

VIRGINIA STATE BUILDING CODE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

I N T E R P R E T A T I O N

Interpretation Number: 1/2026

Code: USBC, Part I, Virginia Construction Code/2021

Section No: Section 202 Definitions

Section 202 Definitions

FARM BUILDING OR STRUCTURE. A building or structure not used for residential purposes, located on property where farming operations take place, and used primarily for any of the following uses or combination thereof:

1. Storage, handling, production, display, sampling or sale of agricultural, horticultural, floricultural or silvicultural products produced in the farm.
2. Sheltering, raising, handling, processing or sale of agricultural animals or agricultural animal products.
3. Business or office uses relating to the farm operations.
4. Use of farm machinery or equipment or maintenance or storage of vehicles, machinery or equipment on the farm.
5. Storage or use of supplies and materials used on the farm.
6. Implementation of best management practices associated with farm operations.

QUESTION: Does a building or structure located on property where farming operations take place and used for "agritourism activity", as referenced in § 36-99 B of the Code of Virginia and defined in § 3.2-6400 of the Code of Virginia, meet the definition of farm building or structure in the USBC

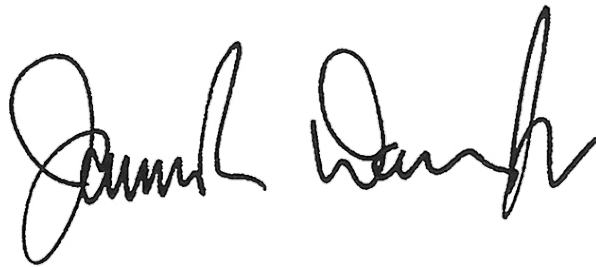
ANSWER: Yes, although the Virginia Construction Code does not explicitly list agritourism activity within the Farm Building or Structure definition, the Code of Virginia §36-99 has incorporated agritourism activity as defined in § 3.2-6400 and complies with the Virginia Construction Code definition for farm building or structure.

Additional Information:

Code of Virginia 36-99. Provisions of Code; modifications

"B. In formulating the Code provisions, the Board shall have due regard for generally accepted standards as recommended by nationally recognized organizations, including, but not limited to, the standards of the International Code Council and the National Fire Protection Association. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, farm buildings and structures shall be exempt from the provisions of the Building Code, except for a building or a portion of a building located on a farm that is operated as a restaurant as defined in § 35.1-1 and licensed as such by the Board of Health pursuant to Chapter 2 (§ 35.1-11 et seq.) of Title 35.1. However, farm buildings and structures lying within a flood plain or in a mudslide-prone area shall be subject to floodproofing regulations or mudslide regulations, as applicable. However, any farm building or structure (i) where the public is invited to enter for an agritourism activity, as that term is defined in § 3.2-6400, for recreational, entertainment, or educational purposes and (ii) that is used for display, sampling, or sale of agricultural, horticultural, floricultural, or silvicultural products produced on the farm or the sale of agricultural-related or silvicultural-related items incidental to the agricultural operation shall have:..."

This Official Interpretation was issued by the State Building Code Technical Review Board at its meeting of April 17, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Darr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

Chair, State Building Code Technical Review Board