

# Agricultural Tourism and Landowner Immunity

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## Issue

This report addresses whether Connecticut has an explicit law granting agricultural tourism (agritourism) businesses immunity from liability if patrons become injured on business property. It also identifies Connecticut statutes that grant immunity to certain landowners in specific situations.

The Office of Legislative Research is not authorized to give legal opinions and this report should not be considered one.

## Summary

Connecticut does not have an explicit agritourism immunity law. This [2019 factsheet](#) from the National Agricultural Law Center identifies 31 states that do. These laws are specific to agritourism businesses and generally grant the businesses immunity if patrons injure themselves and the injuries result from the inherent risks of the activities undertaken.

While Connecticut does not have an agritourism immunity law, it has statutes that grant immunity to certain landowners in specified circumstances. These laws may apply to agritourism businesses if statutory requirements are met. Table 1 below identifies and briefly describes these laws. (This excludes certain laws that only apply to municipalities (see, e.g., [CGS § 52-557n](#)).

Separately, state law requires the agriculture commissioner to maintain a CT Grown website to promote, among other things, agritourism events and attractions ([CGS § 22-38a](#)).

**Table 1: Connecticut Landowner Immunity Statutes**

Statute	Brief Description
<a href="#">CGS § 52-557f</a> et seq.	Grants immunity to a landowner who allows the public recreational use of the land without charge. Does not apply to (1) certain types of structures or buildings attached to the land and within the owner’s control, such as swimming pools or playgrounds, or (2) a landowner’s willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against a danger.
<a href="#">CGS § 52-557j</a>	Grants immunity to a landowner for any injury sustained by a person operating, or riding as a passenger on, a snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, motorcycle, minibike, or minicycle on the landowner’s property, whether or not the landowner gave permission, unless the (1) landowner charged a fee or (2) landowner’s willful or malicious conduct caused the injury.
<a href="#">CGS § 52-557k</a>	Grants immunity to a landowner who allows a person to enter the land to (1) harvest firewood, with or without charge, or (2) harvest fruits or vegetables or engage in maple-sugaring activities, without charge, on behalf of a nonprofit organization or nonprofit corporation for injury to the person that happens when using the land, unless the landowner’s failure to warn of a dangerous hidden hazard known to him or her caused the injury. The immunity does not apply to a “pick or cut your own agricultural operation,” among others.

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