



TIPS FOR AGRI-TOURISM

Agri-tourism presents a unique set of challenges when it comes to biosecurity. A large portion of the population visiting agritourism operations may be from more urban and suburban areas, meaning that they present a medium to low risk of disease transmission. The risk increases when people are travelling from farm to farm, such as with open farm days or wine tours.

Here are some suggestions on how to keep agritourism operations secure.

- **In areas that are closest to the tourism locations (tasting area, picnic tables, parking lots), plant varieties that are low maintenance**
 - » Disease resistant crops are the best options for a low chance of transmission and reduced need for pest control applications
- **Have a paved or gravel area for parking**
 - » The parking area should allow enough space for buses to turn and remain in the designated area
- **Make sure that planted areas that will be accessed by the public are seeded down grass or a cover crop to provide a clean walking area**
 - » This helps to limit the transfer of pathogens by soil
- **Restrict access to areas with high disease pressure**
- **Restrict access to areas where chemical sprays have been applied**
 - » Ensure re-entry intervals are observed
- **Provide foot bath and hand sanitizer stations**
 - » These should be located at all entries and in high-risk locations (i.e. animal pens)
- **Clearly mark any areas that are not to be accessed by the public**
 - » If there are areas designated for tractor transit and heavy equipment, mark the area to draw awareness to this hazard
- **Keep branches trained onto trellis systems, and remove pruning debris as soon as possible**
- **Advise guests not to consume leaves or grapes from the vineyard during the visit**
- **Keep susceptible animals away from the public**
 - » Newborn animals are very cute but highly susceptible to disease or environmental stress
 - » If young animals are accessible, make sure they are seen before older animals to minimize disease transfer
 - » Sick or injured animals should be kept away from the public or communal areas so that they have the best chance of recovery in a low-stress environment
- **Ensure that there is adequate fencing around livestock to maintain a safe distance from the public, other livestock or crops**

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