



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Agricultural Homestay/Bed & Breakfast Food Facility Policy Unveiled

(Woodland, CA) – Today, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors adopted the Health Department, Division of Environmental Health’s new food facility policy for agricultural homestays and bed & breakfast inns. The new policy is intended to encourage tourism in Yolo County, while at the same time ensuring retail food facilities are constructed and operated in a manner protective of public health. The policy allows agri-tourism-related food facilities to operate from modified kitchens in private homes, rather than meeting commercial kitchen requirements.

The California Retail Food Code (CRFC) establishes exemptions from portions of the CRFC for “restricted” food service facilities. These exemptions allow specified food service facilities to operate from modified residential kitchens using residential equipment rather than meeting the construction and equipment standards required of other food facilities. Such facilities include agricultural homestays as well as bed & breakfasts. These facilities are “restricted” in the number of meals prepared daily, providing for food protection in the more relaxed environment of a residential-style kitchen.

“This policy consolidates regulations for these niche facilities and for those interested in starting an agri-tourism business,” said Yolo County Environmental Health Director Bruce Sarazin. “The policies are intended to keep construction costs down for the operator without compromising food safety and the public’s health.”

Other exemptions allowed by the policy includes, floor construction standards, janitorial storage, separation from living quarters, a separate hand-washing sink, restrooms signs, and dressing room and locker requirements. Equipment exemptions allow for the use of non-commercial equipment for ventilation, refrigeration, food and non-food storage equipment, and dishwashers.

“With our many wineries, recreational activities and unique agricultural communities, Yolo County is becoming a well-known destination for agri-tourism,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mike McGowan. “Our policies, from land-use to environmental health, demonstrate the high value we place on our agricultural heritage, those who work in the industry, and our desire to share all that is great about Yolo County with those who come to visit.”

The new Agricultural Homestay/Bed & Breakfast Food Facility Policy was developed in cooperation with the following Yolo County departments: Agriculture, Planning & Public Works and the Economic Development division of the County Administrator’s Office. For more information, visit: <http://www.yolocounty.org/Index.aspx?page=92> or contact the Yolo County Environmental Health Division at (530) 666-8646. A comprehensive permit handbook covering all aspects of establishing agri-tourism attractions is also available at <http://www.yolocounty.org/Index.aspx?page=357>.

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