



Agricultural Tourism in Alachua County

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Background

- This presentation is in response to a 12/14/21 BoCC motion:
 - The 12/14/21 motion requested staff to review agritourism and what the County has in place now and what is being requested by applicants and bring it back to the Board for a discussion
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Background

- “Agritourism activity” means any agricultural related activity consistent with a bona fide farm, livestock operation, or ranch or in a working forest which allows members of the general public, for recreational, entertainment, or educational purposes, to view or enjoy activities, including farming, ranching, historical, cultural, civic, ceremonial, training and exhibition, or harvest-your-own activities and attractions. **An agritourism activity does not include the construction of new or additional structures or facilities intended primarily to house, shelter, transport, or otherwise accommodate members of the general public.** An activity is an agritourism activity regardless of whether the participant paid to participate in the activity. (F.S. 570.86)

Background

- Agritourism activities such as U-pick, farm tours, farm-to-table meals, educational events and seasonal festivals are preempted from regulation by the County
- Sec. 404.09 in ULDC refers to agritourism and ecotourism activities



Florida Statutes 570.85, Agritourism

- (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to promote agritourism as a way to support bona fide agricultural production by providing a secondary stream of revenue and by educating the general public about the agricultural industry. It is also the intent of the Legislature to eliminate duplication of regulatory authority over agritourism as expressed in this section. Except as otherwise provided for in this section, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, a local government may not adopt or enforce a local ordinance, regulation, rule, or policy that prohibits, restricts, regulates, or otherwise limits an agritourism activity on land classified as agricultural land under s. [193.461](#). This subsection does not limit the powers and duties of a local government to address substantial offsite impacts of agritourism activities or an emergency as provided in chapter 252.

Requests for Additional Uses

- Overnight Accommodations
 - Concerts
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Overnight Accommodation

- Overnight accommodation is not an agritourism activity
 - Bed and breakfasts are allowed as a limited use in the Ag district
 - Rural Event Centers allow overnight stay only with a special exception
 - RV/Campgrounds currently allowed only in RM-1 district (T/E LU)
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Music Concerts

- Potentially substantial offsite impacts
 - Noise
 - Traffic
 - Health & Safety
- Coordination with other public agencies
 - Law Enforcement
 - Fire/Rescue/Emergency Management



Music Concerts

- Require Temporary Use Permit- limited to once every 60 days, max. of 6 per year
 - May need new standards for ULDC
 - Minimum acreage
 - Buffering
 - Distance requirements, etc.

Questions?

