



Issues & Resources:

Navigating Permitting and Regulations for Agritourism

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

Overview

- Business Plan
- Zoning
- Building
- Water & Septic
- Accessibility
- Food Safety
- Special Events



Business Plan

Agritour business plan should include:

- Activities and products
- Anticipated # of visitors & months of operation
- Existing water & sewer systems
- Map: activity area(s), road access & parking
- Surrounding land uses
- Status of Williamson Act



Regulatory Agencies

Federal:

- US Dept of Agriculture
- Food & Drug Administration
- Environmental Protection Agency

State:

- CA Dept of Food & Agriculture
- CA Dept of Public Health

Regional:

- Air Quality Control
- Water Districts

Local:

- Planning
- Building
- Environmental Health



Local usually enforce federal, state & local regulations

Zoning

**KNOW
YOUR
ZONE**

County/Municipal planning
department

General Plan

Zoning Code

Allowed/Permitted by Right
Activities

Permitted Activities

Submit complete & thorough applications

Buildings

State Building Code

County/
Municipal building department

Building permit probably required:

- New or remodeled building
- Repurpose of a building
- Removal of a building
- Adding on to a building



Consider Accessibility

Federal:
Americans
with
Disabilities
Act



California
Building
Code:
enhanced
CA
accessibility
provisions



Sites with
access to
public or
employees



Limited
Liability for
Agritourism
would help



Water & Septic

Environmental Health
Department

Adequate water and
septic systems

Plumbing and septic
work require permits

Well water used by
public/employees



Taxes & Business Law

IRS – issues TIN

County Tax Collector – business license, tax collection

Transit Occupancy Tax – overnight guests

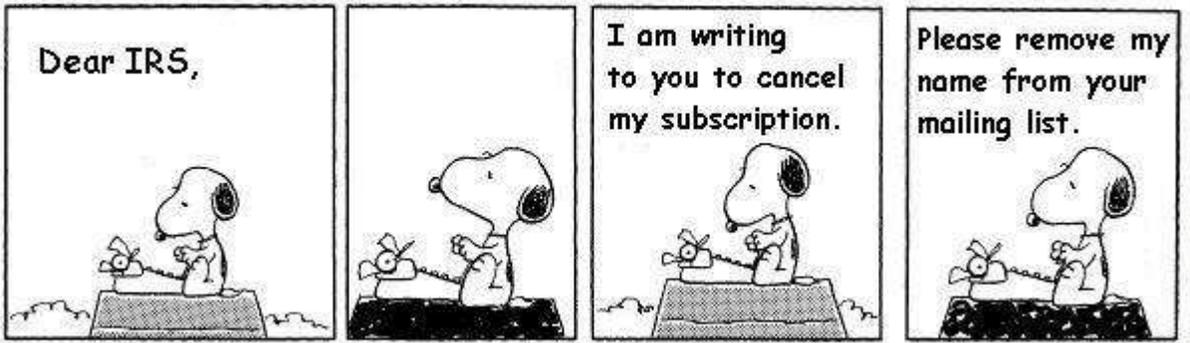
Employees:

Workers Comp, withholding

US Dept of Labor – labor laws

County Recorder - Fictitious Business Name Statement

Insurance



Other Agencies

Ag Commissioner
Weights
& Measures

- Sale by weight
- Organic
- Pesticides
- Certified Producer Certificate

Public
Works/CALTRANS –
traffic and road signs

Fire Agency – fire
prevention codes



Food Safety: Sale of Food

- County/municipal environmental health department
- Sale of produce grown on site
- Tasting/sampling produce grown on site
- Sale of produce not grown on site
- Sale of food prepared for consumption
- Serving and/or selling alcohol



Special Events



County planning department

Permit may be required

Serving food and drinks and alcohol

Disruption to traffic/parking

Disruption to neighbors

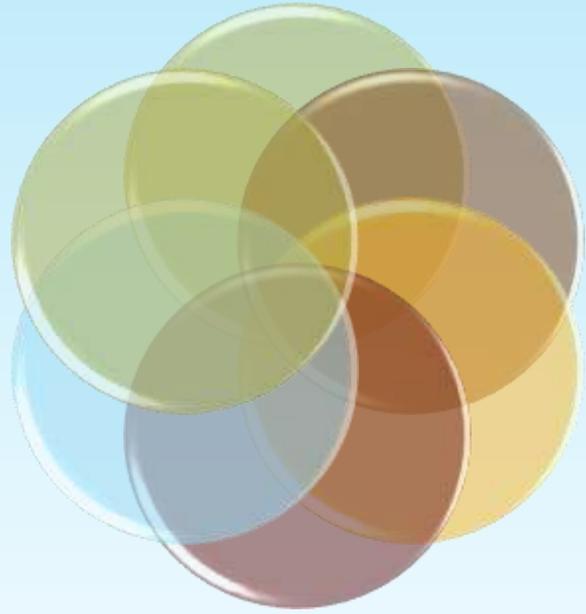
Insurance coverage

Getting Started

Write a Business Plan

Meet with health department

Meet with planning department



Know the zoning

Talk to insurance agent

Meet with neighbors



Additional Resources

Websites:

UC Small Farm Program
[Agritourism](#)

FarmsReach
[California Agritourism Group](#)

UCCE Sonoma County
[AgOmbudsman Fact Sheets](#)

UCANR Free Publications:

[Agritourism Enterprises on your Farm or Ranch:](#)

[Where to start](#)

[Understanding Regulations](#)





Thank you!

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