



MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

EDDIE HENDERSON  
COLONEL

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Commercial Alligator Farming License Applicants

**FROM:** Special Permit Unit

**SUBJECT:** Instructions for Completing Application

**Please note: As of July 1, 2017 a price increase to this permit will be in effect. As always please check our website often to print paper applications processed by the Special Permit Unit. We do minor updates to applications frequently.**

This memo is in reference to meeting requirements for a Commercial Alligator Farming License as provided for by Official Code of Georgia Annotated § 27-2-10. Attached is a copy of the law's provisions and requirements and an application form which you must complete and return to the Law Enforcement Division, Special Permit Unit, in Social Circle. The following information must be provided fully for each item on the form:

1. Give complete name, mailing address, email and home telephone number.
2. Provide name, address (including county), directions, and phone number of facility or business (if any) under which you would operate an alligator farm.
3. List number and sizes of alligators requested for initial stocking.
4. Describe the diet and source(s) of the diet for the alligators.
5. Describe the alligator farming facility, including the area contained in enclosures and the ratio of water to land area. Describe construction, including building materials. Attach a diagram or plan of ponds, buildings, etc.
6. List all sources and/or suppliers of breeding stock, including name, business name, address, and phone number; the source and/or supplier must be a licensed dealer or farmer.
7. Provide detailed education, training, and experience which qualifies you to operate a commercial alligator farm
8. **Enclose a check, money order, or credit card information for \$80, payable to Georgia Department of Natural Resources. (Fee includes the cost of the license plus a \$5 transaction fee.)**

Alligator Farms are subject to inspection by Department of Natural Resources personnel prior to approval of a license for any activity involving alligators and at any reasonable time thereafter.

For additional information on the alligator farming program in Georgia, please contact Greg Waters, Alligator Program Biologist, at (229) 426-5267.

Rev 7/17/jrh

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION / SPECIAL PERMIT UNIT  
2070 U.S. Hwy. 278, SE | SOCIAL CIRCLE, GEORGIA 30025  
770.761.3044 | WWW.GADNRLE.COM

Department of Natural Resources  
 Law Enforcement Division  
 Special Permit Unit  
 2070 U.S. Highway 278, S.E.  
 Social Circle, Georgia 30025  
 (770) 761-3044

**ALLIGATOR FARMING LICENSE \$80.00**  
 (Use attachments if more space is needed)  
 (Fee includes the cost of the license plus a \$5 transaction fee.)

LAST	FIRST	MI	DRIVERS LICENSE #	DL State
MAILING ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP
PHYSICAL ADDRESS <input type="checkbox"/> Same as Mailing Address		CITY	STATE	ZIP
EMAIL ADDRESS (Optional, will be used to send a pdf of the issued license)		SSN	DATE OF BIRTH	
PHONE		RESIDENCY	GENDER	COUNTY OF RESIDENCE
( ) - -		<input type="checkbox"/> GA Resident (90 days) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Resident	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	

Customer CN /ID # \_\_\_\_\_

2. Farm to be covered by license (Include name and address):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Address or location where proposed activity is to be conducted:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

4. Describe the alligator farming facility, including the area contained in enclosures and the ratio of water to land area. Describe construction, including building materials. Attach a diagram or plan of ponds, buildings, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Source or supplier of animal(s) (must be a licensed dealer or farmer):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Describe the diet and source(s) of the diet for the alligators:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Provide detailed education, training, and experience which qualifies you to operate a commercial alligator farm:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

O.C.G.A. § 16-10-20: "A person who knowingly and willingly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement...in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of state government...shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more than \$1000 or by imprisonment for not less than one or more than five years, or both."

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature (in ink)

\*\*\*\*\*

(All fees include the cost of the license plus a \$5 transaction fee.)

If paying by Credit card, enter card # here: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Amount **\$80.00**

Type of card: Visa:  MasterCard:  Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security Code # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Department of Natural Resources  
Law Enforcement Division  
Special Permit Unit  
2070 U.S. Highway 278, S.E.  
Social Circle, Georgia 30025  
(770) 761-3044

ALLIGATOR FARM  
ANNUAL REPORT  
For the Report Year Ending  
December 31, \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Bus.)(\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_ (Home)(\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Number of live alligators on my farm as of December 31 last report year. +\_\_\_\_\_

2. Total number of clutches produced from nests on my farm this report year. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Grand total of alligator eggs produced by breeders on my farm this year.  
(Include eggs culled prior to incubation) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Number of eggs reported in No. 3 that were incubated on my farm this report year. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Number of eggs reported in No. 4 that hatched on my farm this report year. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Number of hatchling alligators produced from eggs reported in No. 4 that were retained & surviving on  
my farm as of December 31 this report year. +\_\_\_\_\_

7. Total number of live, hatchling alligators bought or transferred to my farm this report year. \_\_\_\_\_  
List each transaction below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Source</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

8. Number of hatchlings reported in No. 7 retained and surviving on my farm as of December 31 this  
report year. +\_\_\_\_\_

9. Total number of live, non-hatchling alligators bought or transferred to my farm this report year,  
including those bought from nuisance alligator trappers. +\_\_\_\_\_  
List each transaction below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Source</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

10. Total number of alligator carcasses bought or transferred to my farm this report year from either  
nuisance alligator trappers or other sources. \_\_\_\_\_  
List each transaction below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Source</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

11. Total number of live hatchling alligators sold or transferred from my farm this report year. \_\_\_\_\_  
 List each transaction below.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Source</u>

12. Total number of live non-hatchling alligators sold or transferred from my farm this report year. \_\_\_\_\_  
 List each transaction below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Source</u>

13. Number of farm alligators harvested and hide tagged this report year. \_\_\_\_\_

14. Number of farm alligators that died by accident or natural causes that were hide tagged this report year. \_\_\_\_\_

15. Number of dead, non-hatchling alligators disposed of by burial and not hide tagged this year. \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Do not include dead hatchlings of the year, as they must be deducted to calculate figures reported as surviving hatchlings in No. 6)

16. Total number of breeding alligators in ponds on my farm at beginning of report year. \_\_\_\_\_

Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_

17. Total number of breeding alligators in ponds on my farm as of December 31 this report year. \_\_\_\_\_

Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_

18. **Grand total** of live alligators on my farm as of December 31 this report year. \_\_\_\_\_  
 (To calculate, add all pluses (+) and subtract all minuses (-) from above)

SIZE CLASS	0 - 2 ft.	2 - 4 ft.	Over 4 ft.	
# alligators	_____ +	_____ +	_____ =	<b>Grand Total</b>

19. Number of pounds of meat packaged from farm alligators harvested this report year. \_\_\_\_\_

20. Total number of wild alligators processed (skinned and butchered) by my farm, including those carcasses or gators obtained from nuisance gator trappers or other legal sources. \_\_\_\_\_

21. Number of pounds of meat packaged from wild alligators (No. 20 above). \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATION**

I do hereby certify that this record is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Signature (owner) (in ink)

**ALLIGATOR FARM ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> OF EACH YEAR**

### **27-2-10. Alligator Farming.**

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in alligator farming unless such person has a valid commercial alligator farming license as provided in Code Section 27-2-23. Any person desiring to establish, maintain, and operate a commercial alligator farm shall apply to the department for such a license.

(b) It shall be lawful for any person with a valid commercial alligator farming license to possess and propagate live alligators and to process and sell or export the hides of the alligators harvested on such alligator farm, provided that it shall be unlawful for any person, including a person with a commercial alligator farming license, to acquire any live alligator, except by propagation of live alligators lawfully in his possession, without first obtaining a permit from the department to acquire the live alligator. It shall also be unlawful for any person, including a person with a valid commercial alligator farming license, to sell, barter, exchange, give, or loan any live alligator to any other person without first obtaining a permit from the department to so sell, barter, exchange, give, or loan the live alligator.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person with a valid commercial alligator farming license to acquire or possess any alligator hide or carcass except from the harvest of live alligators lawfully in his possession and on his alligator farm.

(d) At such time as is deemed necessary by the department to discharge its responsibilities under this Code section, every person with a valid commercial alligator farming license shall file reports with the department in such form and containing such information as deemed necessary by the department. In addition, every such licensee shall maintain on his business premises records in such form and containing such information as is required by the department to discharge its responsibilities under this Code section.

(e) The board shall have the authority to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations relative to commercial alligator farming including, but not limited to, the power:

(1) To establish standards relating to enclosures, housing facilities, handling, care, and treatment of live alligators on the alligator farm of the licensee;

(2) To establish standards relating to the processing, marking, sale, and exportation of hides of alligators harvested on the alligator farm of the licensee;

(3) To require, at such times as it deems necessary for the department to discharge its responsibilities under this Code section, from each licensee an application for a commercial alligator farming license in such form and containing such information as the department deems necessary; and

(4) To require each licensee to maintain on his business premises records in such form and containing such information as is required by the department to discharge its responsibilities under this Code section.

### **Commercial Alligator Farming**

#### **391-4-11-.01 Purpose.**

The purpose of these regulations are to establish the procedures for the permitting/licensing of commercial alligator farms and to prescribe the standards under which alligator farms must operate. They also prescribe the administrative requirements for the sale of alligators, or parts thereof, the control, harvest, and sale of alligator hides and meats of alligators produced on an alligator farm licensed under the provision of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.), Section 27-2-10.

#### **391-4-11-.02 Licensing.**

(1) Application for license shall be submitted on forms provided by the Department and may be filed at any time. The license year is from April 1 to March 31 of the following year. The cost of the annual license as provided in Section 27-2-3 O.C.G.A. is \$80.00.

(2) License shall not be issued to any applicant under 18 years of age.

(3) Before a license is issued, Department personnel will inspect the facilities and/or review the specifications of proposed facilities to insure they meet the requirements for the safe handling, humane care and treatment of the alligators.

(4) An alligator farming license shall not be issued to any person who has been convicted of any violation of O.C.G.A., Title 27, Sections 27-2-10 and 27-3-19 or rules of the Department of Natural Resources relating to the illegal taking of any crocodylian species, or their eggs, for two (2) years following such conviction.

(5) The alligator farming license of any persons convicted of any violation of O.C.G.A., Title 27, Sections 27-2-10 and 27-3-19 or rules of the Department of Natural Resources relating to the illegal taking of any crocodylian species, or their eggs, shall be revoked.

(6) Upon revocation of an alligator farming license as provided in 391-4-11-.02(5), the licensee shall have six (6) months to dispose of legally acquired alligator stock. Alligator stock may not be disposed of to corporations or partnerships to which the licensee is a principle.

#### **391-4-11-.03 Acquisition of Alligators.**

(1) Alligator stock (alligators or alligator eggs) must be obtained from captive sources such as an established alligator farm or similar legal source or obtained from a licensed alligator agent-trapper. A permit as provided for in Section 27-2-10(b) Official Code of Georgia Annotated must be obtained from the Georgia Game & Fish Division before any alligators or their eggs are acquired or transported from one alligator farm to another. If the stock is obtained from an out-of-state source, legal requirements of the state from which the alligators originate must be satisfied before live alligators or alligator eggs can be moved across state lines. A bill of lading identifying the source of the alligators, their number, length, and sex, if known, or similar evidence of the sale, must be retained by the buyer.

(2) Alligator farmers licensed under the provisions of O.C.G.A. Section 27-2-10 may purchase from any legal source alligator carcasses, the hide and other products from which may then be sold subject to provisions in Chapter 391-4-13.

#### **391-4-11-.04 Specifications for Alligator Farms.**

(1) Breeding ponds, grow-out ponds, or any other outside alligator holding facilities, shall be fenced around the perimeters with woven wire or board fences of sufficient height (minimum, 4 feet) and tightness, constructed so as to prevent the escape or entrance of any size of alligator. Fences shall be buried or otherwise secured at the bottom so as to prevent entrance or escape.

(2) Holding houses containing an adequate number of artificial tanks will be provided for growing out alligators. Alligators six feet or less in length must be held in tanks or ponds that can be readily drained and are constructed so as to make all alligators visible upon draining.

(3) A controlled environmental chamber complete with an artificial nesting area (incubator) will be provided for hatching of eggs.

#### **391-4-11-.05 Harvest of Alligators.**

(1) Alligators, or the skins or products of such captive-reared alligators raised on a farm licensed under the provisions of O.C.G.A. Section 27-2-10, or alligators purchased from a licensed alligator agent-trapper or other legal source may be sold, but only in accordance with the following restrictions:

(a) Alligators may be harvested and skinned only at Department approved sites and only with approval of an authorized agent of the Department. Alligator hides must be held at a specified site until the date of sale. An alligator farmer may request authorization from the Department to skin and receive hide tags for no more than his current total farm inventory of alligators.

(b) The sale of alligators or alligator products from the captive-reared or otherwise legally-obtained alligators shall not be permitted until six (6) months have elapsed from the date of the initial issuance of an alligator farming license.

(c) Any alligator killed under authority of this section shall be tagged within 24 hours with a tag furnished by the Department. Such tag shall remain attached to the alligator hide until finally processed by the fabricator. Tags removed from hides used to manufacture alligator products shall either be a) turned over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service upon product export or b) turned over to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Game and Fish Division, if the product is not exported. It shall be unlawful for any farmer or processor to possess untagged alligator hides or carcasses following the 24 hour period allowed. All alligators that die due to accident, natural causes, or reasons other than harvest shall be tagged within 24 hours or destroyed and recorded in the farm inventory records.

(d) Property rights to identifying hide tags issued to farmers shall be vested in the Department, and tags shall remain the property of the state. Unused tags will be returned to the Department within 15 days of the end of the calendar year. Possession of any alligator hide tags by persons other than licensed farmers or licensed nuisance alligator agent-trappers shall be prohibited.

(e) The meat of any alligator legally harvested or purchased from a licensed alligator agent-trapper may be consumed by the farmer or his immediate family, but shall not be sold or transferred except as provided in Rule 391-4-11-.07 below. Other alligator products may be sold subject to Rule 391-4-11-.07 also. Meat not processed and packaged for sale may be kept for personal consumption, but shall not be sold. Each package of meat so processed shall be labeled in indelible ink to indicate the hide tag number of the alligator from which it came and the alligator farm or agent-trapper's name who harvested the alligator.

#### **391-4-11-.06 Sale of Alligators.**

(1) Alligator farmers licensed under the provisions of O.C.G.A. Section 27-2-10, may sell, barter, exchange, give or loan any live alligators or their eggs provided a permit is first obtained from the Department. If sold, bartered, exchanged in the interstate commerce or foreign trade, legal requirements of the state or country involved in the transaction must also be satisfied. Live alligators or alligator eggs may not be sold and transported to any state or country outside of their historical range without written permission of the Director.

(2) The request for such permits must contain the name and address of the proposed buyer, a reference to the buyer's license number or other authority for possession, and shall indicate the number and total lengths of alligators to be sold.

#### **391-4-11-.07 Sale of Alligator Meat and Other Alligator Products.**

Alligator hides, meat, and other alligator products produced on a licensed farm may be sold subject to provision in Chapter 391-4-13.

#### **391-4-11-.08 Records.**

(1) Licensed alligator farmers shall maintain complete written records and documentation regarding initial inventory of breeding stock indicating the source of such stock, their numbers, length, and sex, if known. Complete, accurate written records will be maintained on a current basis reflecting subsequent population levels due to hatching success, mortality, sale of stock, purchases of additional stock, etc. Shipping documents, invoices, or bills of lading must be maintained to reflect the disposition made of any alligator stock. Farmers shall maintain records that show an accurate inventory of alligators present on each farm. Any change in the number of alligators and the cause of such change (i.e. escape, death, transport, harvest, etc.) shall be recorded. Such records shall be made available to Department personnel for inspection at their request.

(2) Records shall be maintained at the alligator farm on all alligator carcasses purchased from nuisance alligator agent-trappers and shall include the length and hide tag number of the alligator purchased, the name of the agent-trapper, and the date of the purchase.

#### **391-4-11-.09 Reports.**

(1) A complete and accurate Alligator Farm Annual Report form supplied by the Department must be submitted to the Department not later than March 31 of each year before an application for license renewal will be considered. The report must include the following information:

(a) number of alligators on the farm in the 0-2 feet, 2-4 feet, and over 4 feet size classes;

(b) number of breeding females, nests, eggs and hatching success ratio during the license year;

(c) total mortality (natural) during the year to include cause of death, if known, and disposition of hide and/or meat;

(d) number alligators harvested for market, identified by the size classes as outlined in (a) above;

(e) number of alligators or alligator carcasses purchased and identified by the size classes outlined in (a) above; and (f) number of live alligators sold to other legal operatives, identified by the size classes as outlined in (a) above.

(2) It shall be a violation of this section to submit inaccurate or incomplete reports. For the purpose of this section, an inaccurate report shall be one that deviates more than ten (10) percent from the actual total of alligators present on a farm.

**391-4-11-.10 Inspections and Inventories of Alligator Farms.**

(1) Department personnel may at any time inspect alligator farms including alligators, eggs, hides and other products, records, lands, buildings, motor vehicles and other equipment that could be used in production, processing, or transportation of alligator, alligator eggs, or alligator products.

(2) An alligator farm inspection will not include inventory by the Department except under one or more of the following conditions:

(a) upon lawful sale or transfer of farm ownership;

(b) where inspections of alligator farms or alligator farm records indicate a failure to maintain accurate, complete alligator farming records;

(c) when inspection or other Department actions indicate a violation of alligator processing procedures;

(d) pursuant to an investigation wherein alligators or their eggs are suspected of being taken, illegally from the wild; or

(e) before the transfer of alligator stock occurs after a conviction resulting in revocation of an alligator farming license.

1. An inventory may consist of a total count or a sample of a portion of the facility.

(3) Should an inventory be required by the Department, the licensed alligator farmer shall cooperate fully (including providing labor as requested) to conduct said inventory. Failure to abide by this requirement shall result in the suspension of all hide tags and transportation permits until the inventory is completed.

(4) If an inventory reveals a discrepancy in the reported numbers of alligators by a farmer in excess often (10) percent of the total, it shall be a violation of this section. Upon finding such a violation, all remaining hide tags will be seized as evidence and transportation permit requests held until the discrepancies are satisfactorily resolved or until the final disposition of the case by the court.

**391-4-11-.11 Repealer.**

Any other regulation or parts thereof in conflict with the above regulations is hereby repealed.

**Sale of Alligator Meat and Products**

**391-4-13-.01 Purpose.**

The purpose of these regulations is to establish procedures by which alligator meat, hides, and other products may be sold or transferred. They also prescribe licensing and record keeping requirements for the sale or transfer of alligator meat, hides, and other products.

**391-4-13-.02 Sale of Alligator Meat.**

(1) Alligator meat that is lawfully acquired through production on a licensed alligator farm, harvested by approved nuisance alligator agent-trappers, or otherwise obtained from a legal source may be sold or transferred provided that:

(a) Any alligator meat sold or transferred shall be packaged in approved containers and labeled as specified by the Department indicating that it contains alligator meat, the weight of meat enclosed, the name of the seller, the hide tag number for the alligator from which the meat was taken, and the date of packaging. No more than five pounds of meat shall be included per container and containers shall be used only once. Alligator meat must be packaged and marked in accordance with regulations of the State of origin.

(b) Alligator farmers and agent-trappers shall maintain written records of all alligator meat sales or transfers. Such records shall be open to inspection by Department personnel. Meat sales or transfers by agent trappers, shall be reported on a form supplied or approved by the Department and a copy must be returned to the Department within 30 days of the date of sale. Alligator farmers shall report total pounds of alligator meat harvested on Department supplied annual farm reports at the end of each calendar year.

(c) Alligator meat shall be retained in the original container until prepared for consumption or processing. Alligator meat that has been processed or repackaged for sale must be replaced in a tamperproof container approved by the Director or his authorized agent. Such processed or repackaged meat must be labeled with the hide tag number of the alligator(s) from which the meat came. Purchasers of alligator meat from alligator farmers or nuisance alligator agent-trappers must retain an invoice or shipping document for a period of six months from the date of sale.

(d) All containers of alligator meat labeled in accordance with these regulations shall be shipped only with the State of Georgia or to those states or countries allowing the sale of alligator meat.

(e) Alligator meat shall only be sold and possessed for sale or transfer in compliance with all applicable sanitation and permit requirements of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Consumer Protection Division, the county health department of the county where the processing facility is located, and other federal, state, or local authorities.

(f) Any person selling alligator meat must purchase a Wholesale Fish Dealer's license from the Georgia Department of Agriculture, provided that no permit shall be required for prepared alligator meat sold for food by restaurants.

**391-4-13-.03 Sale of Alligator Hides and Other Products.**

(1) Alligator hides and other products, except meat, may be sold or transferred in accordance with the following:

(a) Alligator farmers, agent-trappers, and other persons authorized to take or possess alligators may sell or transfer the hides, feet, viscera or skeletal parts of alligators when all such sales or transfers are documented on a Department supplied or approved report form which indicates the kind and quantity of items sold or transferred and the name and address of each buyer. A copy of such form must be returned to the Department within 30 days of the date of sale or transfer. Any packaged alligator parts must be labeled with a Department-approved label that indicates the hide tag number(s) of the alligator(s) from which the parts came, the name and address of the seller, the date of the sale or transfer, and the number and kind of parts included.

(b) Any alligator skull sold or transferred shall be permanently labeled with the identifying alligator hide tag number of the alligator from which the skull was taken and the name of the farmer or agent-trapper selling or transferring the skull.

(c) Upon approval by the Department, agent-trappers may collect oviductal eggs from gravid nuisance alligators for sale to licensed Georgia alligator farmers.

- (d) No person, except a licensed alligator farmer or an approved nuisance alligator agent-trapper, shall engage in the sale of alligator hides, viscera, and skeletal parts, unless such person has a valid fur dealer's or fur dealer's agent license from the Department.
- (e) Persons selling finished or unfinished alligator products shall maintain documentation of their legal acquisition.
- (f) No person shall sell or transfer any hide, meat, or other product manufactured from a crocodilian species which has been declared to be endangered or threatened by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
- (g) All alligator hides sold or transferred must be tagged by the State of origin, and all alligator parts from out-of-state sources must be packed and marked in accordance with regulations of the State of origin.