

Dear Bob,

Just to followup on our conversation about agritourism in Madbury.

The Visit NH website refers to activities such as pick your own fruits and vegetables, farmers markets, agricultural fairs, Christmas tree farms, and wineries and breweries as activities included under agritourism.

I'm not clear how using a farm to host events such as weddings, reunions, concerts, etc. falls under this definition. Most of these events are already held at dedicated venues elsewhere.

I do think that the potential problems related to noise, parking, and drinking are underestimated at this juncture, as well as the negative effect on nearby property values.

Also unclear is the exact number of farm properties in Madbury that would eligible for these events, as is the definition of what constitutes a farm.

Would someone with 1-2 acres who grows tomatoes to sell on a roadside stand be considered under agritourism and thus be able to engage in these commercial events?

Other locations in New Hampshire issue liquor licenses for individual events, and place strict limits on hours of operation, noise, total attendees, etc.

It would appear to me that allowing such activities in residential areas would be fraught with potential problems both for the town and the neighbors.

Thank you,

Robert E. Gaetjens, MD, MPH

Health Officer

Town of Madbury

May 1, 2017