Teaching and supporting agritourism

What resources do farmers and ranchers need to start and succeed with agritourism?

What resources are available?

Penny Leff, Agritourism Coordinator UC Small Farm Program November 4, 2011

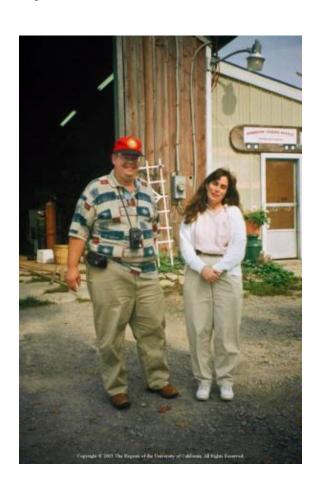


University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Agritourism is a completely new business for most farmers and ranchers

Agritourism is hospitality interacting with production

- > Requires new skills
- ➤ Involves new regulations
- Involves new risks
- Requires new partners
- Requires a supportive community



Farmers and ranchers starting agritourism enterprises need:

- > to understand their potential visitors' needs and motivations
- > to evaluate their family's goals, skills and resources
- > to plan strategically and re-evaluate regularly
- > to hire, train and manage new staff





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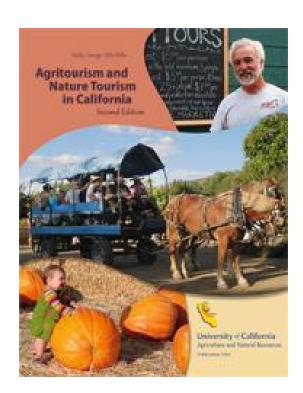
- > to manage risk
- > to navigate a regulatory maze
- > to learn new marketing tools, develop new strategies
- > to collaborate with others in their community
- > to communicate and network with other agritourism operators





Resources for learning the agritourism business:

- Agritourism and Nature Tourism in California
 extensive manual 2nd edition now out
- UC Small Farm Program website
 http://sfp.ucdavis.edu/agritourism/
- Reading list of suggested online resources





Resources for learning the agritourism business:

- Upcoming workshops & classes in Fresno, Tulare & Glenn Counties
- UC Davis Extension Online Agritourism Development course
 UC Davis Extension website
- NAFDMA conferences and advanced learning retreat
 (Networking Association for Farm Direct Marketing and Agritourism)
- Regional and local agritourism associations





New Partners for Agritourism Operators:

- Small Business Development Centers
- Convention and Visitors Bureaus
- Visit California, California Visitor Centers
- > Tour organizers, Organizations of target customers
- County planners and regulators
- > Insurance providers
- Investors
- Travel writers, bloggers and media experts
- Vendors of food and services
- Chefs, artists, musicians, naturalists, teachers
- Other local agritourism operators and agritourism associations

Other resources from the UC Small Farm Program:

- Free online agritourism directory and calendar www.calagtour.org
- Email newsletter, AgTour Connections (sign up at http://sfp.ucdavis.edu/agritourism/)
- Facebook page, www.facebook.com/agtourconnections

Thank you!

Please stay in touch