

## Agritourism and What it is All About

Did you know that just in America there are about 8.1 million people that are employed with a job that has to deal with agritourism! But, what is agritourism anyway? Agritourism is the activity that brings people to any farm or ranch that involves any agriculturally based operations. Hi, I'm Molly and here in my home town we have multiple places around us that you can go and get an amazing hands on experience with Agritourism.

Let's start with Calhoun Produce. Calhoun's has been around since 1992. It is a family fun farm where you can go and have fun on the farm with friends and family. You can go on down to the strawberry patch and pick some of your very own fresh strawberries! Also during Fall they have this thing called Flashlight Night. This is when you and you family and friends can go into a corn maze that is mowed into a different shape every year! And the best part is that after the corn maze you can get on a big wagon and go on a tour for alligators, you will get to see them in the water but not only that on the way back from the swamp you will even get to see a different variety of farm animals.

Another place you can go to have a fun time experiencing Agritourism is ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture or also known as the Agrirama. At the Agrirama you go on a train ride all across the whole farm and see a variety of animals. Also you will be able to walk around the farm and go through old buildings and houses and experience what it was like living on the farm back in the 1890's.

So I have told you everything about the places that have to do with Agritourism around me but what about farther than Ashburn and Tifton Georgia? In Hilmar California there is this place called the Hilmar Cheese Factory. This is the number one Agritourism place in the U.S. In 1984 it was established by 12 different dairy families. At the Hilmar Cheese factory guests can be treated to a souvenir shop and a cafe where the main item on the menu is cheese! There are many of these spread out across the U.S but the main location is in Hilmar California. This would be a great place for you to stop while passing through California!

In conclusion, Agritourism is any type of activity that brings people to a farm or ranch. There are so many different things across the world that have to do with Agritourism and I have told you about a few today. Such as Calhoun Produce, the Agrirama, and the Hilmar Cheese Factory. Do you have any business that has anything to do with agritourism near you? Because trust me I am more than 100% positive that you will be able to find something!