

# AAEDC AGRICULTURE/AGRITOURISM BUSINESS GUIDE

*THIS IS A WORKING DOCUMENT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE (1/17/2018)*

## Contact Your County's Agricultural Liaison

Contact [The Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation, Agricultural Marketing & Development Program](#) for:

- Assistance navigating county, state and federal regulatory processes
- Agricultural programs such as farm equipment rental, agriculture scrap tire collection, farmers' markets and buy local initiatives. For a complete list of programs, visit the [website](#).

**Lisa Barge**, 410-222-7410, [lbarge@aaedc.org](mailto:lbarge@aaedc.org)

**Brittany Rawlings**, 410-222-7410, [brawlings@aaedc.org](mailto:brawlings@aaedc.org)

## Check County State and Local License Requirements

The Maryland Department of Commerce has compiled a database of statewide and county level licenses that may be needed to operate your business in Maryland. [Browse through the system](#) to get a better understanding of what is required and where you need to go next.

## Develop a Business Plan

Begin with a list of things you want to include with your agritourism or agricultural enterprise. Visit the Maryland Rural Enterprise Development Center for a [Farm Business Plan Instructional Workbook](#).

Score Counselors are available for general business advice. Schedule an appointment by calling 410-222-7410.

## Determine if your Agriculture Business/Enterprise is an Allowed Use in your Zoning District

Contact the Office of Planning & Zoning:

Zoning Analyst with the Zoning Division - 410-222-7437

## Is Your Property Protected by Land Preservation Programs?

Properties under state and county easements may have additional restrictions or require additional approvals for agriculture/agritourism uses.

For additional information on County & State programs:

[Anne Arundel County Agricultural & Woodland Preservation Program](#)

Barbara Polito, 410-222-7317 x3553, [rppoli10@aacounty.org](mailto:rppoli10@aacounty.org)

## Certificate of Use

All Agritourism uses will require a [Certificate of Use](#). The certificate of use takes 3-4 weeks to review for Code Compliance. The application must be mailed or hand delivered with the \$50 application fee. The Site Plan can be hand drawn and does not require an engineered drawing.

**Office of Planning and Zoning, Zoning Enforcement Division**

2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 222-7446, [pzcole00@aacounty.org](mailto:pzcole00@aacounty.org)

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## Obtain a [Soil & Water Quality Plan \(Farm Plan\)](#)

Contact the [Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District \(AASCD\)](#) For additional information on farm plans and other state and federal programs available to agricultural landowners.

Phone: 410-571-6757, Email: [info@ascd.org](mailto:info@ascd.org)

AASCD provides technical advice and cost share assistance to farms to address concerns, and install and maintain various BMP/Conservation practices that protect and enhance soil, water, and natural resources in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner.

## Agricultural Buildings -Building & Grading Permits

For help with building and grading permits, Soil Conservation has a [Permitting Guide](#) available online.

For assistance in determining whether your structure qualifies for an exemption to the building or grading permit, AASCD has the [Landowner's Worksheet Guide for Agricultural Structures](#).

### Other useful forms:

- [Standard Grading Plan](#)
- [Critical Area Worksheet](#)
- [Standard Grading Plan, Resolution 2017-2](#)
- [Agriculture Structure Checklist](#)
- [MDE Storm water Requirement Plan For Agriculture](#)

## Permitting Requirements

An agriculture exemption from building permits does not exempt the builder of those structures from trade permits (plumbing, electrical, mechanical). Contact the Permit Center for information on trade Permits.

A building permit and electrical permits are required for tents larger than 10X20 used for special events, fairs, etc. and for [signage](#).

***If your building is open to the public, it is highly recommended that you contact the Fire Marshall's Office to schedule and inspection. (410)-222-7884.***

If you have any questions about building permit requirements, contact the Permit Center. For questions regarding agricultural buildings, contact the AA Soil Conservation District.

Completed permit applications may be brought to the Permit Center at  
2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401, (410) 222-7700  
OR Mailed to: PO Box 2700, Mail Stop 6003, Annapolis, MD 21404

## Cottage Food Business Requirements

A cottage food business is one that produces or packages cottage food products in a residential kitchen with annual revenues from the sale of those products not exceeding \$25,000. Cottage Food Businesses are not required to be licensed by local and state health departments. Cottage food products must be stored on the premises of the cottage food business, may be offered for sale only at a farmer's market or public event, and must be prepackaged with a label containing specific information.

[Memo providing Guidance on Cottage Food Law](#)

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## [Maryland Cottage Food Law](#)

### Are You Serving or Sampling Food?

Permits are required from state and county health departments. Contact AAEDC or the Health Department directly to find out which permits/licenses you are required to obtain.

AA County Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental Health  
3 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401  
Phone: (410) 222-7192

AA County Department of Health - Licenses

- [Mobile Unit Food Service Facility License](#)
- [Temporary Food Service Facility License](#)

Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene - Licenses

- [Producer Mobile Farmer's Market Unit license](#) – required for off-farm sales at farmer's markets and events
- [On-Farm Processor license](#) – to store and sell meats

## [Guidelines for Processing & Selling Value Added Food Products in Maryland](#)

### Additional Agriculture Resources

<a href="#">Anne Arundel County Agriculture &amp; Woodland Preservation Program</a>	410-222-7317
<a href="#">Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau</a>	410-741-1743
<a href="#">Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District</a>	410-571-6757
<a href="#">American Farm Land Trust</a>	202-331-7300
<a href="#">Grow &amp; Fortify</a>	410-252-9463
<a href="#">Maryland Agricultural &amp; Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO)</a>	410-267-6807
<a href="#">Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF)</a>	410-939-9030
<a href="#">Maryland Department of Agriculture</a>	410-841-5700
<a href="#">Maryland Horse Breeders Association</a>	410-252-2100
<a href="#">Maryland Horse Industry Board</a>	410-841-5798
<a href="#">Preservation Maryland</a>	410-685-2886
<a href="#">Rural Maryland Council</a>	410-841-5772
<a href="#">Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC)</a>	301-274-1922
<a href="#">University of Maryland Cooperative Extension- Anne Arundel County Extension</a>	410-222-3900

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[USDA National Agriculture Statistics Office](#)

800-727-9540