

**Acres of Options**

Before wading through the more than 906,000 online hits for agritourism, check out the following links.

Agritourism activities around the world: agritourismworld.com Options in Australia, Canada, France, Hawai'i, Israel, Italy, Spain, and the UK:

agritourism.net Information about agritourism as well as listings for farms in North America: farmstop.com Farm accommodations in Belgium, Canada, Greece, Israel, and many other countries: agrisupportonline.com/agri_tourism

Travel
Trends

Farm-Fresh Vacations

Have a grape-stomping, maple-tapping good time on a family agri-getaway.

GATHERING BERRIES AT A U-PICK FARM OR MAKING fresh apple cider are more than just fun outings: They're part of a growing trend toward **agritourism**. The concept, developed in wine-growing regions in Europe, has spread to the U.S., thanks in part to a surge of interest in **understanding the sources of food**. A recent survey by the U.S. Forest Service found that 62 million Americans visited a farm or ranch in the previous year. **Families with children** are among the top participants, with good reason: Agritourism aims to be both entertaining and educational. Farms from Portland, Oregon, to Portland, Maine, are opening their gates to visitors, creating one-of-a-kind travel experiences. At **Doublerafter Cattle Drives** in Ranchester, Wyoming, families can relive the Wild West while herding cattle, cooking over a campfire, and sleeping under

Corn mazes have become popular North American attractions. See options offered by The Maize at cornfieldmaze.com.

the stars (doublerafter.com). Head to Woodstock, Vermont, to learn how maple syrup is made. Tours at **Sugarbush Farm** demonstrate how sugar-maple trees are tapped and take visitors into the sugar house, where syrup is processed and taste-tested (sugarbushfarm.com). Visitors can watch calves being born in the birthing barn, bottle-feed the babies, and practice milking at **Fair Oaks Farms** in Fair Oaks, Indiana. You also can see cheese and ice cream being made—with samples, of course (fofarms.com). Internationally, families are stomping grapes during the wine crush in Italy, feeding deer and bison in New Zealand, and pollinating vanilla flowers in India. The experiences offer more direct, intimate exposure to local cultures than many travelers could ever imagine. Wherever the location, families who choose this route are discovering that a few hours—or a few weeks—spent on a working farm strengthens connections with nature and with each other. ■—*Jodi Helmer*