Sturgeon County Agribusiness and Agritourism Review and Task Force: What We Heard

Submitted to:

Sturgeon County

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1. Introduction

As outlined in the *Sturgeon County Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Public Engagement and Communication Plan (PECP)*, engagement occurred throughout the project with a variety of stakeholders, ratepayers, and members of the project to allow for input on potential issues and opportunities related to agribusiness and agritourism to be provided. Key stakeholders identified for potential engagement are outlined in the PECP and include internal stakeholder groups (e.g., the Task Force, County administration), external stakeholder groups (e.g., landowners, business owners and operators, external organizations), and the general public (i.e., ratepayers and county residents). Engagement tactics described in the PECP include council and administration updates, task force engagement, stakeholder interviews, and public engagement.

The remainder of this report is organized as follows:

Section 2 includes a summary of key feedback and noted process-related observations acquired from engagement with the Sturgeon County Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Task Force.

Section 3 summarizes feedback acquired through a public survey that was launched in November 2021.

We would note that engagement feedback from stakeholder interviews is provided in Section 4 of the *Sturgeon County Agribusiness and Agritourism Review – Current State Assessment* report, submitted under separate cover.

2. Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Task Force

2.1 Task Force Meetings Overview

The Task Force held five meetings between June and November 2021. A summary of these meetings is provided below in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 Task Force Meetings – Summary

Meeting	Task Force Attendance	Meeting Goal	Meeting Items
Meeting #1 (June 8th, 2021)	Ten task force members (three elected officials and seven members of the public).	Project kick-off	• Welcome and introductions. • Overview of the project purpose/objectives, work plan highlights, and project schedule. • Overview of project roles. • Overview of Task Force meeting processes and expectations. • Group discussion and opportunity for questions about the project and process.
Meeting #2 (July 6th, 2021)	Eight task force members (two elected officials and six members of the public).	Initial group discussions with respect to key components of the current state assessment	• Group discussion with respect to defining agribusiness and agritourism operations (guiding discussion questions were provided). • Group discussion with respect to opportunities and challenges with agribusiness and agritourism in the County (guiding discussion questions were provided). • Group discussion with respect to potential comparator jurisdictions for the best practice review (guiding discussion questions were provided). • Group discussion with respect to the engagement and communication plan (guiding discussion questions were provided).
Meeting #3 (July 27th, 2021)	Seven task force members (two elected officials and five members of the public)	Task Force feedback and group discussions on some Current State Assessment materials provided by the Study Team as well as the draft engagement and communication plan	• Group discussion of draft agribusiness and agritourism definitions and associated background material provided by the Study Team a week prior to the meeting (guiding discussion questions were provided).

Meeting	Task Force Attendance	Meeting Goal	Meeting Items
			• Group discussion of draft communication and engagement plan provided by the Study Team a week prior to the meeting. • Seven task force members (two elected officials and five members of the public) attended this meeting virtually or by telephone.
Meeting #4 (September 14th, 2021)[a]	Six task force members (two elected officials and four members of the public)	Task Force feedback and group discussions on the Current State Assessment and the draft public engagement survey.	• Presentation and discussion of the current state assessment including the technical overview (Nichols) and document review (ISL). • Presentation and discussion of the draft public engagement survey.
Meeting #5 (November 2nd, 2021)	Ten task force members (three elected officials and seven members of the public).	Project reset and presentation of new scope/timeline.	• Recap of project work and Task Force meetings to date (for the benefit of new council members) (Study Team). • Presentation of project approach including a recap of Council's project goals, municipal priorities, roles and responsibilities, and changes in project scope (County). • Presentation of new project timeline and spring season deliverables (Study Team). • Presentation and group discussion of agritourism and events venue uses (County). • Presentation and group discussion of identified comparator jurisdictions (Study Team).

Notes:

[a] This meeting date was moved up one week (originally scheduled for September 21st) to accommodate the municipal election. As a result, County Administration approved that the Study Team would present meeting materials to the Task Force during the meeting rather than providing them a week in advance to ensure sufficient time was allowed to complete the work.

2.2 Summary of Task Force Feedback

Detailed meeting minutes for each of the above Task Force meetings were recorded and are maintained by Sturgeon County administration. They can be viewed here: https://www.sturgeoncounty.ca/News-Events/Public-Engagement/Agribusiness-Agritourism-Review. Some of the high-level observations recorded by the Study Team throughout their engagement with the Task Force are organized by theme and summarized below. Note that the feedback is divided into two categories: commentary on the general process and commentary regarding the content shared with the Task Force.

2.2.1 Process

- The Study Team observed that not all members of the Task Force were aware or accepting that part of their mandate was to recommend new regulations for the County to implement with respect to agribusiness and agritourism activities.
- Many Task Force members expressed displeasure regarding the project timeline – namely 10 months. In general, the members had a desire to immediately begin preparing recommendations for the County without first walking through the research and discussion elements of the work plan.
- The group appeared to prefer the final (at the time of this writing) Task Force meeting that took place in person. The quality of discussion was considerably higher than the previous meetings which took place online to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions.
- With respect to the public engagement, the Task Force was concerned with the first draft of the online survey as they felt the survey asked too many questions regarding concerns with agribusiness and agritourism activities in the County. While the survey the heavily edited to include more questions associated with benefits of these activities, there were still concerns raised by Task Force members that the survey was not equally weighted. Furthermore, the Task Force was not accepting that the County had final approval over the survey instrument.
- Some Task Force members feel as though the County has a pre-determined outcome in mind with respect to regulations and that the feedback provided by the Task Force will not be considered in the crafting of future regulations.

2.2.2 Content

- In general, the Task Force seemed relatively open to the idea of providing additional supports for agribusiness and agritourism activities in the County and improving the regulatory system to make these activities easier to undertake. However, the Task Force generally unhappy with the idea of implementing additional regulations on agribusiness and agritourism activities on any scale as they considered additional regulations as being a hinderance to new development and/or expansion. Although the Task Force acknowledged potential impacts of agribusiness and agritourism activities on surrounding landowners, the members focused much more heavily on the challenges faced by the agribusiness and agritourism operators and emphasized the need to keep regulations at a minimum for these operations to grow. This was evident in the development of the working definitions of agribusiness and agritourism; the Task Force was not keen to developing definitions that they considered restrictive and preferred the idea of high-level, vague definitions. That included virtually any type of activity on rural lands in the County. For example, the working definition for agritourism provided by the Study Team described consumer interaction that takes place on a working farm.

Several Task Force members did not like the use of “working farm” in the definition as it excludes agritourism activities that take place on non-farming lands in the County, despite the need for LUB policies to be location specific.

- With respect to barriers and challenges faced by agribusiness and agritourism operators in the County, the Task Force highlighted several key items:
    - Youth need to be engaged more directly to support younger generations in gaining an interest in agribusiness and agritourism.
    - The County faces challenges in attracting investment. Returns in the agriculture sector are long term, and much of the investment is driven by relationships with family/friends.
    - Access to capital is an ongoing challenge for agribusiness and agritourism operators.
    - High speed internet access can be a barrier for some within the County.
    - Logistics are an ongoing challenge as the County still have mostly gravel roads.
    - Access to markets is more challenging for communities in Northern Alberta as compared to Southern Alberta who have easier access to large markets in the US.
    - Access to water is often a concern in the County.
    - Access to skilled labour can be a challenge.
    - Building codes can be challenging to adhere to as farms are not necessarily considered commercial buildings. It is difficult to find the answers to questions around building codes for agritourism operations.
    - Small-scale value-added processors don’t always have access to experts or consultants that could help their business.
- With respect to opportunities facing the agribusiness and agritourism sectors in the County, the Task Force highlighted several key items:
    - Sturgeon County could be seen as a “destination” for agribusiness and agritourism activities. This will support other local businesses in the area as people travel to the County for agricultural opportunities and stop at other businesses on the way.
    - The County could work collaboratively with tourism groups like Edmonton Tourism and Travel Alberta to support agritourism activities in the County.
    - Increased horticulture operations are an opportunity across Alberta, including Sturgeon County.
    - Increased educational/workshop opportunities for agribusiness and agritourism operators would be beneficial. Workshops from organizations like FCC, the Leduc Food Processing and Development Center, and Alberta Agriculture could help support start-ups in the County and those looking at how to best expand their operations.
    - The County should conduct a tourism strategy to help support agritourism activities.
- Some members of the Task Force were in favour of relying solely on the agribusiness and agritourism definitions contained in the Regional Agriculture Master Plan (RAMP) as they were of the opinion that these high-level definitions would allow for maximum flexibility for on-farm activities.

- Some members of the Task Force strongly advocated for the inclusion of the B.C. provincial manual to guide agritourism development as part of the best practice review. Others had a particular interest in Quebec as they viewed it as being particularly inviting to agribusiness. Following a discussion regarding key legal and planning differences between Alberta and Quebec, as well as noting the scope of the study (western Canada), members were somewhat less interested in Quebec as a comparator jurisdiction.

3. Public Engagement Survey

3.1 Survey Overview

Public engagement went ahead in the Fall of 2021 in the form of an online public survey. As described in the PECP, the engagement was intended to build awareness of the project, promote engagement opportunities, and gather input on the issues, opportunities, and ideas stakeholders and the public have related to agribusiness and agritourism practices. Participants were specifically asked to reflect on concerns they have related to land use compatibility, nuisance issues such as noise, odour, traffic, environmental concerns, and obstacles to implementation, and invited to provide ideas on solutions needed to mitigate concerns and overcome obstacles.

The Study Team, in collaboration with County administration, engaged and communicated with the public through the project webpage, which functioned as a hub for important project information and hosted the online survey. The Study Team also provided the County with an advertising and marketing plan to ensure the online survey was promoted and made accessible to County residents and business owners/operators through a variety of outlets (e.g., social media, newspapers).

The public survey was drafted by the Study Team and reviewed by both the Task Force and County administration before it was finalized by County Administration in November 2021. A copy of the final survey is provided in Appendix A. The survey launched on November 1st, 2021, and remained open for three weeks, closing on November 21st, 2021. For the purposes of the survey, the following working definitions of agribusiness and agritourism were provided to survey respondents as a means to additional provide context and clarification. Note that these definitions were approved by County administration.

Agribusiness

> Agricultural activities such as primary production, value-added processing, agricultural research and innovation, farm support services, and farm business services.

Agritourism

> Agricultural operations and activities that involve face-to-face consumer interactions on a working farm.
>
> Note that operations may be considered both agribusiness and agritourism operations (e.g., a fruit farm offering u-pick during the growing season).

We would note that since the time of the public engagement survey, Sturgeon County has updated their agribusiness and agritourism review webpage (https://www.sturgeoncounty.ca/News-Events/Public-Engagement/Agribusiness-Agritourism-Review) to include definitions of agribusiness and agritourism as derived from the draft RAMP.

3.2 Survey Results

A total of 33 survey responses were collected. Not all survey respondents answered each question on the survey (the number of responses per question are indicated in the results below). The entire set of raw survey response data were provided to the County under separate cover. A summary of responses is provided below.

3.2.1 Demographics

As described in Table 3-1, approximately 72% of respondents indicated that they are residents of the County, while 64% indicated they are landowners in the County. About 32% and 24% of respondents answered that they

are owner/operators of agribusiness and agritourism operations in the County, respectively. Approximately 20% of respondents are visitors of agritourism operations, and 20% and 16% noted that they live or own/operator a business near an existing agribusiness or agritourism operation (respectively).

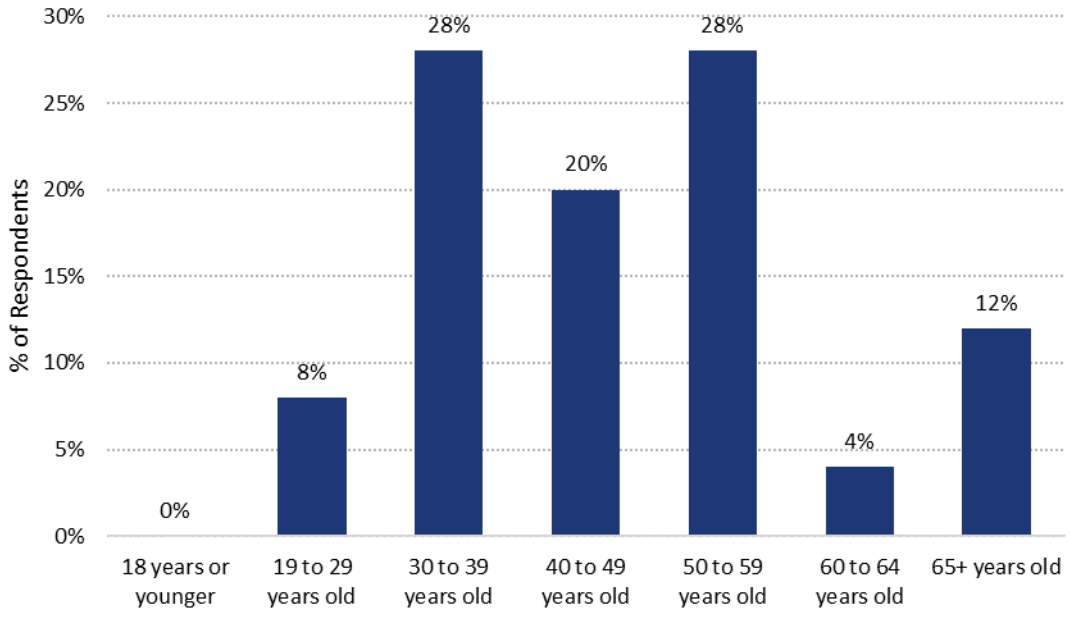
Table 3-1 Respondents by Resident Type

Resident Type	Responses (%)
A resident of Sturgeon County	72%
A landowner in Sturgeon County	64%
An owner/operator of an agribusiness operation in Sturgeon County	32%
An owner/operator of an agritourism operation in Sturgeon County	24%
A visitor of agritourism operations that currently exist in the County	20%
I live or own/operate a business near an existing agribusiness in the County	20%
I live or own/operate a business near an existing agritourism operation in the County	16%
Other	12%

N = 25. Note that responses add up to over 100% as respondents were allowed to select more than one answer.

Most respondents indicated that they are between the ages of 30 and 59 years of age (76%; Figure 3-1). A smaller portion of respondents were between 19 and 29 years of age (8%) and over the age of 60 (16%).

Figure 3-1 Age Distribution of Survey Respondents



N = 25.

3.2.2 General Questions

Survey respondents were asked an open ended-style question regarding the types of activities that come to mind when thinking of agribusiness and agritourism in Sturgeon County. With respect to agribusiness, the vast majority of respondents (88%) suggested that agribusiness refers to some type of primary production activity (Table 3-2). A relatively smaller number of respondents included things like farm input manufacturing/sales (e.g., fertilizer, equipment) (23%), value-added processing (19%), and farm support services (e.g., seed cleaning) (12%).

Table 3-2 Types of Agribusiness Activities Suggested by Respondents

Agribusiness Activities	Responses (%)
Primary Production	88%
Farm input manufacturing/sales (e.g., fertilizer, equipment)	23%
Value-added processing	19%
Farm services (e.g., seed cleaning)	12%

N = 26. Note that responses add up to over 100% as some respondents suggested more than one type of activity to select more than one answer. Activity categories were developed to code open-ended responses.

Responses regarding the types of activities that come to mind when thinking of agritourism in the County were much more varied. Based on coded open-ended responses, about 46% of respondents suggested that agritourism includes participating in farming activities such as U-picks and other farming experiences (Table 3-3). About 19% of respondents suggested activities such as corn mazes general farm tours/educational opportunities. Fifteen percent of respondents noted animal interactions as being considered an agritourism activity (e.g., horse back riding, petting zoos), while a relatively smaller number of respondents suggests activities like events (12%), overnight accommodations (8%), sales of primary products (8%), and farm to table dining (4%). A number of respondents (7) specifically mentioned Prairie Gardens as an example of an agritourism operation that takes place in the County.

Table 3-3 Types of Agritourism Activities Suggested by Respondents

Agribusiness Activities	Responses (%)
Farming opportunities (e.g., u-picks)	46%
Corn mazes	19%
Farm tours/education	19%
Animal interactions (e.g., horse riding, petting zoos)	15%
Events (e.g., weddings, rodeos)	12%
Overnight accommodations	8%
Sales of primary products	8%
Farm to table dining	4%

N = 26. Note that responses add up to over 100% as some respondents suggested more than one type of activity to select more than one answer. Activity categories were developed to code open-ended responses.

Respondents were then asked an open-ended question as to what types of agribusiness and agritourism activities they would like to see in the County that don't currently exist. Some examples of agribusiness activities that were suggested by respondents include:

- the production and/or processing of more 'exotic' or niche crops (e.g., saffron),
- smaller family farms,
- organic/sustainable farming activities,
- and farm input manufacturing (e.g., equipment).

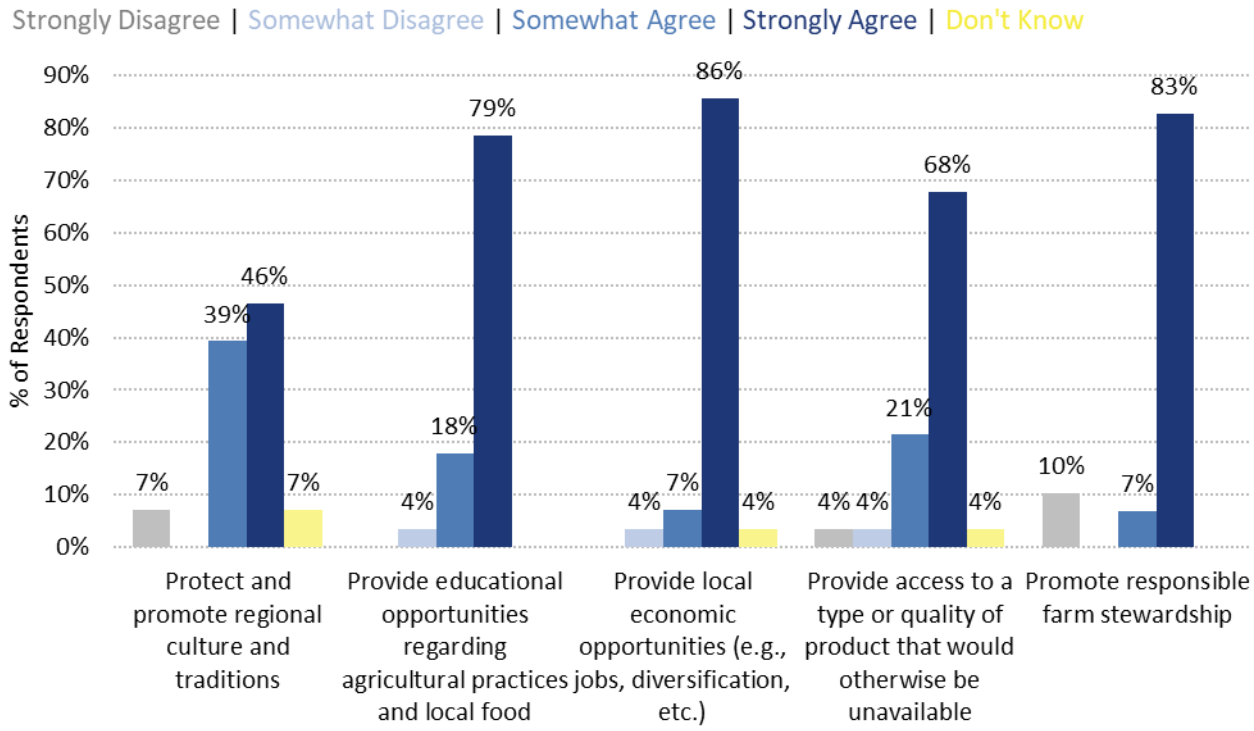
Some examples of agritourism activities that were suggested by respondents include:

- a County fair,
- distilleries,
- wedding venues,
- farm to table dining and product sales,
- corn mazes,
- farm tours/educational opportunities, and
- U-picks.

With respect to agribusiness and agritourism activities in the County, respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with a series of benefits that these activities provide the County. As depicted in Figure 3-2 below, over 75% of respondents strongly agreed that agribusiness and agritourism activities in the County "provide education opportunities regarding agricultural practices and local food" (79%), "provide local economic opportunities (e.g., jobs, diversification, etc.)" (86%), and "promote responsible farm stewardship" (83%). A majority of respondents also either somewhat or strongly agreed that agribusiness and agritourism activities in the

County “protect and promote regional culture and traditions” (86%) and “provide access to a type or quality of product that would be otherwise unavailable” (89%).

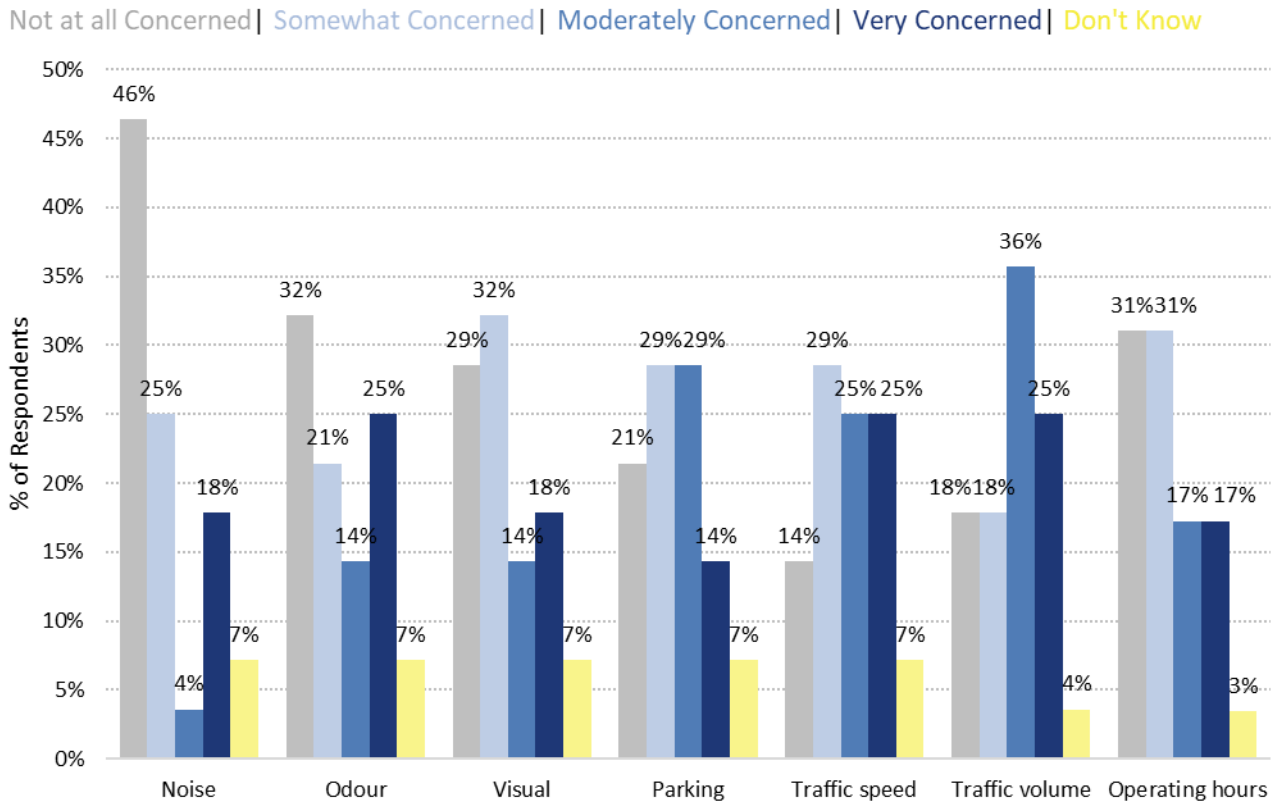
Figure 3-2 Respondent Level of Agreement with Agribusiness and Agritourism Benefits



N = 29.

With respect to agribusiness and agritourism activities in the County, respondents were also asked to indicate their level of concern with a series of potential impacts from agribusiness and agritourism operations. As depicted in Figure 3-3 below, respondents are either not at all concerned or somewhat concerned with things like noise (71%), operating hours (62%), and visual impacts (61%). Conversely, respondents indicated that they are either moderately or very concerned with impacts such as traffic volume (61%), traffic speed (50%), parking (43%), and odour (39%). Additional concerns that were not listed as options in the survey question but were suggested by respondents include emergency response, public safety, private property safety, and dust.

Figure 3-3 Respondent Level of Agreement with Agribusiness and Agritourism Concerns



N = 29.

Survey respondents were provided an open-ended opportunity to suggest ideas to mitigate the potential concerns identified in the previous question. Some examples of mitigation suggestions include:

- early communication/consultation with affected parties,
- minimizing livestock operations near residential areas,
- ensure proper/sufficient parking is provided by operators,
- improve the condition of roads in the County (e.g., paving the roads, oiling gravel roads),
- plant vegetative barriers to reduce noise, and
- reduce speed limits.

3.2.3 Event Venues/Special Events

Survey respondents were asked an open ended-style question regarding the types of benefits that arise from special events hosted by agribusiness and agritourism operations such as chef's dinners, harvest festivals, weddings, corporate retreats, etc. Some examples of the suggested benefits of events hosted by agribusiness and agritourism operations in the County include:

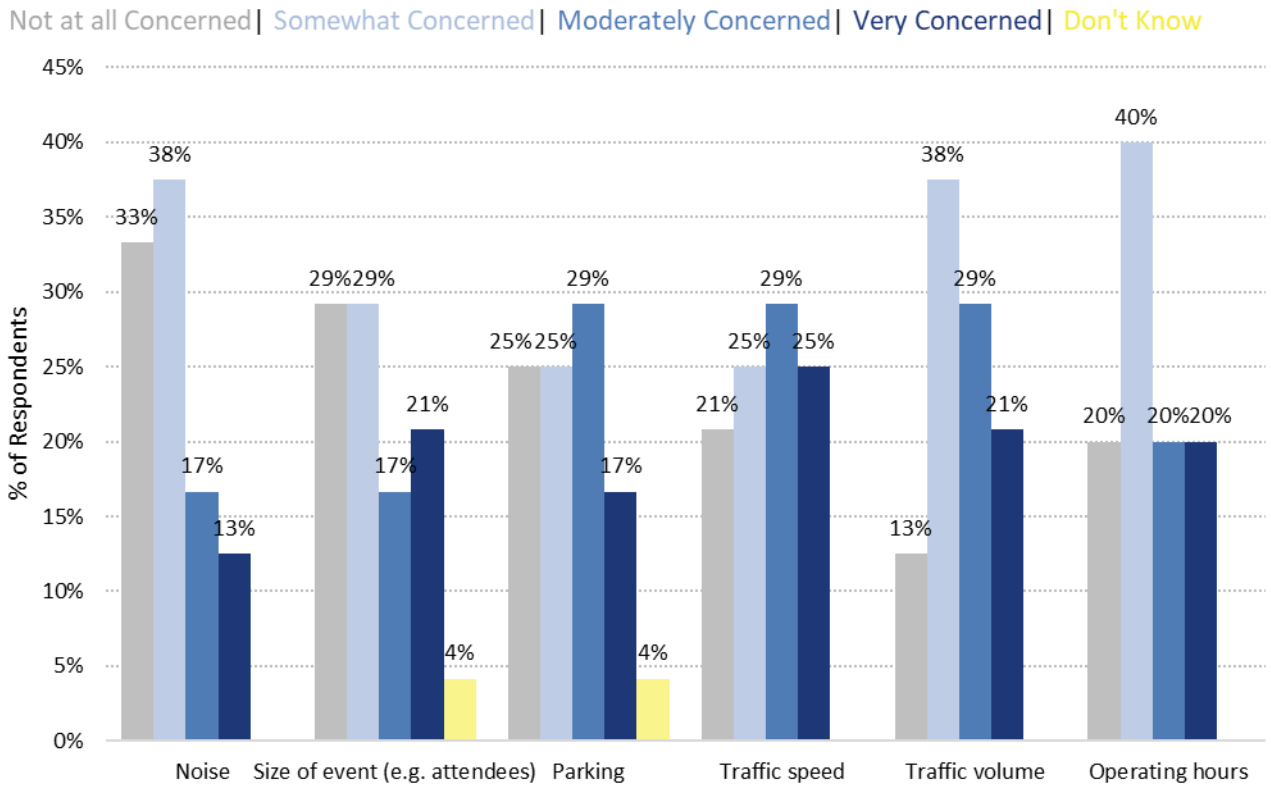
- offer more cost-effective opportunities for event-hosting,
- increase interest in the area,

- allow residents to undertake agricultural activities close to home,
- create opportunities for collaboration between local business in the County and Region,
- support local jobs, and
- diversify income for farms.

One respondent did indicate that they did not see any benefits of agribusiness and agritourism operations hosting events in the County due to traffic concerns.

With respect to events hosted by agribusiness and agritourism operators in the County, respondents were asked to indicate their level of concern with a series of potential impacts from these events. As depicted in Figure 3-4 below, respondents are either not at all concerned or somewhat concerned with things like noise (71%), operating hours (60%), and the size of an event (58%). Conversely, respondents indicated that they are either moderately or very concerned with impacts such as traffic speed (54%), traffic volume (50%), and parking (46%). Additional concerns that were not listed as options in the survey question but were suggested by respondents include emergency response, public safety, private property safety, waste management, and environmental impacts.

Figure 3-4 Respondent Level of Agreement with Agribusiness and Agritourism Event Hosting



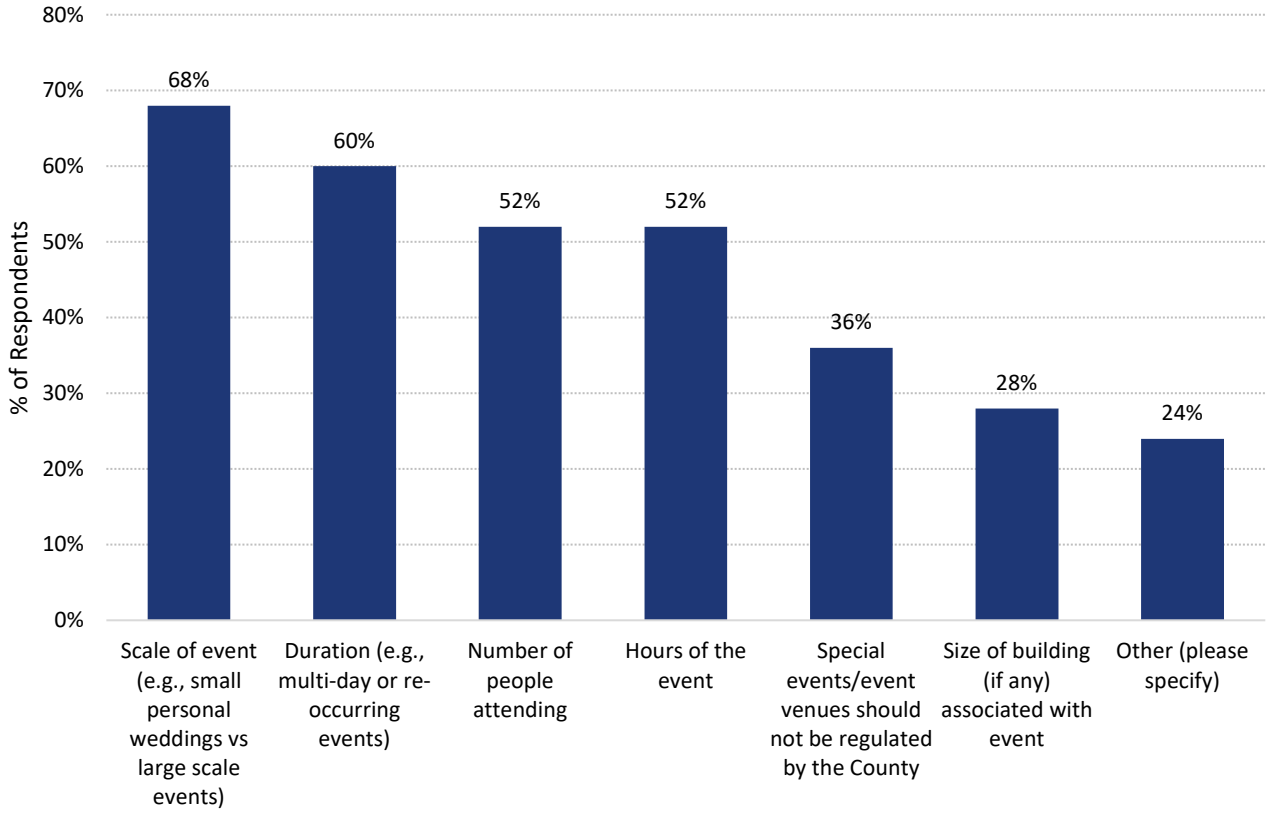
N = 25.

Survey respondents were provided an open-ended opportunity to suggest ideas to mitigate the potential concerns identified in the previous question. Some examples of mitigation suggestions include:

- ensure proper/sufficient parking is provided by operators,
- early communication/consultation with affected parties before an event takes place,
- implementing stricter bylaws to mitigate impacts,
- requiring a ‘buffer zone’ between event venues and nearby residences,
- improve the condition of roads in the County,
- limit the size of events,
- reduce speed limits, and
- enforce a reasonable shut-down time.

Finally, survey respondents were asked to indicate what criteria should be considered when determining whether an event should or should not be subjected to municipal approvals. Over half of the respondents indicated that criteria such as the scale of an event, the event duration, the number of people attending an event, and the hours of the event, should all be considered for municipal approvals (Figure 3-5). Approximately 28% of respondents indicated that the size of a building should be considered for event hosting, while 36% of respondents indicated that special events should not be regulated by the County. Additional criteria that were not listed as options in the survey question but were suggested by respondents include how many complaints an operation has already received in a season and the potential alcohol consumption.

Figure 3-5 Criteria to Consider for Municipal Approval of Events



N = 25.

3.2.4 Agribusiness and Agritourism Owner/Operator Questions

A series of questions were posed to respondents who indicated that they are current owners/operators of agribusiness or agritourism operations in the County. These respondents included crop farmers, livestock farmers, agricultural retailers, and market garden operators (10 respondents total). Of respondents, 6 indicated that they are interested in expanding their existing operations to include other forms of agribusiness or agritourism.

Respondents were asked to identify any barriers and challenges associated with navigating the County's regulatory environment. Some barriers that were identified by respondents include:

- unclear regulations,
- time delays,
- funding availability, and
- strict permitting requirements.

Respondents were then asked to identify any gaps in the County's existing regulatory environment. Several respondents indicated that there were no gaps in the current regulations. Of the respondents who noted that there are gaps, some gaps that were identified include:

- lack of coordination between County departments (i.e., having to engage with a lot of people within the County for one issue),
- restrictions that cannot be met, and,
- lack of coordination between the County and the province (e.g., transportation permitting).

Finally, respondents were asked to identify any barriers and challenges associated with navigating the provincial and federal regulatory environments. Some respondents suggested there are no challenges and that the provincial and federal governments have relatively clear regulations. Of the respondents who noted that there are barriers, some barriers that were identified by respondents include:

- restrictive regulations, and
- the provincial government is difficult to work with.

Appendix A. Public Engagement Survey

-- Start --

Agribusiness -and Agritourism Review - Community Survey

Introduction

Sturgeon County has assembled a community Task Force, supported by independent expert advisors, to conduct a review of agribusiness and agritourism activities and opportunities in the County. The outcome of the review is to provide the County with recommendations to address some land use bylaw gaps on supported uses, to review potential impacts of agribusiness operations on surrounding landowners, and to consider economic opportunities that support diversification of the rural economy through the growth of agribusiness and agritourism.

The purpose of this survey is intended to gather input from the broader community. Your responses will be anonymous and individual responses will not be shared. Survey results will be aggregated.

What is agribusiness and agritourism?

For the purposes of this survey, please refer to the following working definitions.

Agribusiness

Agricultural activities such as primary production, value-added processing, agricultural research and innovation, farm support services, and farm business services.

Agritourism

Agricultural operations and activities that involve face-to-face consumer interactions on a working farm.

Note that operations may be considered both agribusiness and agritourism operations (e.g., a fruit farm offering u-pick during the growing season).

Community Survey

General Questions

1. What kinds of activities come to mind when you think of agribusiness and agritourism in Sturgeon County (please provide specific examples and locations)? (Open)

2. What types of agribusiness and agritourism activities would you like to see that don't currently exist in Sturgeon County? (Open)

3. Please indicate your level of agreement, if any, with respect to the benefits arising from agribusiness and agritourism businesses operating in the County.

Agribusiness and agritourism businesses:

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Protect and promote regional culture and traditions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Provide educational opportunities regarding agricultural practices and local food	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Provide local economic opportunities (e.g., jobs, diversification, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Provide access to a type or quality of product that would otherwise be unavailable	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Promote responsible farm stewardship	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

4. Please indicate your level of concern, if any, related to existing agribusiness and agritourism activities in the County or if a new agribusiness or agritourism operation was proposed in your area.

	Not at all concerned	Somewhat concerned	Moderately concerned	Very concerned	Don't know
Noise	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Odour	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Visual	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Parking	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Traffic speed	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Traffic volume	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Operating hours	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

5. What ideas do you have to mitigate the potential concerns that you have identified? (Open)

Event Venues/Special Events

6. Special events (e.g., chef's dinners, harvest festivals, weddings, corporate retreats) are other activities that agritourism operators can offer to promote or market their farm as a venue location with related activities. What benefits do you think special events provide for County landowners and residents? (Open)

7. Please indicate your level of concern, if any, related to landowners in the County operating event venues or hosting events on their lands (e.g., weddings, dinners, beer gardens, live music).

	Not at all concerned	Somewhat concerned	Moderately concerned	Very concerned	Don't know
Noise	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Size of event (e.g., attendees)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Parking	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Traffic speed	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Traffic volume	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Operating hours	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

8. What ideas do you have to mitigate potential concerns that you have identified for event venues? (Open)

9. What, if any, of the following criteria should be considered when determining what events should or should not be subject to municipal approvals:
   - ☐ Number of people attending
   - ☐ Size of building (if any) associated with event
   - ☐ Hours of event
   - ☐ Duration (multi-day, or re-occurring events)
   - ☐ Scale of event (e.g., small personal weddings vs large scale events)
   - ☐ Other (please specify):_____
   - ☐ Special events/event venues should not be regulated by the County

About You

10. I am (select all that apply):
    - ☐ A resident of Sturgeon County
    - ☐ A landowner in Sturgeon County
    - ☐ An owner / operator of an agribusiness operation in Sturgeon County

- ☐ An owner / operator of an agritourism operation in Sturgeon County
- ☐ A visitor of agritourism operations that currently exist in the County
- ☐ I live or own/operate a business near an existing agribusiness in the County
- ☐ I live or own/ operate a business near an existing agritourism operation in the County
- ☐ Other (please describe)

11. I am:
    - ☐ 18 or younger
    - ☐ 19 to 29 years old
    - ☐ 30 to 39 years old
    - ☐ 40 to 49 years old
    - ☐ 50 to 59 years old
    - ☐ 60 to 64 years old
    - ☐ 65+ years old

12. Please identify which of the following apply to you:
    - ☐ I own or operate an agribusiness operation in the County
    - ☐ I own or operate an agritourism operation in the County
    - ☐ I am considering starting a new agribusiness operation in the County
    - ☐ I am considering starting a new agritourism operation in the County
    - ☐ None of the above

Agribusiness and Agritourism Owners/ Operators Questions

13. What is the business you currently operate (if you currently operate an agribusiness or agritourism operation)? (Open)

14. Are you currently interested in expanding your agricultural operations to include other forms of agribusiness or agritourism? If so, what type(s)? (Open)

15. What barriers or challenges, if any, are you facing when trying to navigate the County's regulations (e.g., permits, permitting/approvals process, land use district requirements, requirements for additional studies such as a parking study, etc.), when trying to operate, expand, or start your agribusiness or agritourism operation? (Open)

16. Have you experienced any gaps in the County's current regulations when working through the process to operate or expand your operation? (Open)

17. What barriers or challenges, if any, have you experienced working with other levels of government regulations (e.g., provincial food handling permits)? (Open)

18. What changes would you recommend to municipal policies and bylaws to address the barriers and challenges you listed above? (Open)

Thank You

Thank you for providing your input on the Sturgeon County Agribusiness and Agritourism Review. Your feedback will be used to help inform the draft recommendations, which will be shared publicly in early 2022. Please visit: http://www.sturgeoncounty.ca/AgriReview to learn more and stay up to date on the project.

-- End –

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