

New Hampshire  
Department of Agriculture,  
Markets & Food

Lorraine S. Merrill, Commissioner

December 13, 2012

Mr. Steve Forster  
Forster's Christmas Tree Farm & Gift Shoppe  
347 Mt. Hunger Road  
Henniker NH 03242

Dear Mr. Forster:

We received your request for further elaboration of the activities considered agritourism under RSA 21:34-a.

The statute states, "VI. *The term "agritourism" means attracting visitors to a working farm for the purpose of eating a meal, making overnight stays, enjoyment of the farm environment, education on farm operations, or active involvement in the activity of the farm which is ancillary to the farm operation.*"

The department has interpreted this broad definition to include a wide range of activities—including weddings, events and other like functions. Farm businesses of diverse types around the state, the New England region and beyond, host gatherings, meetings, celebrations, retreats and educational opportunities for groups that may include families, schools and colleges, businesses, and charitable or non-profit organizations, in their unique agricultural or farm settings.

Some examples of events open to the public—by no means an exhaustive listing--can be found in the department's annual 'Experience Rural New Hampshire' promotional publication.

<http://www.nh.gov/agric/publications/documents/2012ExperienceRuralNewHampshire.pdf>

Sincerely yours,



Lorraine S. Merrill  
Commissioner