

**County Code Chapter 19.24.036: AG, Exclusive Agriculture district**  
**Permitted Uses:**

G. The following agricultural and compatible uses are permitted in AG districts without a use permit being required:

1. General farming, including but not limited to the raising, growing, and harvesting of vegetable, field, forage, vine, bush, berry, tree, or other plant crop including plant nursery stock;
2. Grazing, maintaining, breeding, training, and raising of poultry and livestock of all kinds including horses, cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, and agricultural species such as fish and fur-bearing species provided there is no feeding of refuse, garbage, sewage, or offal;
3. Nurseries, greenhouses, mushroom rooms, floriculture;
4. Boarding of horses or other farm animals;
5. Growing and harvesting of timber, Christmas trees, or other plants;
6. Dairies and production of dairy products from milk produced on the premises;
7. Poultry farms;
8. Raising, feeding, maintaining, breeding, and slaughtering of livestock, chickens, turkeys, rabbits, pigeons, ducks, geese, fish, frogs, and small animals or fowl in household numbers for family use;
9. Single-family dwellings and appurtenant structures allowed in R districts and such other structures normally associated with agricultural activities, including but not limited to barns, stables, sheds, and silos; provided, however, that only one single-family residence shall be allowed for each forty acres on any parcel or contiguous parcels subject to one California Land Conservation Act contract. One said single-family dwelling on any parcel or contiguous parcels under one such contract may be an occupied mobile home as defined in Title 19 of this code provided, a use permit is obtained as required by Section 19.48.080. All structures or dwellings on a parcel or contiguous parcels subject to one such contract shall be directly used for the furtherance of the agricultural use of said property; and shall be limited to immediate members of the owner's family and his employees;
10. Home occupations, including any use customarily conducted entirely within a dwelling and carried on by the inhabitants thereof, which use is clearly incidental and secondary to the use of the structure for dwelling purposes and which use does not change the character thereof;
11. Wells, water storage, and reservoirs, including on-site excavation or removal of materials for construction thereof;
12. Storage of petroleum products for use by the occupants of the premises;
13. Veterinary clinics and services, animal hospitals, kennels;

15. Harvesting, curing, processing, packaging, packing, selling, and shipping of agricultural products on a parcel devoted to agricultural use and the treating of products grown or raised on and off the premises where such activity is carried on in conjunction with or as part of an agricultural use; excepting therefrom the commercial slaughtering of livestock, small animals, fish, poultry, or fowl;
16. Holding of nonproducing land for future agricultural use;
17. Maintenance of land in its natural state for the purpose of preserving open space for recreation or the creation of plant or animal preserves;
18. Apiaries and honey extraction plants;
19. Nonintensive recreation when carried on as a clearly secondary activity in conjunction with a bona fide agricultural operation, including but not limited to fishing, hiking, hunting, rifle and pistol practice range, skeet field, archery range, or gun club when such activities do not involve the construction of any permanent structure;
20. Sale of food products produced on the premises;
21. Feed lots and feedyards, provided there is no feeding of refuse, garbage, sewage, or offal;
22. Airport or aircraft landing facilities for use of owner or tenant of the property or for agricultural service use;
23. The following uses when carried on as a clearly secondary occupation in conjunction with a bona fide agricultural operation, where no more than ten percent of the total land is used and where no more than three persons other than the owner are employed in such activities, and which are owned and operated by the owner or occupant of the premises:
  - a. Manufacturing, maintenance, repair, servicing, storage, sale or rental of agricultural machinery, implements and equipment of all kind,
  - b. Storage or sale of farm supplies of all kinds, including but not limited to fertilizers, agricultural minerals, and pesticides,
  - c. Transportation of agricultural products, supplies, or equipment, together with the maintenance, storage, repair and servicing of the necessary trucks and equipment therefor;
24. Public utility and public services, structures, uses and buildings provided such uses are clearly secondary and in conjunction with a bona fide agricultural operation;
25. Commercial radio, television, or microwave antennas and transmitters;
26. Gas, electric, water, and communication utility facilities and public service facilities of like nature operated by a public agency or mutual water company;
27. Public highways;

28. Fire protection works and facilities; flood-control works, including channel rectification and alteration; public works required for fish and wildlife enhancement and preservation; improvements for the primary benefit of the lands within the preserve; state improvements for which the site or route has been specified by the state legislature in such a manner as to make it impossible to avoid the use of subject AG zoned property;

29. Livestock auctions and sales yards;

30. Any structure, building, equipment, or use incidental and necessary to any of the foregoing uses;

31. Fruit and nut dehydrating plants;

**32A. On parcels enrolled in a California Land Conservation Act contract prior to (adoption date), wineries** as defined in Section 19.08.687 and the following incidental uses subject to providing off-street parking and meeting all necessary clearances from the health and building departments. Additionally, wineries located on private roads shall have entered into a road maintenance agreement with a majority of the owners of the road, or obtained a use permit pursuant to Chapter 19.56 of this code before commencing any of the following uses:

a. Wine tasting,

b. Winery tours,

c. Wholesale and retail sales of wine and grape products,

d. Compensated or noncompensated events with up to one hundred twenty-five persons in attendance with no limitation on the number of events per year,

e. Picnic area(s) for winery-related activities,

f. Art galleries with sales and framing,

g. A food preparation facility for catering on-premises indoor or outdoor functions,

h. Agricultural-related museums,

i. Gift display not to exceed a total of five hundred square feet in interior footprint area for the retail sale of winery-related promotional items, gift items, and/or prepackaged foods,

j. Social gatherings or weddings for up to and including four hundred fifty persons up to and including twelve events per year with no more than four such events per month,

k. Indoor or outdoor amplified music until ten p.m.

**32B. On parcels enrolled in a California Land Conservation Act contract after (adoption date), wineries as defined in Section 19.08.687 and the following incidental uses subject to providing off-street parking and meeting all necessary clearances from the health and building departments. Additionally, wineries located on private roads shall have entered into a road maintenance agreement with a**

majority of the owners of the road, or obtained a use permit pursuant to Chapter 19.56 of this code before commencing any of the following uses:

i. Wineries that meet the minimum setback of 400 feet and are located on a major road as defined herein are allowed the following uses:

- a. Operating a tasting room 7 days/week between the hours of 10am to 6pm
- b. Participation in Amador Vintners Association events
- c. Wine Club events of up to 12/year and of up to 125 people
- d. Social events of up to 12/year and of up to 125 people
- e. Special events of up to 12/year and of 125 to 400 people

ii. Wineries that meet the minimum setback of 200 feet and are located on a major road as defined herein are allowed the following uses:

- a. Operating a tasting room 7 days/week between the hours of 10am to 6pm
- b. Participation in Amador Vintners Association events
- c. Wine Club events of up to 12/year and of up to 125 people
- d. Social events of up to 12/year and of up to 125 people

iii. Wineries that cannot meet the minimum setback of 200 feet and/or are located on a minor road as defined herein are allowed the following uses:

- a. Operating a tasting room 7 days/week between the hours of 10am to 6pm
- b. Participation in Amador Vintners Association events
- c. Wine Club events of up to 12/year of up to 125 people
- d. Social events of up to 6/year and of up to 60 people

iv. Winery tours,

v. Wholesale and retail sales of wine and grape products,

vi. Picnic area(s) for winery-related activities,

vii. Art galleries with sales and framing,

viii. A food preparation facility for catering on-premises indoor or outdoor functions,

ix. Agricultural-related museums,

x. Gift display not to exceed a total of five hundred square feet in interior footprint area for the retail sale of winery-related promotional items, gift items, and/or prepackaged foods.

H. On parcels enrolled in a California Land Conservation Act contract prior to (adoption date), Uses described in this subsection may be granted by the planning department, without public hearing, following public notice of the application.

1. Wine tasting may be conducted under a duplicate O2 license only if the winery with the master O2 license is located in Amador County and the following standards are met:

2. a. A bona fide agricultural operation must be the primary use on the property;

- b. The parcel shall be a minimum of forty acres in size;
- c. The applicant shall provide the planning department with copies of their bond from the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau and their California Alcohol Beverage Control license. These licenses and bonds shall be maintained in full compliance at all times;
- d. Tasting rooms located on private roadways shall have entered into a road maintenance agreement with a majority of the owners of the road; or in the event a road maintenance agreement already exists, the applicant shall provide the county with proof they have renegotiated the terms of the agreement to include the new tasting room. If the majority of the owners of the road do not enter into the new or renegotiated agreement, the applicant must obtain a use permit pursuant to Chapter 19.56 of this code before commencing any of the uses allowed by this section;
- e. The tasting room building shall be located a minimum of fifty feet from all property lines;
- f. The primary use of the tasting room shall be the marketing and sale of wine produced in Amador County. Additional allowed uses are as follows:
  - i. Compensated or noncompensated events with up to one hundred twenty-five persons in attendance with no limitation on the number of events per year;
  - ii. Picnic area(s) for wine tasting-related activities;
  - iii. Art galleries with sales and framing;
  - iv. A food preparation facility for catering on-premises indoor or outdoor functions;
  - v. Agricultural-related museums;
  - vi. Gift display area not to exceed a total of five hundred square feet in interior footprint area for the retail sale of wine-related promotional items, gift items, and/or prepackaged foods;
  - vii. Social gatherings or weddings for up to and including four hundred fifty persons up to and including twelve events per year with no more than four such events per month;
  - viii. Indoor or outdoor amplified music until ten p.m.
- g. The applicant must obtain all applicable permits from the environmental health department, building department, and department of transportation and public works.
- h. Public notice of such application shall be given in the manner described in Chapter 19.56 of this code, Use Permits. Such notice shall indicate the intent of the planning department to grant the use permit without a hearing unless sufficient reasons are provided not to grant the use permit. A description of the appeals process (Chapter 19.64 of this code) shall be contained within the notice. The planning department shall decide upon the use permit application within ten days after the notice is mailed. If the planning department finds sufficient cause to approve the application and the application

meets the standards outlined in this subsection, the planning department shall approve the use permit and the use permit shall become valid following the ten-day appeal period if no appeals are filed.

**I. On parcels enrolled in a California Land Conservation Act contract after (adoption date), uses described in this subsection may be granted by the planning department, without public hearing, following public notice of the application.**

**1. Wine tasting may be conducted under a duplicate 02 license only if the winery with the master 02 license is located in Amador County and the following standards are met:**

**2. a. A bona fide agricultural operation must be the primary use on the property;**

**b. The parcel shall be a minimum of forty acres in size;**

**c. The applicant shall provide the planning department with copies of their bond from the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau and their California Alcohol Beverage Control license. These licenses and bonds shall be maintained in full compliance at all times;**

**d. Tasting rooms located on private roadways shall have entered into a road maintenance agreement with a majority of the owners of the road; or in the event a road maintenance agreement already exists, the applicant shall provide the county with proof they have renegotiated the terms of the agreement to include the new tasting room. If the majority of the owners of the road do not enter into the new or renegotiated agreement, the applicant must obtain a use permit pursuant to Chapter 19.56 of this code before commencing any of the uses allowed by this section;**

**e. The primary use of the tasting room shall be the marketing and sale of wine produced in Amador County. Additional allowed uses are as follows:**

**i. Tasting rooms that meet the minimum setback of 400 feet and are located on a major road as defined herein are allowed the following uses:**

**a. Operating 7 days/week between the hours of 10am to 6pm**

**b. Participation in Amador Vintners Association events**

**c. Wine Club events of up to 12/year and of up to 125 people**

**d. Social events of up to 12/year and of up to 125 people**

**e. Special events of up to 12/year and of 125 to 400 people**

**ii. Tasting rooms that meet the minimum setback of 200 feet and are located on a major road as defined herein are allowed the following uses:**

**a. Operating 7 days/week between the hours of 10am to 6pm**

**b. Participation in Amador Vintners Association events**

**c. Wine Club events of up to 12/year and of up to 125 people**

**d. Social events of up to 12/year and of up to 125 people**

**iii. Tasting rooms that cannot meet the minimum setback of 200 feet and/or are located on a minor road as defined herein are allowed the following uses:**

**a. Operating 7 days/week between the hours of 10am to 6pm**

**b. Participation in Amador Vintners Association events**

**c. Wine Club events of up to 12/year of up to 125 people**

**d. Social events of up to 6/year and of up to 60 people**

**iv. Picnic areas for winery-related activities**

**v. Art galleries with sales and framing**

**vi. A food preparation facility for catering on-premises indoor or outdoor functions**

**vii. Agricultural-related museums**

**viii. Gift display area not to exceed a total of five hundred square feet in interior footprint area for the retail sale of winery-related promotional items, gift items, and/or pre-packaged foods**

**ix. Indoor or outdoor amplified music until ten p.m.**

**f. The applicant must obtain all applicable permits from the environmental health department, building department, and department of transportation and public works;**

**g. Public notice of such application shall be given in the manner described in Chapter 19.56 of this code, Use Permits. Such notice shall indicate the intent of the planning department to grant the use permit without a hearing unless sufficient reasons are provided not to grant the use permit. A description of the appeals process (Chapter 19.64 of this code) shall be contained within the notice. The planning department shall decide upon the use permit application within ten days after the notice is mailed. If the planning department finds sufficient cause to approve the application and the application meets the standards outlined in this subsection, the planning department shall approve the use permit and the use permit shall become valid following the ten-day appeal period if no appeals are filed.**

**Uses Requiring a Conditional Use Permit:**

1. The following uses are permitted in AG districts upon obtaining a use permit as provided for in Chapter 19.56 of this code:

1. Turkey farms, provided there is a cover crop or other dust control;
2. Any garbage, sewage, refuse, or offal feeding;
3. Commercial small animal and fowl specialty farms, including but not limited to chinchillas, minks, foxes, rodents, aviaries, rabbits, frogs, pigeons, ducks, and geese;
4. Commercial slaughterhouses and stockyards for livestock, small animals, poultry, and fowl;
5. Rendering plants and fertilizer plants;
6. Commercial recreation, dude ranches, and boarding and guest facilities when carried on as a clearly secondary use in conjunction with a primary agricultural use;
7. Oil and gas wells, including the drilling and installation, and use of such equipment, structures, and facilities as are necessary or convenient for oil-drilling and oil-producing operations customarily required or incidental to usual oil field practice, including but not limited to the initial separation of oil, gas, and water and for the storage, handling, recycling, and transportation of such oil, gas, and water to and from

the premises; provided such activities are carried on as a clearly secondary activity in conjunction with a bona fide agricultural operation;

8. Development of natural resources including mines, open pits for extraction of minerals, borrow pits, and quarries, with necessary buildings, apparatus, or appurtenances thereto; provided such activities are carried on as a clearly secondary activity in conjunction with a bona fide agricultural operation;

9. Any use determined by the planning commission after recommendations by the agricultural advisory committee to be compatible with the purposes of the California Land Conservation Act and which do not significantly adversely affect agricultural operations;

10. Any structure, building, use, or equipment incidental and necessary to any of the above uses, located on the same site, and included in the use permit;

11. Farm-labor camps and farm-labor quarters as defined in this title;

12. Social gatherings or weddings at winery facilities which exceed either of the limits set forth in subsection G(32)(j) of this section. (Ord. 1708 §3, 2011; Ord. 1320 §§3,4, 1993; Ord. 1262 §§1--6, 1991; Ord. 1208 §2, 1989; Ord. 1139 §§3, 4, 1987; Ord. 934 §3, 1983; Ord. 883 §3, 1982; Ord. 773 §12, 1981; Ord. 743 §1, 1981; Ord. 600 §2, 1977).