



The National Agricultural Law Center

nationalaglawcenter.org | nataglaw@uark.edu | [@nataglaw](https://twitter.com/nataglaw)

States' Agritourism Statutes: *Arizona*



This material is based upon work supported by the National Agricultural Library, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

A National Agricultural Law Center Research Publication

States' Agritourism Statutes: Arizona

AZ Rev. Stat. § 3-111,
AZ Rev. Stat. § 11-812,
AZ Rev. Stat. § 42-12151

Current through legislation of the Second Regular Session of the 56th Legislature (2024), effective as of February 9, 2024.

§ 3-111. Definitions

In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Agricultural operations" means all activities by the owner, lessee, agent, independent contractor and supplier conducted on any facility for the production of crops, livestock, poultry, livestock products or poultry products or for the purposes of agritourism.
2. "Agritourism" means any activity that allows members of the general public, for recreational or educational purposes, to view, enjoy or participate in rural activities, including farming, ranching, historical, cultural, u-pick, harvest-your-own produce or natural activities and attractions occurring on property defined as agricultural real property pursuant to § 42-12151 if the activity is conducted in connection with and directly related to a business whose primary income is derived from producing livestock or agricultural commodities for commercial purposes.
3. "Farmland" means land devoted primarily to the production for commercial purposes of livestock or agricultural commodities.

§ 11-812. Restriction on regulation; exceptions; aggregate mining regulation; definitions

A. Nothing contained in any ordinance authorized by this chapter shall:

1. Affect existing uses of property or the right to its continued use or the reasonable repair or alteration of the property for the purpose for which used at the time the ordinance affecting the property takes effect.



2. Prevent, restrict or otherwise regulate the use or occupation of land or improvements for railroad, mining, metallurgical, grazing or general agricultural purposes, if the tract concerned is five or more contiguous commercial acres. For the purposes of this paragraph:

(a) “General agricultural purposes” includes agritourism as defined in § 3-111, but does not include any of the following:

(i) Food establishments under the authority of the department of health services pursuant to § 36-136, subsection I that are associated with an agritourism business.

(ii) Rodeo events that are open to the general public and that sell tickets for admission. For the purposes of this item, rodeo events do not include generally accepted agricultural practices associated with livestock and equine operations.

(iii) The cultivation of cannabis as defined in § 13-3401 or marijuana as defined in § 13-3401 or 36-2801.

(b) “Mining” has the same meaning prescribed in § 27-301.

3. Prevent, restrict or otherwise regulate the use or occupation of land or improvements for agricultural composting, if the tract is five or more contiguous commercial acres. An agricultural composting operation shall notify in writing the board of supervisors and the nearest fire department of the location of the composting operation. If the nearest fire department is located in a city, town or fire district where the agricultural composting is not located, the agricultural composting operation shall also notify in writing the fire district in which the operation is located. Agricultural composting is subject to §§ 3-112 and 49-141. For the purposes of this paragraph, “agricultural composting” has the same meaning prescribed in § 9-462.01, subsection G.

4. Prevent, restrict or otherwise regulate the otherwise lawful discharge of a firearm or air gun or use of archery equipment on a private lot or parcel of land that is not open to the public on a commercial or membership basis.

B. A nonconforming business use within a district may expand if the expansion does not exceed one hundred per cent of the area of the original business.



C. For the purposes of subsection A, paragraph 2 of this section, mining does not include aggregate mining operations in an aggregate mining operations zoning district established pursuant to this section. The board of supervisors of any county with a population of more than two million persons shall designate and establish the boundaries of an aggregate mining operations zoning district on the petition of at least one hundred persons who reside within one-half mile of an existing aggregate mining operation. In addition, the board of supervisors of any county may establish, in its discretion and on the board's initiative, one or more aggregate mining operations zoning districts. Aggregate mining operations zoning districts may only be located in areas that are inventoried and mapped as areas of known reserves or in areas with existing aggregate mining operations. Subject to subsections E and F of this section, a county and the state mine inspector may jointly adopt, as internal administrative regulations, reasonable aggregate mining operations zoning district standards limited to permitted uses, procedures for approval of property development plans and site development standards for dust control, height regulations, setbacks, days and hours of operation, off-street parking, screening, noise, vibration and air pollution control, signs, roadway access lanes, arterial highway protection and property reclamation for which aggregate mining operations are not otherwise subject to federal, state or local regulation or a governmental contractual obligation. Regulations jointly adopted pursuant to this subsection by the county and the state mine inspector shall not prohibit the activities included in the definition of mine pursuant to § 27-301, paragraph 8 or duplicate, conflict with or be more stringent than applicable federal, state or local laws.

D. The board of supervisors of any county that establishes an aggregate mining operations zoning district shall appoint an aggregate mining operations recommendation committee for the district. The committee consists of not more than seven operators, or representatives of operators, of active aggregate mining operations in any district within the county and an equal number of private citizens, who are not operators, who are not employed by operators and who do not represent operators, residing within three miles of the boundaries of aggregate mining operations or a proposed aggregate mining operation in the district for which the committee is established. The initial members appointed to the committee shall be deemed the primary members, and the board of supervisors shall appoint not more than five alternate members who represent operators and shall appoint not more than five alternate members who are private citizens. Alternate members may serve at meetings of the committee when a primary member is unable to attend. An aggregate mining operator may serve on more than one committee in the same county. The board of supervisors shall determine the length of terms of members of the committee and shall stagger the initial appointments so that not all members' terms expire at the same time. Members of the committee who no longer qualify for membership as provided by this subsection are subject to removal and replacement by the board of supervisors. The committee shall elect a



member who is an aggregate mining operator to serve as chairperson for the first year in which the committee is created. For each year thereafter, the chairperson shall be elected by the members of the committee with a member who is a private citizen and a member who is an aggregate mining operator serving as chairperson in alternate years. The committee is subject to the open meeting requirements of title 38, chapter 3, article 3.1.¹

E. Within ninety days after an aggregate mining operations recommendation committee is established, the committee shall notify all existing aggregate mining operators in the district of the application of this section and title 27, chapter 3, article 6² to the aggregate mining operation. In addition, the committee shall:

1. By a majority vote of all members make recommendations to the board of supervisors for aggregate mining zoning districts and administrative regulations as provided in this section. The board of supervisors may adopt or reject the recommendations but may not make any modifications to the recommendations unless the modification is approved by a majority of the members of the recommendation committee.
2. Serve as a forum for mediation of disputes between members of the public and aggregate mining owners or operators. If the committee is unable to resolve a dispute, the committee shall transmit the matter to the state mine inspector, with written findings and recommendations, for further action.
3. Hear written complaints filed with the state mine inspector regarding alleged material deviations from approved community notices for aggregate mining operations and make written recommendations to the state mine inspector pursuant to § 27-446.

F. Any administrative regulations adopted by a board of supervisors pursuant to this section are not effective until the regulations are approved by the state mine inspector. The inspector may disapprove the administrative regulations adopted by the board of supervisors only if they duplicate, conflict with or are more stringent than applicable federal, state or local laws, rules or regulations. If the inspector disapproves the administrative regulations, the inspector must provide written reasons for the disapproval. The inspector shall not make any modification to the administrative regulations as adopted by the board of supervisors unless the modification is approved by a majority of the members of the board of supervisors.

G. A person or entity is subject to this chapter if the use or occupation of land or improvements by the person or entity consists of or includes changing, remanufacturing or treating human sewage or sludge for distribution or



resale. These activities are not exempt from this chapter under subsection A, paragraph 2 of this section.

H. A county shall not require as a condition for a permit or for any approval, or otherwise cause, an owner or possessor of property to waive the right to continue an existing nonconforming outdoor advertising use or structure without acquiring the use or structure by purchase or condemnation and paying just compensation unless the county, at its option, allows the use or structure to be relocated to a comparable site in the county with the same or a similar zoning classification, or to another site in the county acceptable to both the county and the owner of the use or structure, and the use or structure is relocated to the other site. The county shall pay for relocating the outdoor advertising use or structure including the cost of removing and constructing the new use or structure that is at least the same size and height. This subsection does not apply to county rezoning of property at the request of the property owner to a more intensive zoning district.

I. For the purposes of this section:

1. “Aggregate” has the same meaning prescribed in § 27-441.
2. “Aggregate mining” has the same meaning prescribed in § 27-441.
3. “Aggregate mining operation” means property that is owned, operated or managed by the same person for aggregate mining.
4. “Operators” means persons who are actively engaged in aggregate mining operations within the zoning district or proposed zoning district and who have given notice to the state mine inspector pursuant to § 27-303.

§ 42-12151. Definition of agricultural real property

In this article, unless the context otherwise requires, “agricultural real property” means real property that is one or more of the following:

1. Cropland in the aggregate of at least twenty gross acres.
2. An aggregate ten or more gross acres of permanent crops.
3. Grazing land with a minimum carrying capacity of forty animal units and containing an economically feasible number of animal units.



4. Land and improvements devoted to commercial breeding, raising, boarding or training equine, as defined in § 3-1201 or equine rescue facilities registered with the department of agriculture pursuant to § 3-1350.
5. Land and improvements devoted to high density use for producing commodities.
6. Land and improvements devoted to use in processing cotton necessary for marketing.
7. Land and improvements devoted to use in processing wine grapes for marketing.
8. Land and improvements devoted to use in processing citrus for marketing.
9. Land and improvements devoted to use as fruit or vegetable commodity packing plants that do not cut or otherwise physically alter the produce.
10. Land and improvements owned by a dairy cooperative devoted to high density use in producing, transporting, receiving, processing, storing, marketing and selling milk and manufactured milk products without the presence of any animal units on the land.
11. Land of at least five acres and improvements devoted to algaculture. For the purposes of this paragraph “algaculture” means the controlled propagation, growth and harvest of algae.
12. Land and improvements devoted to agritourism as defined in § 3-111.

