

Legal Issues in Hosting On-Farm Events

1.) Look up permitted uses for your **zoning code**, and check to see that your event will be allowed within your zone. If it isn't allowed, consider talking with neighbors and the zoning officials about accommodating your event.

2.) Make your facility as **accessible** as you reasonably can to persons with disabilities.

3.) Offer basic **sanitation facilities** at all events: portable toilets, hand sanitizer, and water.

4.) If you serve prepared food, check with the local public health official about whether you need a temporary **food facility or food establishment permit**.

5.) Call your **insurance agent** and discuss the event beforehand. Here are just a few of the things to ask him.

a.) Are you up to date on your **insurance payments**?

b.) If you charge a fee, will you become a **commercial operation**. Does your policy cover commercial projects?

c.) If individuals are injured, will their **injuries** be covered?

d.) What is the procedure for if a **person is injured**?

e.) Can you get a **discount** for mitigating risk with waivers, signage, or restricting access?

f.) If your agent assures you that your event is covered, **create a paper trail** by using a log book or a follow-up email to the agent.

g.) Be cautious about allowing **access to animals**. If you do, offer sanitizer, post instructions, and limit access.

h.) If you have livestock, check that your **fences** comply with the legal minimums regarding spacing, height, tensile strength, post location, etc. Your insurance coverage may require it.

6.) If your state has **Ag Tourism Laws** to protect the farm owner, be sure to find out what signage you need to display to be in compliance with these laws.

AgTourism & Local Law

Here are a few other things to keep in mind

* Remember that when serving the public, you are required to have **handicap accessibility**.

* Some states require **different or additional insurance for retail sales and for AgTourism**. These might be specific riders or may require additional umbrella coverage.

* Check your **local zoning laws**. You may need approval by a local board. You may need to purchase a license or apply for a variance.
