



County of San Diego, Planning & Development Services
**FAQ'S RELATED TO AGRICULTURAL
TOURISM**
ZONING DIVISION

The Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance March 28, 2012 to establish **Agricultural Tourism** as an accessory use to Commercial Agriculture uses.

Q. What is Agricultural Tourism?

A. Agricultural Tourism (also Agri-tourism or Ag-tourism) is defined as the act of visiting a commercial agricultural enterprise for the purpose of enjoyment, education or active involvement in the activities of the farm, ranch or agricultural operation.

Q. What is Commercial Agriculture?

A. Section 1110 (C) of the Zoning Ordinance definition

Commercial Agriculture: Shall mean a routine and ongoing enterprise associated with a farm, grove, dairy, or other agricultural business, and shall include:

1. The cultivation and tillage of soil; crop rotation; fallowing for agricultural purposes; the production, cultivation, growing, replanting and harvesting of any agricultural commodity including viticulture, vermiculture, apiculture, or horticulture;
2. The raising of livestock, bees, fur bearing animals, fish or poultry, and dairying for sale;
3. Any practices performed by a farmer on a farm as incident to or in conjunction with those farming or grove operations, including the preparation for market, delivery to storage or to market, or delivery to carriers for transportation to market; and
4. Ordinary pasture maintenance and renovation and dry land farming operations consistent with rangeland management and soil disturbance activities.

All such activities must be consistent with the economics of commercial agricultural operations and other similar agricultural activities. Commercial Agriculture does not include crops or agriculture for personal consumption.

Q. What are the Agricultural Tourism regulations?

A. Zoning Ordinance Section 6156. kk.

Agricultural Tourism. Agricultural Tourism may be allowed as an accessory use to a Commercial Agriculture operation in the RR, A70, A72, S90 and S92 Use Regulations provided the following criteria are met:

1. Allowed activities. U-Pick operations, on-site tours, on-site agricultural instruction or demonstrations, lectures or classes about agriculture related topics and participation in agricultural operations on the premises.

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2. Parking. Adequate off street parking shall be provided to accommodate all employee and customer parking needs on the premises, entirely outside of public rights-of-way other than designated parking spaces. No parking on private roads is allowed.
3. No amplified sound is permitted.
4. Agricultural tourism does not include uses that are otherwise regulated by this Ordinance or for which a temporary special event permit is required by the Department of Environmental Health or Sheriff Department.

Q. What uses are not considered part of “agricultural tourism”?

- A. Only the activities specifically listed in Section 6156.kk.1. are considered allowed agricultural tourism uses. Other uses that are separately regulated may be allowed on the property, subject to the appropriate sections of the Zoning Ordinance.

The following are a few examples of uses that are separately regulated:

- Wineries (see Section 6910)
- Agricultural Stands (see Section 6156.q)
- Farm Employee Housing (see Section 6156.u)
- Bed and Breakfast Home (see Section 6156.aa)
- Host Home (see Section 6156.bb)

PLEASE NOTE: *This is not a complete list*

The following are examples of uses that are **not** considered “Agricultural Tourism” uses:

- Restaurants or food stands
- Retail or gift shops
- Petting zoos, pony rides, mazes, carnival events
- Weddings and/or wedding receptions
- Retreats, festivals, live music, dances
- Public Stables or Boarding and Breeding Stables

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