Residents can obtain a new form of identification that meets new federal security requirements for boarding a commercial airplane or visiting a military base or other federal facility at driver license offices across the state. Obtaining the new ID could benefit farmers and farm workers who may be frequent flyers.

N.C. Division of Motor Vehicle officials encourage residents to obtain a N.C. REAL ID when renewing their driver license or ID card. To make it more convenient when boarding, frequent flyers are recommended to apply for their REAL ID in advance of their next flight.

“Traveling by air will be much easier with a REAL ID when the Transportation Security Administration begins enforcing tougher identification requirements at the airport on Oct. 1, 2020,” said DMV Commissioner Torre J. Jessup said.

The N.C. REAL ID is just like a traditional North Carolina license or ID, but has a gold star endorsement at the top. The federal REAL ID Act established the requirements and the program is administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Appointments for priority service can be scheduled for any driver license office by calling the DMV Customer Contact Center at 919-715-7000.

To obtain their first REAL ID, residents must bring documents to a local driver license office to verify their:

- Identity and Date of Birth
- Social Security number
- Residence
- Legal presence

Without a REAL ID, travelers will have to provide additional identification to board a commercial flight and visit other federal facilities beginning in 2020. Required identification may vary by location. The complete list of verification documents is available at NCREALID.com.