated over public highways and used exclusively to transport unprocessed agricultural commodities, livestock, machinery or supplies to or from a farm or ranch.

What are Exempt Commodities?
Idaho Code 67-2901B

The following intrastate motor carriers shall be exempt from safety inspections and compliance reviews: Motor vehicles controlled and operated by any farmer when used in the transportation of his farm equipment or in the transportation of supplies to his farm. The transportation of agricultural products, including fresh fruits and vegetables, livestock, livestock feed or manure at any time of the year.

What is the Federal Act Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP 21)?

MAP 21, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, is an Act that was signed into Federal law in 2012. Some of these revisions apply to any motor carrier transporting agricultural commodities and farm supplies to and from farms within limited distances. Other provisions also may apply to farmers (and their family, employees, etc.) operating “covered farm vehicles” while transporting agricultural commodities, livestock, machinery or supplies to or from a farm or ranch. There are several important limitations on eligibility and use of this exemption for the operation of a “covered farm vehicle.”

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulation 390.5T defines a Covered farm vehicle—

(1) Means a straight truck or articulated vehicle—

(i) Operated by the owner or operator of a farm or ranch, or an employee or family member of an owner or operator of a farm or ranch; and

(ii) Used to transport agricultural commodities, livestock, machinery or supplies to or from a farm or ranch; and

(iii) Not used in for-hire motor carrier operations; however, for-hire motor carrier operations do not include the operation of a vehicle under the requirements of paragraphs (ii)(i) through (ii)(iii) of this definition.

(2) Meeting the requirements of paragraphs (1)(i) through (1)(iv) of this definition:

(i) With a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating, or gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight, whichever is greater, of more than 26,001 pounds or less may utilize the exemptions in § 390.39 anywhere in the United States; or

(ii) With a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating, or gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight, whichever is greater, of more than 26,001 pounds may utilize the exemptions in § 390.39 anywhere in the State of registration or across State lines within 150 air miles of the farm.