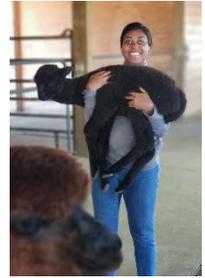


2018 OAP Agritourism Industry Education Tour for Community Leaders

It Made a Difference

The Agritourism Industry Education Tour was designed for community leaders to receive an informative, close-up and hands-on experience relating to the Agritourism industry. Oregon Agritourism Partnership sponsored this day to give voting officials a first-hand look at how the agritourism farms and value-added operations serve and educate local consumers and tourists, while helping farms and their communities improve their bottom line.



Amira Streeter holding a baby alpaca at Alpacas at Marquam Hill Ranch

Testimonials

"This was the best tour I have ever been on."

~ Representative Brad Witt

"I will share what I learned with the Governor."

~Amira Streeter, Natural Resource Advisor to Governor Kate Brown

Overview of the Tour:



John Zielinski giving a tour and a firsthand look at E.Z. Orchards' harvest festival.

The tour began at E.Z. Orchards where participants were shown around the farm by John Zielinski and discussed the annual harvest festival as well as farm-to-table dinners. They were shown the apple and pear orchards, the gourmet food, farm market, and of course the amazing apple cider donuts. The tour's participants gained first hand knowledge of why this farm stand is so popular.

After E.Z. Orchards, the tour's next destination was Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm and Vineyard. Barb Iverson explained about the diversity on her farm: cut flowers and bulbs, vegetables, industrial hemp, hazelnuts, farm tours, farm-to-table dinners, farm store, wine tasting, and the annual tulip festival. This stop was important to show that there is much more going on a farm year round than the public may think.



The tour learning about growing industrial hemp from Barb Iverson, Wooden Shoe Farm & Vineyard



Jennifer Cameron explaining the different textiles on display at Alpacas and Marquam Hill Ranch

The last destination was Alpacas at Marquam Hill Ranch. Bill and Jennifer Cameron lead the tour around the barn, showed off the store with alpaca fiber products and even brought out alpacas for a few pets and some food. They explained to the participants about their barn tours, farm-to-table dinners and technical clinics. The tour wrapped up back at E.Z. Orchards.

The 2019 OAP Agritourism Industry Education Tour

OAP looks forward to sponsoring another tour in 2019. Oregon Representative Brad Witt, who was on the 2018 tour, was very impressed with the locations and information, he has already inquired about the next one. OAP looks forward to having him and other community leaders along in 2019. There are so many wonderful Farm Loop locations to show off, there are plans for many more tours in spring.



Barb Iverson explaining tulip planting and harvesting



Oregon Farm Loop connects local family farms and value-added businesses with the traveling public. Oregon Farm Loop is a program of Oregon Agritourism Partnership, an Oregon nonprofit. Activities made possible by Oregon Farm Loop memberships and with the assistance of OSU Extension Service.