

# Fact Sheet

## Where is Agritourism Allowed in NYS



### PERMITTING AND COMPLIANCE

Ensure that your operation complies with all relevant regulations and obtains necessary permits. These could include:

- Signage & Handwashing
- Parking & Accessibility
- Safety & Employee Training

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### NYS DEFINITION

“activities conducted by a farmer on-farm for the enjoyment and/or education of the public, which primarily promote the sale, marketing, production, harvesting or use of the products of the farm and enhance the public's understanding and awareness of farming and farm life”



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### ARE YOU IN AN AG DISTRICT

NY's Agricultural Districts Law was enacted in 1971. It's purpose: to encourage active farmland through a combination of incentives and protections. Are you enrolled in your county's Ag District Program? You can check with your county Planning Office, and learn how to enroll through their annual enrollment process.



### RIGHT TO FARM LAW

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- 18 counties in NYS have Right to Farm Laws --> Check if your county legislature has enacted one.
- This only applies to agricultural operations located on parcels enrolled in an Agricultural District who follow “generally accepted & sound agricultural practices”



### AG VALUE ASSESSMENT

If your agritourism operation exists on 7, or more, acres of land **AND** includes any of the following land uses (cropland, pasture, orchard, vineyard, sugarbush, support land, or land under soil conservation programs), **AND** you profit >\$10,000/year from sale of farm products, you **MAY** be eligible for an Ag Value Assessment. Check with your local Soil & Water Conservation District office for more information.



## EXAMPLES OF AGRITOURISM

- U-pick, christmas tree farm, pumpkin picking, etc...
- Garden Tours, School Tours, Historical Agriculture (or Barn) tours
- Corn maze, hay rides, animal interactions (not a petting zoo)

Always to engage in activities which meet the criteria of educational, promotional of agriculture & sale of farm products (or experience).

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## NY SAFETY IN AGRITOURISM ACT

- Enacted in 2018, this legislation established enhanced protection for farm owners from liabilities associated with inviting the public onto their farms for agricultural tourism events and activities.
- It also provided guidance on signage, hold harmless language and other support.



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## SIGNAGE & PERMITS

Make friends with your local code enforcement and zoning board! Always speak with them prior to making decisions on what size sign to order/install OR when considering hosting larger events. There may be special permits required. And remember -- be a good neighbor!



## MARKETING/PROMOTION

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Develop a robust marketing strategy to attract visitors. Utilize online platforms, social media, and local partnerships to promote your agritourism offerings and create a strong online presence.

- Consider joining buy local directories and tourism listings to widen your reach



## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Agritourism can add to the bottom line of your farm!

- Your proximity to urban areas is a great opportunity to engage with a potential audience.
- Do you have young families, young professionals, or college students in your community?

These are all audiences with an interest in an agritourism experience & awareness of local foods!

## Additional Resources:

- Cornell Cooperative Extension Agritourism Program Work Team: <https://cals.cornell.edu/cornell-cooperative-extension/work-teams/agritourism>
- NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets: Ag Districts Program: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/agricultural-districts>
- NYS Ag Value Assessment Program: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/research/property/assess/valuation/agindex.htm>
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Agritourism YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@cceagritourism>
- National Agricultural Law Center: <https://nationalaglawcenter.org/research-by-topic/agritourism-2/>
- NY Safety in Agricultural Tourism Act: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/news/state-agriculture-commissioner-releases-guidance-safety-agricultural-tourism-act>