

On-Farm Special Events

Guidelines

Hosting on-farm special events in Clarington can offer farmers an opportunity to add to their income and support local tourism. However, it's essential that these planned events are compatible with ongoing farm operations and don't have an undue impact on neighbouring property owners. If you are thinking of hosting one or more special events on your farm, you will need to follow the requirements below and consider them when developing an events plan.

What is an On-Farm Special Event?

An on-farm special event is any proposed event or activity unrelated to normal farm practices and not currently allowed on lands where farming is permitted (e.g. commercial wedding events). The events must not detract from the principal farming operation or agricultural use of the property.

Approvals and Licensing

Farm owners wanting to host an on-farm special event require a Zoning By-law Amendment, Site Plan Approval and an On-Farm Special Event Licence.

Step 1: Rezoning

1. Property owner books a pre-consultation meeting with Municipal staff to better understand the application requirements and process.
2. Property owner submits a **Rezoning Application**.*
3. Public Notice is sent to all area property owners located within 300 metres of the property where the event is to be held and any interested parties.
4. Public Meeting is held to gather feedback.
5. A recommendation report is submitted to Council for approval of the Zoning By-law Amendment.
6. An appeal period and notice is given following Council decision.

Step 2: Site Plan

1. Property owner books a **pre-consultation meeting** with Municipal staff to better understand the application requirements and process.
2. Property owner submits a **Site Plan Application**.*
3. Application is circulated to Municipal departments and external agencies for comments.
4. The final Site Plan is approved.

* Application revisions may be required following submission.

Considerations

- Structure type, size and setbacks of event space, including ceremony areas.
- Maximum area used for the event venue, typically two per cent of the property.
- Maximum number of attendees, including event participants and staff.
- Minimum required parking spaces and traffic impacts.
- Surrounding land use conflicts.

Considerations

- Identify maximum number of guests.
- Identify location of buildings, tents, parking, garbage, etc.
- Noise mitigation measures.
- Hours and event frequency.
- Traffic management and servicing.

On-Farm Special Events Guidelines

Step 3: Licence

1. Property owner completes the On-Farm Special Events Licence Application.
2. Application is reviewed by Municipal Staff.
3. Once the licence is issued, the property owner is permitted to operate in accordance with conditions of approval.

A licence is required for conducting an on-farm special event unless land use permission was granted before the enactment of [By-law 2021-049](#) on May 25, 2021.

Other Requirements

Property owners are reminded that all municipal, provincial, and federal laws are in effect, and organizers are responsible for adhering to any such by-laws/laws. A few examples include:

- Roadways must remain passable at all times for emergency vehicles.
- **Building permits** may be required for a tent or farm buildings used for public occupancy
- Under the Fire Code, permits are required for **open flames** and/or **fireworks**.
- Public Health guidelines may require **Durham Region Health Department** approval for food safety, sewage and septic systems.
- Municipal noise and parking by-laws will be enforced at all times.

Fees

Clarington's [Fee Schedule](#) outlines the applicable planning approvals fees, including pre-consultation, rezoning and site plan applications. A complete list of fees will be provided during pre-consultation meetings. A separate licensing fee of \$250 applies. Other external agency fees may be applicable.

Contact Us

For more about the Rezoning and Site Plan Approval:

Planning and Development Services Department
905-623-3379 ext. 2405
planning@clarington.net

On-Farm Special Events Licence:

Legislative Services Department – Clerk's Division
905-623-3379 ext. 2105
bylawenforcement@clarington.net

Clarington