

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to agritourism; creating ss. 570.96-  
 3           570.962, F.S., relating to agritourism; authorizing the  
 4           Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to assist  
 5           specified entities in agritourism promotion and marketing  
 6           initiatives; providing definitions; specifying the impact  
 7           of agritourism participation on certain classifications  
 8           and certifications; specifying participation requirements;  
 9           providing an effective date.

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11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13           Section 1. Sections 570.96, 570.961, and 570.962, Florida  
 14 Statutes, are created to read:

15           570.96 Agritourism.--The Department of Agriculture and  
 16 Consumer Services may provide marketing advice, technical  
 17 expertise, promotional support, and product development related  
 18 to agritourism to assist the following in their agritourism  
 19 initiatives: the Florida Commission on Tourism; convention and  
 20 visitor bureaus; tourist development councils; economic  
 21 development organizations; and local governments. In carrying  
 22 out this responsibility, the department shall focus its  
 23 agritourism efforts on rural and urban communities.

24           570.961 Definitions.--As used in ss. 570.96-570.962, the  
 25 term:

26           (1) "Agritourism activity" means any activity carried out  
 27 on a farm or ranch or in a forest that allows members of the  
 28 general public, for recreational, entertainment, or educational

29 purposes, to view or enjoy rural activities, including farming,  
 30 ranching, historical, cultural, harvest-your-own, or nature-  
 31 based activities and attractions. An activity is an agritourism  
 32 activity whether or not the participant paid to participate in  
 33 the activity.

34 (2) "Agritourism professional" means any person who is  
 35 engaged in the business of providing one or more agritourism  
 36 activities, whether or not for compensation.

37 (3) "Farm" means the land, buildings, support facilities,  
 38 machinery, and other appurtenances used in the production of  
 39 farm or aquaculture products, including land used to display  
 40 plants, animals, farm products, or farm equipment to the public.

41 (4) "Farm operation" has the same meaning as defined in s.  
 42 823.14.

43 570.962 Agritourism participation impact on land  
 44 classification and on Florida Farm Winery Program  
 45 certifications; participation requirements.--

46 (1) In order to promote and perpetuate agriculture  
 47 throughout the state, farm operations are encouraged to engage  
 48 in agritourism. The conduct of agritourism activity on a bona  
 49 fide farm or on agricultural lands classified as such pursuant  
 50 to s. 193.461 shall not limit, restrict, or divest the land of  
 51 that classification.

52 (2) Nothing in this section affects the certification  
 53 provisions associated with the Florida Farm Winery Program  
 54 created under s. 599.004.

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55           (3) No permit, license, approval, or authorization by any  
56 governmental entity or jurisdiction is required to engage in  
57 agritourism.

58           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.