

PROPOSED May 22 2025

Community Advisory Group Recommended Definitions

1. **Agritourism is defined** as any activity, enterprise, or event carried out on a working farm, ranch, or agricultural property that is offered to the public for education, recreation, or enjoyment, and that directly connects visitors with agriculture, horticulture, or rural life. In Skagit County, agritourism supports the preservation of farmland and rural character, provides supplemental income for farm operators, and promotes public awareness of the county's agricultural heritage. Examples may include farm tours, u-pick operations, roadside stands, seasonal festivals, on-farm lodging, and educational workshops, provided that such activities remain secondary and incidental to the primary agricultural use of the land.
2. **Agritourism** in Skagit County is defined as a form of **agricultural accessory use** that supports and enhances the viability of working farms by offering **tourism and educational activities directly tied to the agricultural operation of the land**. These activities are designed to diversify farm income while maintaining the **primary agricultural function and character** of the property.

Agritourism includes, but is not limited to:

- **On-site farm tours, educational workshops, and u-pick operations**
- **Seasonal festivals, harvest events, and rural heritage experiences**
- **Farm stays and overnight accommodations (e.g., farm-based B&Bs)**
- **Direct-to-consumer sales such as farm stands or tasting rooms**
- **Farm-to-table dining, cooking classes, and food processing demonstrations**
- **Photography, weddings, and other events held within agricultural settings**

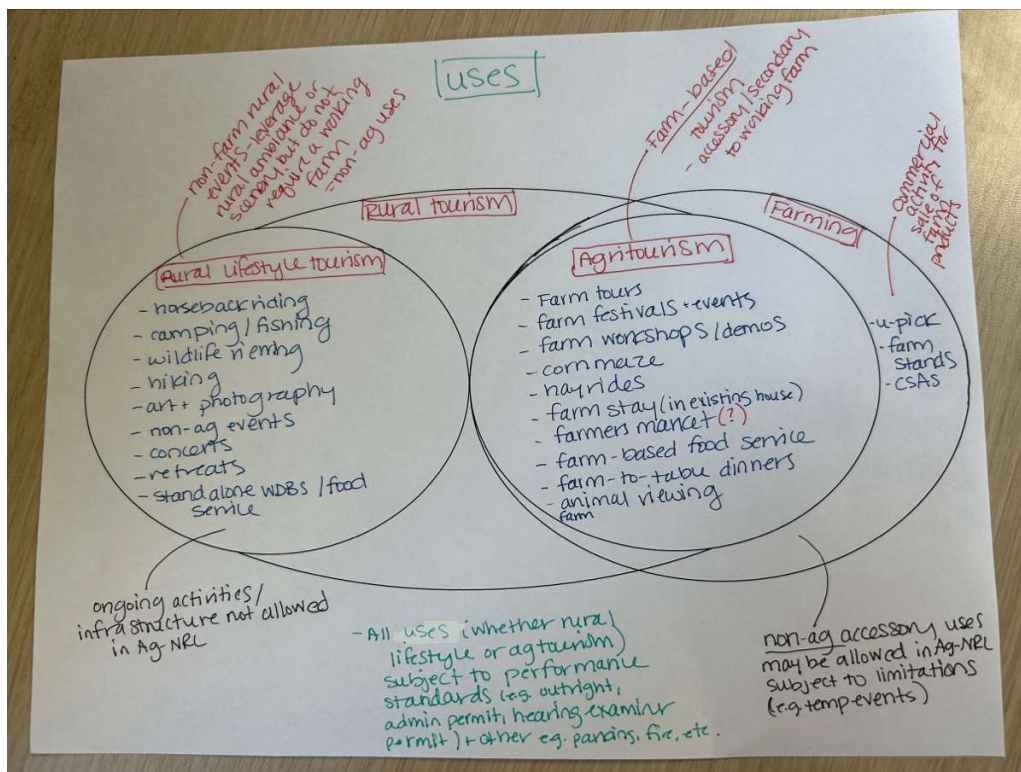
As an **accessory use**, agritourism must be **subordinate and incidental to the principal agricultural use of the land**, consistent with local land use policies and zoning regulations. These uses are instrumental in:

- **Enhancing public appreciation for local agriculture**
- **Creating supplemental revenue streams for farms**
- **Preserving farmland and supporting Skagit County's agricultural economy**

Skagit County encourages agritourism as a tool to promote **sustainable rural development**, foster **agricultural literacy**, and celebrate the region's **diverse farming traditions**.

Proposed agritourism definition:

Agritourism: A range of accessory activities conducted on a working farm that engage the public for the purpose of education, enjoyment, or recreation directly related to the on-site agricultural operation. Agritourism activities are secondary to the primary agricultural use of the property and should support, promote, or sustain agricultural production and farm viability on the host property. Agritourism activities must be operated by the owner or operator of the farm or their family members.



Other considerations shared by CAG member (5/20/25)

- I don't have a clear definition to submit but I think the definition should hold fast to the "accessory to" or "subordinate to" a working farm meaning the farm is the major part of the business and the tourism part is the least amount. (Proof of farm income like a schedule F)
- I also think we should not outright allow for any kind of entertainment, hospitality or overnight stays, those need to be vetted through a very critical permit process before those are allowed. Allowing food service and or stays skirts on the edges of being a restaurant or a hotel and those certainly do not belong on farms.

- The tricky issue is the events like weddings, concerts, life events and so forth and should only be allowed if it's gone through a higher level of review and permitting or if it doesn't fit under agriculture then it should be categorized as rural tourism and go through a different process.

DRAFT