



Agritourism: How To Keep Visitors Safe on the Farm

Marsha Salzwedel, M.S.

National Children's Center for Rural &
Agricultural Health & Safety

National Farm Medicine Center

Modified and presented by:

Livvy Preisser

*Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent
Virginia Cooperative Extension – Isle of Wight*





- Explore visitors as a “safety issue”
- Discuss types of activities & “worries”
- Discuss injury incidents and hazards
- Familiarize participants with resources for identifying and addressing safety issues
- Discussion and time for feedback



Why are visitors a safety issue?

- Unfamiliar with agriculture
- Looking for a babysitter
- Easily distracted
- Rules “don’t apply to me”
- Common sense is “dead”

Children injured on farms



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- @ 14,000 children are injured each year on farms and ranches
- 40% of injured children are visiting
- An injury can, and often does, result in “damages” to farm & impacts insurance
- Owners/operators must ensure the safety of guests

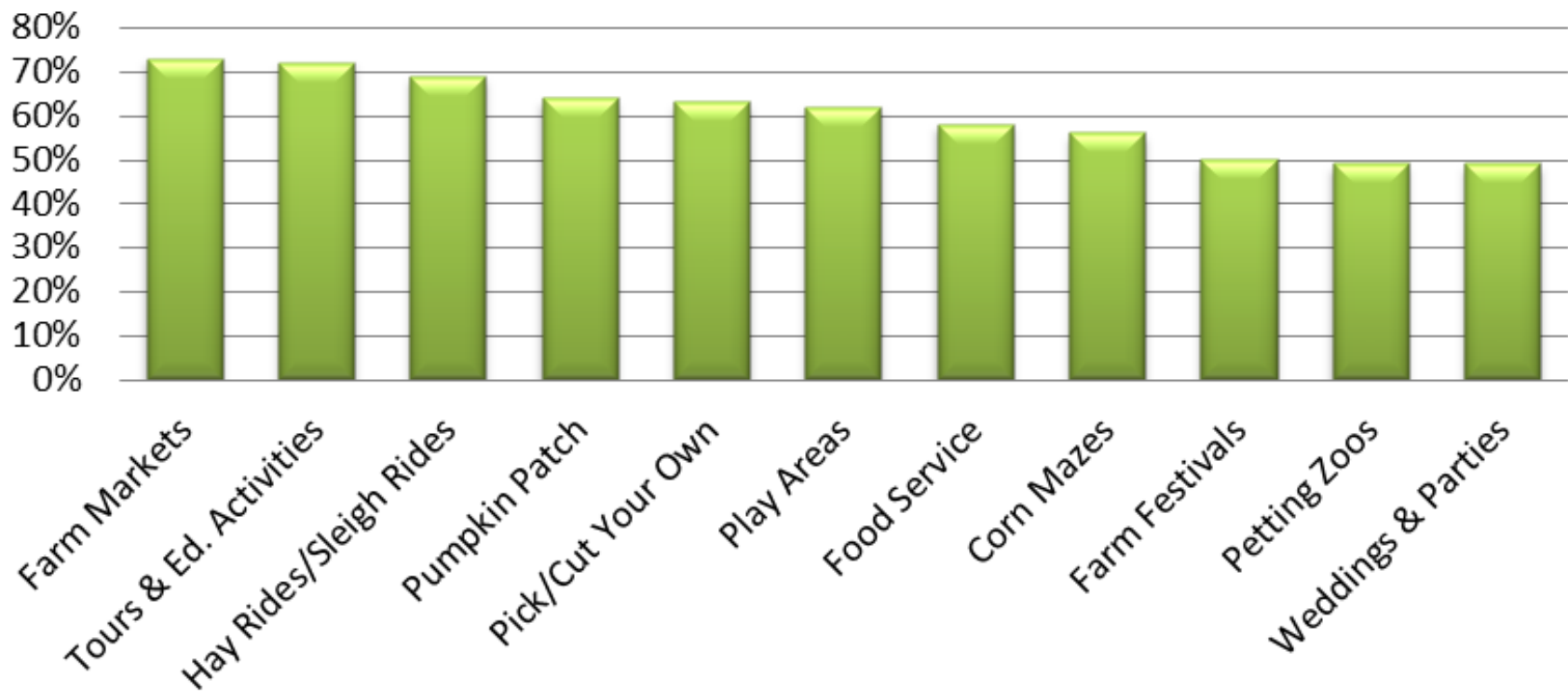
Question:



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What types of agritourism activities do you have or work with?

Common Types of Agritourism Activities



Source: Preliminary results from the Agritourism Resources Survey (conducted by NCCRAHS, 2014)

Accident at Corn Maze



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- Haunted corn maze
- Visitor paid enhanced admission fee to enter “scarier half” of maze
- Employee dressed as “Jason” with chainsaw
- Woman spooked by “Jason” broke her leg when she attempted to run & slipped in the mud



What questions do you have?

- Was there a sign posted with “rules” or any other signage?
- Was information provided that indicated what “the scarier half” of the maze entailed?
- Was the woman drinking or under the influence of drugs?



What were the consequences?

- Woman sued
- Lost the lawsuit
 - She had paid to enter “scarier” part of maze
 - It was obvious the ground was muddy
- Insurance
 - Owner informed insurance of activity prior to incident
 - Would have been covered if lost the lawsuit



- Family Lost in Corn Maze Calls 911
- Corn Maze Burns
- Visitor Injured in Corn Maze
- Four Injured Walking to Corn Maze

Wedding Barn



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- Steps to upstairs balcony area.
- Venue holds 150-200 people



What questions do you have?

- Is this barn open for use?
- Is this area accessible to guests?
- Are there any warning signs posted?

What would you do if you saw this?

1 Killed, 21 Injured on Hayride



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- Jeep towing a wagon
- Jeep “careened” down a hill, the trailer jack-knifed and crashed into a tree
- Every person on ride was injured
- 17 year old girl killed

What questions do you have?



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- How steep was the hill?
- Why did the jeep “careen” down the hill?
- How much driving experience does the driver have?
- Had the driver been drinking?

Other Questions...



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- Was the jeep properly maintained?
- What type of wagon was used?
- Was the wagon overloaded?

Note: it was determined in follow up that there was a mechanical malfunction in the jeep.

Could this have been prevented?



- Hayride routes should avoid steep grades
- Tractor should be powerful enough to easily pull loaded wagon
- Experienced drivers only
- Regular maintenance of all equipment
- Tractors and wagons checked before every hayride
- Wagon should have railings and seating



Maine farm indicted in fatal hayride accident; owner files for bankruptcy

Harvest Hill Farms is charged with manslaughter, aggravated assault, driving to endanger and reckless conduct. Driver and mechanic face misdemeanor charges.

Source: The Portland Press Herald / Maine Sunday Telegram



- Woman Killed in Hayride Accident
- Hayride Crash Injures Youth Group, Leaders
- 7-year-old Boy Crushed in Hayride Accident
- 44 Injured in “Hayride Gone Wrong”
- Man Killed in Hayride Fall
- Woman Paralyzed in Hayride Accident
- Hayride Accident Injures 27 People
- Hayride Accident Dumps People on Road, Injures Several

Woman tripped on a rope anchoring an open-sided tent covering a table

She fell and
broke her wrist





What questions do you have?

- Was she on a trail or walkway?
- Was she approaching the front of the stand?
- Was the “front” or area for visitors to approach clearly marked?
- Was the rope “tagged” to make it more visible?
- Was she “paying attention” to where she was walking?



What were the consequences?

- She sued the agritourism operation
- She “settled” the case for \$40,000



Could this have been prevented?

- Have visitor “walkway” areas clearly marked
- Have the front of stand clearly marked
- Make anchor ropes visible (e.g. colored ties)
- Indicate areas not intended for visitor use





- Truck Crashes into Fruit Stand
- Runaway Tractor Kills Woman at Fruit Stand
- Infant Dies from Injuries Suffered at Farmer's Market Crash
- Child, 2, Dies after Being Struck at Produce Stand
- Three Hurt as Woman Drives into Fruit Stand



10 Visitors Sickened at Petting Zoo



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- Petting zoo and pumpkin patch
- Illness traced back to the farm
- Lab tests confirmed 5 cases of E. coli
- 5 others (mostly children) also suffered gastrointestinal symptoms after visiting
- Hand sanitizers were present next to animal area, but no handwashing facilities



What questions do you have?

- Were there signs posted warning visitors of the illness hazards?
- Was the petting zoo set up so traffic is “one way”?
- Were the buildings and stalls cleaned regularly?
- Were the animals kept clean?



Could this have been prevented?

- Petting zoo traffic flows in a “one way” pattern.
- Handwashing stations with soap and warm running water are available at the exit.
- Handwashing signs posted by the station.
- Buildings and stalls regularly cleaned and sanitized.
- Animals are clean, healthy and up to date on all vaccinations.

Prevented...



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- Signs at the entrance should warn visitors that there is no eating or drinking allowed.
- A garbage can is available to discard food and drink.
- Cups, bottles, pacifiers or toys should not be allowed in animal areas.



Headline News...



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- Toddler Dies from Playground Incident
- 12 Hurt in Miniature Train Incident
- Pumpkin Patch Petting Zoo Infects 3 Kids
- Student Falls in Bonfire at Barn Dance
- 9-year-old Boy Injured at Pumpkin Patch
- Swimming Hole is Deadly Trap
- Visitor Injured in Zip Line Incident at Farm



How do you “inspect” for safety on farms?

“Has actual knowledge or should have known
of a dangerous condition”

Quote from a farmer:

“I walk my farm every day, and I don’t notice the
things you see”



- Website:

www.safeagritourism.com

- Assist with identifying health & safety hazards on farms
- Provide resources to “fix” issues



Topics Checklist



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Topics Checklist		Enter date when completed		
All farms do these:		Walkthrough	Checklist	Resources
1	Emergency Prep and Plan			
2	Traffic and Parking			
3	Handwashing and Restrooms			
4	Barriers and Fences			
5	Walkways, Surfaces and Structures			
All farms do these:		Information Pages	Checklist	Resources
6	Communicating with Guests			
7	Insurance Information (Discussion sheet replaces checklist)			
Do these if you have this activity:		Walkthrough	Checklist	Resources
8	Farmers' Market			
9	Hayride			
10	Corn Maze			
11	Play Areas			
12	Petting Zoos			
13	Large Animal Safety			
14	Inflatable Rides			
15	Food Safety			
16	Water and Attractive Nuisances			
17	Machine Safety			
Notes:				

Resources that can be used to address these checklist items are available at www.safeagritourism.com/Resources. These resources include signs, policies, forms, logs, and other items.

RESOURCES

These resources are available for your use, free of charge. Please feel free to download them and use them on your farm or ranch. These resources are "general fit" resources, and may need to be changed or tailored to fit your farm or ranch.

You can access these resources by either scrolling down the page until you find the resource you are looking for, or you can click on the category below to take you to the topic that contains the resource you are looking for. Once you have found the title of the resource you are looking for, simply click on the title to access the resource.

All Farms Should review these topics

[Barriers and Fencing](#)

[Communicating with Guests](#)

[Emergency Preparation and Planning](#)

[Handwashing and Restrooms](#)

[Insurance](#)

[Traffic and Parking](#)

[Walkways, Surfaces and Structures](#)

Choose topics that pertain to activities on your farm

[Animal Safety - Large Animal and Petting Zoo](#)

[Corn Maze Safety](#)

[Farmers' Markets](#)

[Food Safety](#)

[Hayride Safety](#)

[Machine Safety](#)

[Water Safety & Attractive Nuisances](#)

- [How to use this website](#)
- [Agritourism Checklists Booklet](#)
- [Agritourism Health and Safety Guidelines](#)
- [Agritourism Topic Checklist](#)
- [Integrating Safety into Agritourism Promotion](#)

ANIMAL SAFETY



- [Animal Handling Safety – Cornell](#)
- [Basic Horse Safety Manual – University of Kentucky](#)
- [CDC "Healthy Pets Healthy People"](#)



Source: <http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/fairs/fairmanagerinfo.htm>

CAUTION

**THIS ANIMAL MAY
BITE**



ATENCION

**ESTE ANIMAL PUEDE
MORDER**

Incident Policy

The Incident Report must be completed anytime an incident occurs. Incident reports should be completed for all injuries, property damage to equipment or facilities, or a serious expression of dissatisfaction from the part of visitors and employees should be attended to and a copy of the Incident Report with the victim to be sent to the appropriate authority.

First aid should be practiced with all injuries. Wear non-porous gloves and safety glasses when indicated. Body fluid spills must be cleaned and disinfected immediately. Control the situation and secure the area.

First aid is to aid the sick or injured person. Proceed to the first aid station and will assume lead upon arrival.

Do not move the victim, unless they are in a life threatening or dangerous situation, risk in the rescue of an injured person.

Call for a trained first aid person to assist the victim.

First aid should be administered only to the extent of training or on the basis of a written breathing—Place victim on his back, remove airway obstruction. Once victim is breathing, treat for shock.



Document

- Inspections (checklists)
- Policies & Procedures
 - Need to be written, dated, and reviewed
 - Need to have employees educated/trained
- Safety Strategies
 - Document all strategies put in place (e.g. signs)
 - Document all “fixes” that you corrected

If it's not documented, it's not done!



Educate yourself on what to look for



Inspect to identify hazards and safety issues



Address any hazards or safety issues found



Thank You!

livvy16@vt.edu

757-365-6261