

2016-10-04

Hello Fritz,

As promised, here is some background information on Agritourism and the new state law that might be useful to the board.

- 1) 3 articles on the Agritourism debate affecting NH farms and municipalities
- 2) A copy of the new state law that defines agritourism to help give municipalities clarity on the matter
- 3) A copy of Henniker's zoning ordinance, passed this year, to help accommodate farm events ( before state law passed)
- 4) A copy of Lee's zoning ordinance on agritourism
- 5) Below, some of Greenfield's language on an events facility ( agritourism)

Rob Johnson, Policy Director with the NH Farm Bureau (312-6877 ) is a good resource on the new law; he was involved in crafting both bills. He tells me that quite a few municipalities have adopted the state's definition of agriculture/ agritourism in their ordinances, and suggested where that language could be inserted (in red below). He indicated that Lee & Henniker might be good examples of zoning language that incorporates agritourism.

Hope this helps, If this is indeed going to be before the board tomorrow Chuck and I will plan on being there.

Thanks,

Beth & Chuck Goss

**Madbury Zoning Ordinances ( PG 13)**

1. *Section 2. Uses Permitted*

A. *It shall be a district of dwellings and farms. No other uses than those specified will be permitted except the special exception uses which may be granted by the Board of Adjustments as provided under Article XV, SECTION 2.*

B. *A single-family or a two-family dwelling is permitted in this district.*

C. *General farming, including horticulture, floriculture, dairying, livestock and poultry raising and other agricultural uses, ( insert new language: **as defined by NH RSA 21:34-a**, or the raising of animals for other purposes are permitted in this district.*

**Town of Greenfield adopts warrant article 2016**

**Amendment Article Number 6: SECTION XIV. SPECIAL EVENT FACILITY ORDINANCE**

To encourage the preservation of agricultural lands and buildings per RSA 674:17,1(i) as stated by the State of New Hampshire as a purpose in the design of zoning ordinances, special event facilities, as an alternative use of farmland at currently active farms or at inactive farms which retain agricultural buildings and open fields, shall be permitted subject to the following restrictions:

1. Special event facilities shall host events which are regular and/or seasonal in nature, i.e. reasonable expectation of hosting events more than two (2) times per year.
2. Events under this ordinance shall only be allowed in the general residence district and rural/agricultural district.
3. Event site shall be on a property or contiguous properties under the same ownership with a minimum total of twenty (20) acres.
4. Events shall be restricted to commercial use of property for private events/functions, not open to the general public. Permitted types of events would include workshops, retreats, private weddings, family gatherings and similar kinds of activities.