

All,

Please find below the notes from our August 30th meeting. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Remember to check your agritourism registration certificates. They are good for five years from the date of issuance. You may complete a renewal application at [www.KansasAgritourism.com](http://www.KansasAgritourism.com).

I wish all of you agritourism businesses that are in deep preparation for your fall season with pumpkin patches, hunting & outfitting, lodging, etc. the best of luck for a productive and prosperous year.

Agritourism Advisory Council Meeting Notes

Thursday, August 30, 2018

KDWPT, 1020 S Kansas Ave, Topeka, KS

Jay Schwinn called the meeting to order with introductions. Those in person were:

Jay Schwinn with Schwinn Produce & Barn and Salt Creek Valley Farm, Leavenworth

Shane Meuschke - Meuschke Farms, Lawrence

Stan & Denise Wood - Hidden Valley Wilderness, Easton

Sue Stringer, Kansas Agritourism Manager

**On Phone**

Mike Hersey, Casa Somerset B&B and Organic Farm, Paola

Janelle Dobbins – KS Dept of Agriculture

Lexi Wright – KS Dept of Agriculture

Nancy Brown – Farm Bureau

Andrea DeJesus – A and H Farms, Manhattan

Sue relayed she has been busy with new & renewal agritourism registrations. There have been 16 new applications and six renewal applications since June 1<sup>st</sup>.

For anyone that tried to reach Sue via the telephone number on the last notice for the Agritourism Advisory Council meeting, her correct desk phone number is 785-296-1847 or cell 785-207-2685.

Sue continues to work on updates to the Agritourism manual.

There are still a few spots available if you want to participate in the Kansas State Fair Tourism booth. Contact Sue 785-296-1847.

Sue has started a Kansas Agritourism Facebook page where she shares information about you, our registered Kansas Agritourism businesses. When you directly send me content, via email I can usually cut and paste to share on the Agritourism FB page. Sending images is always good, but the best way is to let me know of posts on your agritourism business Facebook page and I can easily share it on to the KS Agritourism Facebook page. Sometimes I am able to "tag" your business name, but sometimes FB is a bit picky and doesn't allow it. The number of followers is growing, thanks

to those of you that have shared this page on your FB pages. You can find the page here: <https://www.facebook.com/sue.stringer.ks.gov/>. Please share, share, share!

Sue reminded everyone of the Kansas Tourism Conference October in Junction City, October 22 - 24, 2018. She encouraged all agritourism businesses to attend. It is a good time to network with others across the state who promote and participate in the tourism industry which DOES include all of our Kansas Agritourism businesses. You may attend just a day of the conference or the whole conference. Registration is here: <https://tiak.org/events/kansas-tourism-conference/registration/>. The agenda may be found here: <https://tiak.org/events/kansas-tourism-conference/>.

Sue also shared information about the Kansas Amusement Ride law. No real updates, just a reminder of the amendments during the 2018 Legislative session and that everyone be sure to get their inflatables and jump pads, jumping pillows permitted and inspected. If you lease inflatables such as a bouncy house or slide, the leasing company should have the registration, permits and inspections completed, a qualified operator needs to be with the inflatables. The Kansas Dept of Labor now has a list of qualified inspectors on their website. Their website also has a list of amusement ride businesses that have been audited as well. Be sure to keep your daily inspection logs up to date. The link for the Amusement Ride Law, qualified inspectors, registration and permitting is: <https://www.dol.ks.gov/Safety/park.aspx>.

The Kansas Recreation and Park Association has a nice video and infographic that may help you with the decision as to if what you have at your venue needs to be registered and permitted. I have attached the infographic. Their link is <https://krpa.wildapricot.org/News/6359023>.

Hayrack rides, trailer rides and barrel rides are exempt under the 2018 amendments, so no need to register or have them inspected. If you have addition questions, please contact Department of Labor, 785-296-4386.

The registration and permitting fees were reduced for REGISTERED Kansas Agritourism businesses with the amendments as well. As always, if you continue to have concerns on how these regulations impact your business, I would encourage you to reach out to your state legislators to discuss with them.

In the absence of a representative from **Frontier Farm Credit**, Jay stated that Frontier Farm Credit will work with agritourism businesses in getting their operation going or additions to a current operation. The representative on the Kansas Agritourism Advisory Council is Bret Henderson - 785-776-6931 or contact your local Frontier Farm Credit office for additional information.

**KS Dept of Agriculture** – Janelle Dobbins & Lexi Wright

### **Farmers Market update**

Farmers Market Month was August – still lots of great products at the markets so remember to visit

They are wrapping up Meet Me At the Market grant where 12 markets were given \$3K to help market specialty crops and we did 5 co-events at markets to speak about specialty crops

### **From the Land of Kansas**

In July we attended the Butler County Farm to Fork tour and dinner

We hosted on Aug 4 a Taste of Kansas dinner in WaKeeney at Shiloh Vineyard & Winery for 80 attendees. The dinner had a cocktail hour, entertainment, and 3 course dinner. Featured a local chef and From the Land of Kansas members spoke about their businesses between the courses

The Ag Summit social on Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> had 280 attendees and the Ag Summit on Aug 23<sup>th</sup> 504 attendees. At the Ag Summit 19 agricultural sectors were discussed. The notes will be published in the next month.

From the Land of Kansas will have our regular booth in the Pride of Kansas building at the State Fair. This year we are featuring 10 From the Land of Kansas businesses. We will also be debuting this year's Holiday Gift Box at the State Fair. We will start accepting orders as of Nov 1.

Sue explained the KS Dept of Ag & Kansas Tourism/Agritourism have a great partnership/working relationship. Many registered agritourism businesses participate in local Farmers Markets and are also members of the From the Land of

Kansas program. She went on to explain how agritourism is a bit different in membership because agritourism is about providing an experience for the visitor with an agriculture base/touch and agritourism is not available to those that offer Kansas products in the retail only market. From the Land of Kansas members can and are also agritourism businesses with retail included in their experience or can be retail only with their Kansas made product.

#### **Kansas Farm Bureau - Nancy Brown**

Nancy shared information about the Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge which offered \$145K in Startup Funds for Entrepreneurs – I have attached to this email the press release which is open to agritourism businesses.

Agritourism Roundtable discussion followed – Jay shared the best advice he has received was to join the North America Farm Direct Marketing Association (Farmers Inspired). There are Agritourism businesses from the US, Canada and Great Britain that convene annually in different locations across the US or Canada. This week-long conference has three days touring and learning from agritourism businesses in the educational portion of the conference. There are 3 days of education with various agritourism businesses presenting as well as invited keynote speakers. In February 2019, it will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana. There is usually a trade show with vendors pertinent to the agritourism industry. Jay encourages everyone to get involved in NAFDMA.

Andrea DeJesus says her best advice getting into agritourism has also been getting involved in NAFDMA. She said she has been in the business for many years and just joined last year. The educational opportunities afforded by NAFDMA and the members has been great. She said the closed NAFDMA Facebook group is one of the best tools she has. Everyone is very helpful with responding to questions and suggestions. Andrea also stated she feels

Mike Hursey stated he feels the win against a Monsanto product causing cancer is a huge win. He feels it will continue to hit other businesses that market and sell the Monsanto product. Mike shared how Agritourism is growing in the Miami and Johnson County areas and it has enabled him to get involved in local foods promotion in the KC area through his work with the Johnson County Community College in teaching culinary students about Local Food.

Sue suggested to those present and listening in that if they raise specialty crops such as grapes or bees, to be sure to get your farm listed on Drift Watch map. <https://ks.driftwatch.org/> She stated she visited with a lobbyist for the aerial spraying association at the Ag Summit and he said they always refer to the map when spraying. One of their issues, however, is aerial spraying is very visible to folks because of the noise and planes in the air, whereas spraying by local utilities, neighbors or the road department is a bit less noticeable, so they may be wrongfully accused of causing damage to specialty crops.

Shane Meusche shared he is opening his farm this fall. He purchased a brome pasture that is a blank slate, so he has planted pumpkins for a pumpkin patch, has a corn maze, sunflowers and will offer hay rides. He also raises beef, pork and poultry. Shane's address is Lawrence, but he lives in Leavenworth County.

Stan & Denise Wood - Hidden Valley (Properties )Wilderness near Easton (Leavenworth Co) is in wooded valley that used to be a nature retreat for priests and friends. They have done some remodeling and brought it back to life for others to enjoy. They have a retreat house and bedroom treehouse and a separate treehouse for lodging and have some glamping and camping sites.

Since all three at the table were from Leavenworth there was good follow-up discussion about planning and zoning in their county.