



Agritourism Fact Sheet

What is agritourism? It is a business venture located on a working farm, ranch, or agricultural enterprise that provides an "experience" for visitors while generating supplemental income for the owner.

Agritourism Limited Liability Law La R.S. 9:2795.5

- Passed in 2008
- Provides limits to liability for certain agritourism ventures
- Requires completion of a plan of operation identifying risks
- Law is voluntary
- More information at: www.lsuagcenter.com/agritourism

Agritourism operators who use animals as part of their agritourism venture are subject to the requirements of the [Animal Welfare Act](#) regulations.

If your agritourism venture charges people to see animals, pet them or feed them you need a license as an exhibitor. If you do not have a license from USDA and are engaging in this practice, you could be subject to a \$10,000 fine.

USDA

Certification: To safeguard your operation, you should call Dr. Lynn Bourgeois, veterinary medical officer with USDA animal care. Dr. Bourgeois can be reached by calling his office at (985) 537-0691 or by calling his cell at (240) 461-9182. He travels the state, so please leave a message. In the event that none of these numbers work call Mike Long at (970) 494-7471 to learn how to become certified. If no answer, call the main number (970) 494-7478 and ask to speak with someone concerning USDA certification under the Animal Welfare Act.

The process requires completion of an application and an inspection. During the inspection, officials will check on husbandry issues, veterinary care program, where animals live and review how animal food is stored.

Successful agritourism ventures have:

- Something to see
- Something to do
- Something to buy

Benefits:

- Educate people about farming and its importance to the economy and health of Americans
- Cash flow increase for farmers
- Opportunity to keep seasonal workers year round

LSU AgCenter Agritourism Resources: www.lsuagcenter.com/agritourism

LSU AgCenter Blog Site
<http://louisianaagritourism.blogspot.com>

Quarterly newsletter
http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/community/community_dev/Agritourism/newsletters/

Workshops
www.LSUAgCenter.com/onlinestore

Farm tours
Bed & Breakfasts
Roadside stands & markets
U-pick operations
On-farm sales
Festivals or fairs
Farmers Markets
Agriculture related crafts/gifts
Guided crop tours
Garden/nursery tours
Winery tours
Historical agricultural exhibits
Exotic animal farm
Farm visits & stays
Agritourism ventures included in agritourism limited liability legislation:
Canoeing, paddling
Mazes (corn, hay)
Holiday visits/tours
Hay rides
Barn dances
Petting zoo
Photography/painting
Camping & picnicking
Habitat improvement projects
Bird watching
Wildlife viewing
Hunting dog training & competition
Trap & skeet shooting
Fee fishing
Fee hunting
Farm skills/ farm work
Christmas Tree Farm

*Before deciding on an agritourism venture, check to see whether the venture is covered under La R.S. 9:2795.5; if it is not, petition the Commissioner of Agriculture for inclusion.

Publications: Available on website, include:
Agritourism: A New Agricultural Business Enterprise
Agritourism: Best Management Practices & Plan of Operation
MarketMaker: LA.FoodMarketMaker.com
Includes a free listing for agritourism enterprises

For more information contact:
Dora Ann Hatch
LSU AgCenter
Agritourism Coordinator
11959 Hwy. 9
Homer, LA 71040
Office: (318) 927-9654 x 229
Cell: (318) 355-3192
dhatch@agcenter.lsu.edu