



January 15, 2024

Cielo Farms Nursery
Gina Rodriguez
4680 Volunteer Road
SW Ranches, FL 33330

Dear Ms. Rodriguez:

The Florida Agritourism Association (FATA) is a state-wide organization that supports the growing agritourism market in Florida, which includes destinations such as working farms and ranches, u-pick fruit and vegetable operations, vineyards and wineries, specialty crops and products, and numerous other types of farms. We encourage and support farms, ranches, and vineyards to take full advantage of the Florida's broad agritourism laws found under chapter 570, Florida Statutes.

It is our understanding that Cielo Farms Nursery is a working nursery and sheep farm on approximately five acres in Broward County. It is also our understanding that Broward County's property appraiser revoked the "agriculture classification" for the property in 2023, based on your offering agritourism activities on your property.

The Florida Legislature has made it abundantly clear that it supports bona fide farms offering agritourism activities and further clarified its position by amending the statute in 2016 to include "civic and ceremonial activities." In 2022, FATA worked to pass legislation (SB1186) so that the statute clearly instructs property appraisers to not deny or revoke agricultural classification if agritourism operations are integral to farm operations. We support your position that agritourism activities occurring in your barn (ie, weddings) are key to your nursery operation, and are evidence to retain your agricultural classification.

Please do not hesitate to call my office if you have further questions. FATA wishes you continued success with your nursery and agritourism venture!

Sincerely,

Lena Juárez

Lena Juárez
Executive Director