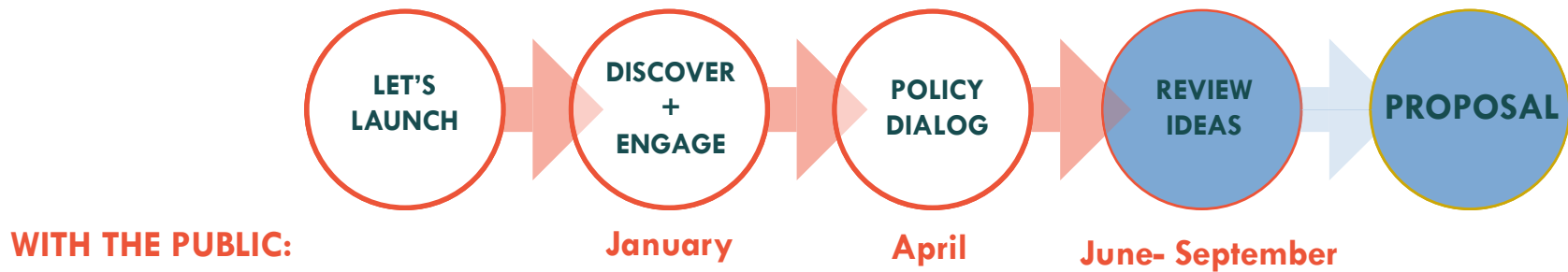




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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### 1. WHAT IS AGRITOURISM

Skagit County is reviewing what agritourism means to the county agricultural community, residents, and other stakeholders as well as the fit of agritourism in the Comprehensive Plan vision and the Growth Management Act resource land protections. For a start, here's an example definition:

Agritourism is "a commercial enterprise at a working farm, ranch, or agricultural plant conducted for the enjoyment of visitors that generates supplemental income for the owner." (Source: UC Davis)

#### Agritourism and enterprises might include:

- + Outdoor recreation (fishing, hunting, wildlife study, horseback riding).
- + Educational experiences (cannery tours, cooking classes, or wine tasting).
- + Entertainment (harvest festivals or barn dances).
- + Hospitality services (farm stays, guided tours or outfitter services).
- + On-farm direct sales (u-pick operations or roadside stands).

### 2. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR SKAGIT COUNTY'S AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY AND RURAL COMMUNITIES?

Agritourism can be a win for economic activity in rural communities and farms. Conversely, too much, or the wrong kind of activity can impact existing rural economies with traffic, nuisance complaints, and even safety. We will evaluate agritourism against rural character and working resource lands and the policies of the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan. Our goal is to identify these benefits and drawbacks in a report this spring.

### 3. WHAT WILL COME OUT OF THIS WORK?

Exploration and analysis of agritourism in Skagit County will result in the development of a report on the economics of agritourism, a current assessment of County policies, and case studies from near and far. The study is anticipated to address the current situation with farmstands and value added activities, agricultural recreation, and options for other types of agritourism such as potential food service on farms, wedding venues, temporary event spaces, etc.

An Agritourism Concepts report will follow that address a range of agritourism concepts and objectives. This will include a comparison of policies in terms of opportunities, strengths, and weaknesses.

Based on feedback from this report, a legislative proposal will be developed for consideration by Skagit County. This will allow the County to propose amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, zoning map, and development regulations to address agritourism.

### 4. WHO IS INVOLVED? DO MY IDEAS GET HEARD?

Planning and Development Services and its consultants are developing a public participation plan to engage stakeholders (e.g. producers, agricultural conservation and promotion, recreation, tourism, economic development, rural residents, and others). Hearing from interested persons and groups will help us create and provide a range of recommendations to policies and codes. **YES, WE CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR YOUR IDEAS.**