

## STUDY ON SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF AGROTOURISM

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**Abstract:** *Specific activities of one of the forms of tourism practiced in rural areas, namely agrotourism must meet the following criteria: be conducted in the countryside or on a farm; to benefit the agricultural industry; to be based on activities or products offered by farmers; to involve contact between the agricultural producer or agricultural products and tourist; to assume economic activity between the farmer and tourist; to be complete, to contain activities, accommodation and meals - offered by the same operator or more operators in a given rural area.*

**Key words:** *activities, agrotourism, specific*

### INTRODUCTION

UNESCO experts make the distinction between "farm activities" and "activities outside the farm" and considers, that even if in outgoing development agriculture is the main activity, the activities developed in rural areas, but not in the farm - crafts, wood carvings and tourism - are becoming increasingly important [2].

Practiced on a small scale, with a cultural, economic and social impact relatively low, and centered, mostly, on education, agrotourism covers a range of activities from the most varied and unexpected for those unfamiliarized.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

So, the American specialists in agrotourism [3,4,5] mention that they may be considered agroourist activities the following:

- Fun activities (labyrinth in cornfield, harvest festival etc.);
- Outdoor leisure activities (riding, photographing wild animals in their habitat, fishing, hunting);
- Direct marketing outside the farm (special events, food markets, national, regional, local fairs etc.)
- Direct marketing from the farm ("pick it yourself", retail stalls on the roadside etc.);
- Educational experiences (cooking classes, wine tasting, herd cattle, farm work, tour of preserves factories, farms tour etc.);
- Catering (renovation of the craft under the guidance of a specialist; leisure stay on the farm, ranch leisure stay, tours with guide etc.).

Specialists from University of Tennessee (USA) present a list of activities that seems astonishing, especially because in Romania there is not a real tradition of practicing agrotourism [7]

- Subscriptions to agricultural products directly from the farm;
- Activities such as "pick it yourself";
- School activities;
- Developing trails in height for goat;
- Caravans of wagons;

- *Carting*;
- Accommodation and breakfast in the farm;
- Off road biking;
- Downward of watercourses by a inflatable boat, with kayak, with canoe or air room;
- Retail at the farm;
- Cellars;
- Pony riding;
- Riding on specially designated routes;
- Riding on the farm;
- Historical events live;
- Trips were de tourists are accompanied by animals carrying luggage;
- School trips;
- Experiences in nature;
- Exhibitions of gardening (flowers, herbs, ornamental plants);
- Centennial farms;
- Farms such as "pick it yourself";
- Gastronomic festivals;
- Religious festivals;
- Festivals and agricultural fairs;
- Festivals and fairs organized at the farm;
- Photography;
- Hosting events (birthdays, weddings, retirements, receptions, family reunions);
- Rental of bicycles;
- Leases (trees, cows, etc.);
- Labyrinth of hay bale;
- Labyrinths in the cornfield;
- Labyrinths in the sorghum fields;
- Mini zoo with domestic animals and wildlife that can be touched and/or fed;
- Monitoring the animals in their natural environment;
- Work on the farm;
- Agricultural museums;
- Demonstrative classes (of agriculture, tillage, agricultural skills training, cooking, monitoring wildlife in their own habitat, fishing, harvesting, hunting);
- *Paintball*;
- Fishing on money at the farm;
- Spent spare time in a camping;
- *Picnics*;
- Pumpkin painting;
- Picture;
- Agricultural markets;
- Rides in carts or sleds filled with hay;
- Practicing (weekly) of harvesting and distribution of agricultural products with the support of the community;
- Habitat improvement projects;
- Renovation of craft under the guidance of a specialist;
- *Rodeos*;
- Sculpture;
- Leisure stay in the barns or haunted farms;

- Leisure stay in the farm;
- Leisure stay and work at the farm;
- *Catering* services;
- Stalls for selling on the roadside;
- Camps for children;
- Cutting own Christmas tree;
- Playgrounds for children;
- Shooting with air rifle gun;
- Corn cannon shooting;
- Routes for cyclists;
- Hiking trails;
- Self-guided tour by car;
- Winery tour;
- Crop tour (with guides);
- Tour of the caves;
- Vineyards tour;
- Educational or technical tours;
- Tours at the farm;
- Climbing or descending rocks;
- Holidays at the farm;
- Controlled hunting;
- Hunting for money (turkeys, pheasants, geese, pigeons, ducks, deer, small hunt);
- Hunting with laser;
- The sale of soft drinks, popcorn, ice cream, etc;
- Visiting the museums and historic sites;
- Swimming areas;
- Driving areas for land vehicles [1].

Other authors [6] classify agrotourist activities in:

- ***Marketing or retail mass at the farm:***

- "Pick it yourself";
- "Cut your own Christmas tree";
- Sales of ice cream;
- Sales of bakery products;
- Sales of agro-food products or crafts through stalls by the roadside;
- Concession of catering establishments;
- Cellars;
- Events organized by companies;
- Breweries;
- Souvenir shops with handicraft products;
- Weddings;
- Food market;
- Picnics organized by companies.

- ***Agri-entertainment:***

- Activities for children;
- Haunted houses;
- Riding;
- Agricultural festivals;
- Labyrinths in cornfield;

- Mini-zoo with domestic animals and wildlife that can be touched and/or fed;
- Caravans of wagons rides;
- Sleigh rides;
- Rides with sleigh or carts haunted by ghosts, filled with hay;
- Outdoor recreation (fishing, *cross country* skiing, hunting, etc.);
- Rodeos;
- Agricultural performances;
- Agricultural fairs;
- **Agri-education.**
  - School trips;
  - Exhibitions/agricultural tours;
  - Agricultural museum;
  - Programs of identifying crops;
  - Tour of wineries/breweries;
  - Tour of the gardens/nurseries.
- **Agri-accommodation** (accommodation in farms in operation or at historical farms)
  - Camping;
  - Accommodation and breakfast;
  - Village inn;
  - *Hostel*;
  - Ranch for unsuspecting townspeople.

Closer to our days, it proposes the following classification of the activities with agrotourist character:

- **Overnight stay with accommodation and camping:**
  - *Bed & breakfast* (a bed and breakfast);
  - Cottages rent for trips/picnics;
  - Place for camping;
  - Weddings, receptions, honeymoons;
  - Youth camp;
  - Holiday at the farm (leisure stay at the farm, feeding the animals, picking fruit/vegetables);
- **Special events and festivals:**
  - Haunted houses, haunted hay barn;
  - Music festivals;
  - Traditional celebrations;
  - Harvest Day;
- **Activities outside the farm:**
  - Agricultural market;
  - Stalls with selling on communication routes;
  - National and county fairs;
- **Recreational events and activities:**
  - *bird watching* (bird watching);
  - Climbing on rocks;
  - *Cross country* (skiing);
  - Course of archery with fee;
  - Delta gliding;
  - Hikes;
  - Riding;

- Risen with hot air balloons;
- Canoe rental;
- Cornfield labyrinth;
- Fishing on money;
- Rides with sleigh draw by horse;
- Pulling in plates;

**- Production of fresh aliments and products with added value:**

- *Direct marketing stimulated by tourism:*
  - pick-with your-hand the fruits/vegetables;
  - sale of the preservesn from the farm (compote, jam, honey, paste (peppers, rosehip, tomatoes), jelly (quince), syrup (cranberry, buckthorn tree buds, etc.), wine etc .;
  - sale of natural/organic products (wool, candles, tinctures, hand knitwear, ointments, etc.);
- *education of the youth and/or of the adults:*
  - organized tours: groups of believers, students, seniors and mixed groups;
  - agricultural education programs: how to cultivate fruits and vegetables, how to raise the animals;
  - program of education for environmental protection: plant life, animal life;
  - demonstrations: the preparation of goat cheese, preserved fruits and vegetables, wine; honey production; production of traditional handicrafts.

## CONCLUSIONS

Most of these types of activities are not found in agrotourism practiced in some counties from Romania, which means that the management of agrotourist farms should consider the adoption of new solutions to improve or restore the activity.

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