



Tips for Hosting Special Events on Agriculturally-zoned Land

With rustic farm-inspired weddings growing in popularity, Bourbon County's historic and hospitable farms seem ideal for such events. If you are considering hosting an event on a farm, here's some background to help you understand codes and regulations and other health and safety tips.

Am I permitted to host a special event on my farm?

Yes. On April 11, 2017, Governor Bevin signed House Bill (HB) 360, which expands the definition of "agricultural use" to include "agritourism activities" on a tract of land that is at least five (5) contiguous acres. This bill will go into effect on June 29, 2017 and will apply to all agriculturally-zoned land that is five (5) acres or more within Bourbon County.

Which type of activities are considered "agritourism activities"?

"Agritourism activity" means any activity that is carried out on a farm, ranch, agricultural, horticultural, or agribusiness operation and allows participants to view or participate in activities for recreational, entertainment, or educational purposes. Qualifying activities include farming, ranching, historic, cultural, civic, or ceremonial activities, including but not limited to weddings and ancillary events; harvest-your-own operations; farmers' markets; or natural resource-based activities. The activities may qualify as agritourism activities whether or not a participant pays to view or to participate in the activity.

Do I need to obtain permitting through the Planning Office to offer weddings and special events?

No. Since agritourism is a permitted agricultural use, it is not required to obtain a permit through the Bourbon County Joint Planning Office. However, please be sure to consult other state and local authorities to be sure the facilities are up to the required safety standards.

What other state and local authorities should I consult?

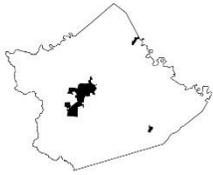
Before hosting a lot of people, it is important to be sure that all safety precautions have been taken. This includes contacting the Health Department and Fire Department.

What if I want to provide overnight accommodations on my farm?

If you are interested in providing overnight lodging facilities, you will need to obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). CUP's are reviewed by the Board of Adjustments, which meets on an as-needed basis. To apply, get in touch with the Bourbon County Joint Planning Office at (859) 987-2150 or alacy@paris.ky.gov.

Recommended Planning Checklist

- Business Licensing:** Any business being conducted in Bourbon County must obtain a business license.
- New Construction:** If you plan to build a new structure, please contact the Planning Office.
- Trash Disposal:** Depending on how large your event is, where will the trash go? Will recycling be available?
- Restrooms:** Where will people use the restroom? A port-a-let is always an option – make sure you also get a hand washing station with it. If you would rather install a restroom on your property please contact the Health Department.
- Wash Stations:** Where will guests and those preparing the food wash their hands?
- Food Safety:** If food is being served, consider using a caterer. Caterers are required to obtain a permit that guarantees inspections twice per year and have the appropriate equipment to fix food and transport it safely. Contact Local Health Department for Food Handling Guidelines.
- Fire Safety:** Contact Local Fire Department for Fire Safety Standards.
- Noise Control:** Please be mindful of your neighbors! Attempt to minimize noise beyond a certain hour. (*See City of Paris Ordinance 50.100*)
- Lighting:** Any facilities that are used after daylight hours should consider lighting to avoid accidents. However, lighting should also minimize glare or illumination onto a street or adjoining property.
- Parking and Facility Access:**
 - Consider providing parking spaces, drives, and aisles that have a dust-free surface.
 - Consider safety for elderly and physically challenged attendees.
 - Check with the Bourbon County Joint Planning Office for recommended parking dimensions for parking spaces, aisles, and other vehicular areas.



Resources and Contacts

The below links and contacts will be helpful as you plan a safe yet fun special event facility on your farm.

Bourbon County Joint Planning Office Rm 127, 525 High Street, Paris, KY 40361

Call for: Questions about building permits and applications for overnight accommodations.

Andrea S. Pompei Lacy, Planner
Michelle Thornsburg, Building Inspector

(859) 987-2150
alacy@paris.ky.gov
www.bourboncountyplanning.com

Bourbon County Health Department 341 East Main St, Paris, KY 40361

Call for: Questions about food safety and waste disposal.

(859) 987-2323
www.bourboncohd.org

Greg Bolin, Environmentalist (Food)

Bill Caldwell, Environmentalist (Waste)
williamr.caldwell@ky.gov

Bourbon County Fire & Rescue 345 East Main St, Paris, KY 40361

Call for: Questions about fire safety and emergency access.

Lloyde Campbell, Chief

(859) 987-2140
locampbell@bourbonky.com

City of Paris, City Clerk's Office 525 High Street, Paris, KY 40361

Call for: Business licensing for work being conducted within the City limits.

(859) 987-2110 x 3107
www.paris.ky.gov/cityclerk.aspx

Bourbon County Treasurer's Office 301 Main Street, Paris, KY 40361

Call for: FREE Business licensing for work being conducted in unincorporated Bourbon County.

Tina Ritchie, Assistant County Treasurer

(859) 987-2139
t.ritchie@bourbonky.com

Paris-Bourbon County Chamber of Commerce 525 High Street, Paris, KY 40361

Call for: Questions about Chamber membership benefits.

Debra Hamelback, Director

(859) 987-3205
dhamelback@parisky.com
www.parisbourbonchamber.com

Paris-Bourbon County Tourism Commission 525 High Street, Paris, KY 40361

Call for: Questions about business promotion and advertising opportunities.

Debra Hamelback, Director

(859) 987-3205
dhamelback@parisky.com
www.pariskytourism.com