



**Policies & Procedures Manual**  
**Policy No.6.14 (BP-Agritourism)**  
**Agritourism**

**Purpose**

To define agritourism and establish parameters to provide guidance to the SLRD when dealing with potential development applications.

**Background**

The SLRD does not have a precise definition of agritourism, and the ALC definition is too nebulous and vague. The Pemberton Valley Agricultural Area Plan (Objective 5.4) notes that further work should be done to develop a comprehensive approach to agritourism. Given the lack of a clear definition or a framework with which to consider potential Agritourism activities, it was deemed necessary to request that the Area C AAC turn their minds to defining agritourism or establishing some parameters to provide guidance to the SLRD when dealing with potential development applications.

The AAC held a special meeting to discuss the status of the Pemberton Valley Agricultural Area Plan (PVAAP) and its implementation. This discussion was combined with a specific conversation regarding agritourism to determine what types of agritourism activities might be acceptable to the committee and the farming community, and under what conditions such activities could occur.

Some agritourism activities are perceived to complement the normal farm practices and may not be perceived in the same manner as the agritourism accommodation type non-farm uses. Some agritourism activities, especially accommodation uses, may fall under the currently broad ALC definition, are viewed as non-farm uses that do not support or sustain the farming operations. Moreover, they have the potential to detract from normal farm practices either on the host farm or neighbouring farms.

Concern was raised regarding permanent approvals of agritourism uses, and the potential for long term negative effects that may arise after the approval has been given. There is an inability to effectively monitor and resolve any issues once a rezoning approval has been given, especially if a conflict arises between farm and non-farm uses. Temporary Use Permits were highlighted as an option under the *Local Government Act*, whereby a permit for uses not currently allowed under the zoning bylaw are permitted to occur for up to three years at a time under a set of conditions.

A recommendation to the Board was developed with respect to agritourism activities and the conditions under which such uses be supported. It should be noted that if the activity proposed is a non-farm use then it would require ALC approval. If it was a farm use, but one which local

Approving Authority: Board	Page 1 of 2
Policy Name: Agritourism	Policy No: 6.14
Date of Approval: April 28, 2003	Dates of Amendment: N/A
Policies Superseded: N/A	Related Enactments: N/A

governments can still regulate or prohibit based on zoning, then only the SLRD's approval is required.

## Policy

Agritourism activities shall only be supported if the property is an existing bona fide farm, and subject to the following conditions:

- i. That only temporary approval is considered initially through the temporary use permit process, as opposed to a more permanent rezoning application;
- ii. That such temporary use permit applications be referred to the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) for review;
- iii. That some kind of regular monitoring requirement be incorporated into any issued permit; and
- iv. That an applicant must clearly demonstrate how the agritourism activities support or help the farm.

Approving Authority: Board	Page 2 of 2
Policy Name: Agritourism	Policy No: 6.14
Date of Approval: April 28, 2003	Dates of Amendment: N/A
Policies Superseded: N/A	Related Enactments: N/A