

Agricultural Tourism Ordinance

Definitions

Agritourism - an activity at an agricultural operation where the general public is allowed or invited to participate in, view, or enjoy the activities for recreational, entertainment, or educational purposes.

Agriculture - the practice of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and/or raising livestock

Seasonal harvest festival - a periodic celebration of a harvest, season or holiday.

Lighting Displays - The use of low wattage lights to illuminate structures or objects for seasonal or holiday celebration.

Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the viability of farms and ranches, while protecting and maintaining the towns rural character and preserving farmland. Agritourism presents a unique opportunity to combine aspects of tourism and agriculture to provide a number of financial, educational and social benefits to tourists, producers and communities. Agritourism gives producers an opportunity to generate additional income and an avenue for direct marketing to consumers. In addition, agritourism provides educational experiences that connect visitors to scenic landscapes and the local community. Farmland and forestland preservation ensures that future generations will have the opportunity to visit local farms, learn more about agriculture, participate in recreational activities and enjoy a local food supply. Furthermore, agritourism provides incentives for producers to remain in agriculture. Agritourism operations are unique, local businesses, which cannot later be "outsourced" to other communities.

Applicability

These activities are to be permitted where farming is allowed, on farms that have been in continuous operation for no less than 3 years and currently engaged in agriculture or agriculture education.

- Crop art and mazes
- Farm tours including; hayrides, sleigh rides, carriage rides, horseback riding, cross country skiing trails and seasonal lighting displays
- Maple syrup and honey operations, tours and events
- Temporary petting zoos
- Pick your own operations - fruits, vegetables and non-edible crops; such as, but not limited to cut your own trees, and pumpkin patches
- Seasonal harvest festivals
- Winery tours and wine tasting
- Educational activities with a focus on farm or forest

Prohibitions

- On street parking is not permitted. All visitors must park on the farm or ranch property.
- Seasonal harvest festivals are limited to 21 calendar days per year.
- Seasonal harvest festivals must not have any public access from 10pm until 8am daily.

Severability clause

To the extent any provision of this article is deemed invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision will be removed from the article, and the balance of the article shall remain valid.