

Agritourism

October brings pumpkin patches, corn mazes and hay rides throughout the region. Other types of agritourism like farm tours, petting zoos, and wineries are also popular tourist attractions for the Southwest US. Although these are fantastic opportunities to expose families to agriculture, agritourism operators need to keep safety and health in mind.

Agritourism visitors are not always familiar with agricultural operations or the risks that exist on the farm. In order to maintain a safe and fun environment, operators should follow these safety tips.

- Be aware of the *attractive nuisances* on your property. (An attractive nuisance is a hazard that naturally attracts ordinary people.)
- Turn off the tractor or ATV and remove the keys when not in operation.
- Do not take extra riders on the tractor or ATV.
- Wear appropriate clothing when operating a tractor or ATV.
- Lock up pesticides and chemicals.
- Only allow healthy, calm, & well-mannered animals to interact with visitors.
- Clearly mark areas that are restricted, like ponds and certain buildings.
- Keep paths clear and clean.
- Monitor the areas occupied by visitors.
- Maintain clean restrooms and hand washing facilities.
- Provide adequate parking.
- Keep a stocked first aid kit on hand.

Agritourism is a unique approach to educating urban families about agriculture and providing income to producers. Remember that the operator is responsible for the safety of the visitors and employees on the agritourism operation. Check with your insurance company on liability coverage for your agritourism operation.

The following websites provide more information about agritourism.

Agritourism Guides:

http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs/default.aspx?page=nccrahs_ag_tourism

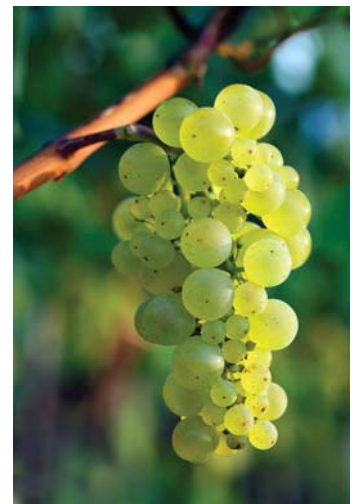
Fact Sheet for Managing Agricultural and Nature Tourism Operations:

<http://www.sfc.ucdavis.edu/AGRITOURISM/factsheet3.html>

Check out the agritourism in your state!

OK: <http://www.oklahomaagritourism.com/>

AR: <http://www.arkansas.com/agritourism/#>



TX: <http://www.fredericksburgtexas-online.com/ftoagritourismpage.html>

TX: http://www.gotexan.org/ty/channel/render/items/0,1186,827_29965_0_835,00.html

LA:

<http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/portal/Portals/0/MKT/Farmers%20Market/agritainment%20listing.pdf>

LA: http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/community/community_dev/Agritourism/

NM: <http://www.santafecreativetourism.org/experience-category/1>