

Ordinance No.: 18-51  
Zoning Text Amendment No.: 18-03  
Concerning: Farm Alcohol Production  
– Standards  
Draft No. & Date: 7 – 10/2/18  
Introduced: April 10, 2018  
Public Hearing: May 15, 2018  
Adopted: October 2, 2018  
Effective: October 22, 2018

**COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PORTION OF  
THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT WITHIN  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

---

Lead Sponsor: Council President Riemer and Councilmember Rice  
Co-sponsors: Councilmembers Leventhal, Katz, Floreen, Navarro, and Hucker

---

**AN AMENDMENT** to the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance to:

- add Farm Alcohol Production as a use allowed in certain zones; and
- establish the standards for Farm Alcohol Production

By amending the following sections of the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance,  
Chapter 59 of the Montgomery County Code:

Division 1.4.	“Defined Terms”
Section 1.4.2.	“Specific Terms and Phrases Defined”
Division 3.1.	“Use Table”
Section 3.1.6.	“Use Table”
Division 3.2.	“Agricultural Uses”
Section 3.2.10.	“Winery”
Section 3.2.11.	“Accessory Agricultural Uses”
Section 3.2.12.	“Temporary Agricultural Uses”
Division 8.2.	“Residential Floating Zones”
Section 8.2.3.	“Use Table for the RT and R-H Zones”

**EXPLANATION:** ***Boldface** indicates a Heading or a defined term.*  
*Underlining indicates text that is added to existing law by the original text amendment.*  
*[Single boldface brackets] indicate text that is deleted from existing law by the original text amendment.*  
*Double underlining indicates text that is added to the text amendment by amendment.*  
*[[Double boldface brackets]] indicate text that is deleted from the text amendment by amendment.*  
*\* \* \* indicates existing law unaffected by the text amendment.*

## OPINION

Zoning Text Amendment No. 18-03 was introduced on April 10, 2018. ZTA 18-03 would allow Farm Alcohol Production in Agricultural and Rural Residential zones under certain circumstances.

Currently, wineries are specifically allowed in Agricultural and Rural Residential zones. ZTA 18-03 would incorporate many of the standards that were applicable to wineries and apply those standards and others to breweries, cideries, and distilleries. In addition to the manufacture of alcoholic beverages, ZTA 18-03 would allow tasting rooms and, to the extent allowed by the state manufacturing license, the sale of food. It would also allow up to nine events a year with 300 or more participants. A larger number of events could only be allowed if the use is approved as a conditional use.

On April 27, 2018, in the memorandum to the Planning Board, Planning staff had no objection to the intent of ZTA 18-03 but thought more conversation was warranted on the issue of events. Planning staff noted that Equestrian Facilities had regulated events in terms of the number of participants, the hours of operation, and the number of events, based on the parcel size. On May 14, 2018, the Planning Board agreed with Planning staff's comments.

The Council's public hearing was conducted on May 15, 2018. Doug Lechliden, speaking on behalf of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, and Ed Boyce, founder of Black Ankle Vineyards, spoke in favor of ZTA 18-03 but expressed a concern that potential amendments to the ZTA may make it too restrictive on how the alcohol producer must use on-site agricultural products; in their opinion, the winery standard of 5 acres of fruit production would not work for breweries. Robert Butz also spoke in support of ZTA 18-03. In his opinion, it will promote a vibrant and successful Agricultural Reserve. Bob Sissle (speaking for the Montgomery Agricultural Producers), Drew Baker (founder of Old Westminster Winery), Jessica Snyder (Waredaca Brewing Company), and Phil Mooth (Brookfield Beer Farm) all supported ZTA 18-03 as a means of favoring the agricultural use of land and agritourism.

Caroline Taylor, speaking on behalf of 11 civic groups and 11 individuals, wanted the ZTA to assure master plan consistency and to mitigate impacts with a clear set of standards. Jim Brown, Sugarloaf Board member, recommended that the Council think about the safety aspects of more

tasting room participants driving on rural roads. He recommended distinguishing the approval process for large “beer halls” (300 participants) and smaller-scale tasting rooms. Tom Hertzog opposed ZTA 18-03. In his opinion, because it removes alcohol production from the requirement for a conditional use, the marketing for tasting rooms would change the character of the Agricultural Reserve.

The Council referred the text amendment to the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee for review and recommendation.

The Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee held a worksession on July 23, 2018. The Committee recommended approving ZTA 18-03 with amendments.

The Committee (3-0) reaffirmed its recommendation from July 9, 2018 and recommended adding the following provisions that state:

- 1) the use must be accessory to the farm on which the alcohol production facility is located;
- 2) the specific alcohol producers’ licenses must be approved and complied with;
- 3) the majority of the ingredients used in the alcohol production process must be grown in the County or from regionally-grown products (as defined by the Committee’s recommendation), if available at competitive prices; and
- 4) a long-range plan to increase the use of local Montgomery County agricultural products in the production process must be submitted to the Department of Permitting Services.

The Council, in the course of 2 meetings on September 14 and October 2, 2018, revised the recommendations of the Committee by:

- 1) further limiting events (ordinary and customary events are limited to 5 ticketed or events with a cover charge; non-farm related events are limited to 225 people a maximum of 50 times per year; a log of events must be maintained; and the number of events may increase with conditional use approval);
- 2) requiring that agricultural products grown on site be used in the alcohol production process (5 acres on site or on abutting property for wineries and one acre of ingredients grown on site for breweries and distilleries);
- 3) requiring a schedule with the plan to increase Montgomery County products in the production process;
- 4) requiring a minimum site size for breweries and distilleries (25 acres for sites that have not been issued an alcohol producer’s license);
- 5) requiring a 100-foot setback from a dwelling unit on an abutting property; and
- 6) a schedule to increase the use of products grown on site.

For these reasons, and because to approve this amendment will assist in the coordinated, comprehensive, adjusted, and systematic development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District located in Montgomery County, Zoning Text Amendment No. 18-03 will be approved as amended.

*ORDINANCE*

*The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, sitting as the District Council for that portion of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following ordinance:*

**Sec. 1. Division 1.4 is amended as follows:**

**Division 1.4. Defined Terms**

**Section 1.4.2. Specific Terms and Phrases Defined**

\* \* \*

**Agricultural Vending:** See Section [3.2.12.A.1] 3.2.11.A.1

\* \* \*

**Farm Airstrip, Helistop:** See Section [3.2.11.A.1] 3.2.10.A.1

**Farm Alcohol Production:** See Section 3.2.10.B.1

**Farm Market, On-site:** See Section [3.2.11.B.1] 3.2.10.C.1

\* \* \*

**Regionally-Grown Products: Grains, fruits, vegetables, flowers, or honey**

harvested within the 5-state area of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware,

and Pennsylvania and the city of Washington, DC.

\* \* \*

**Seasonal Outdoor Sales:** See Section [3.2.12.B.1] 3.2.11.B.1

\* \* \*

**[Winery:** See Section 3.2.10.A]

\* \* \*

**Sec. 2. Division 3.1 is amended as follows:**

**Division 3.1. Use Table**

\* \* \*

**Section 3.1.6. Use Table**

The following Use Table identifies uses allowed in each zone. Uses may be modified in Overlay zones under Division 4.9.

USE OR USE GROUP	Definitions and Standards	Ag AR	Rural Residential R RC RNC			Residential												Commercial/ Residential CRN CRT CR			Employment GR NR LSC EOF				Industrial IL I M IH		
						Residential Detached RE-2 RE-2C RE-1 R-200 R-90 R-60 R-40						Residential Townhouse TLD TMD THD			Residential Multi-Unit R-30 R-20 R-10												
			R	RC	RNC	RE-2	RE-2C	RE-1	R-200	R-90	R-60	R-40	TLD	TMD	THD	R-30	R-20	R-10	CRN	CRT	CR	GR	NR	LSC	EOF	IL	I M
AGRICULTURAL																											
* * *																											
[Winery]	[3.2.10]	[L/C]	[L/C]	[L/C]	[C]																						
Accessory Agricultural Uses	[3.2.11] 3.2.10																										
Farm Airstrip, Helistop	[3.2.11.A] 3.2.10.A	C		C																							
Farm Alcohol Production	3.2.10.B	L/C	L/C	L/C	L/C																						
Farm Market, On-site	[3.2.11.B] 3.2.10.C	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Temporary Agricultural Uses	[3.2.12] 3.2.11																										
Agricultural Vending	[3.2.12.A] 3.2.11.A					L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Seasonal Outdoor Sales	[3.2.12.B] 3.2.11.B	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
* * *																											

25 **Key:** P = Permitted Use L = Limited Use C = Conditional Use Blank Cell = Use Not Allowed

26           **Sec. 3. Division 3.2 is amended as follows:**

27   **Division 3.2. Agricultural Uses**

28   \*   \*   \*

29   **[Section 3.2.10. Winery**

30   A.   Defined

31           Winery means any structure and land for processing grapes or other fruit  
32           into wine for sale on-site or through wholesale or retail outlets where a  
33           minimum of 5 acres of grapes or other fruit must be grown on the same  
34           parcel or lot as the processing facility.

35   B.   Use Standards

36           1.   Where a Winery is allowed as a limited use, it must satisfy the  
37           following standards:

38           a.   In the AR zone:

39                   i.   A maximum of 9 days of events that require an entrance  
40                   ticket or a cover charge is allowed each calendar year.  
41                   Additional events require conditional use approval by the  
42                   Hearing Examiner under Section 7.3.1.

43                   ii.   The maximum lighting level at any lot line is 0.1  
44                   footcandle.

45           b.   In the R and RC zone, a maximum of 2 special events such as a  
46           wedding, festival, or other similar event are allowed each  
47           calendar year. Additional events require conditional use  
48           approval by the Hearing Examiner under Section 7.3.1.

49           2.   Where a Winery is allowed as a conditional use, it may be permitted  
50           by the Hearing Examiner under Section 7.3.1, Conditional Use, and  
51           the following standards:

52           a.   The minimum lot area is 10 acres.

- 53           b.     The minimum setback for any structure from any lot line is 75
- 54                     feet, except that the minimum front setback may be reduced to
- 55                     50 feet if the Hearing Examiner finds the reduced setback is
- 56                     compatible with abutting and confronting agricultural uses.
- 57           c.     The lot must front on and have access to a road built to primary
- 58                     residential or higher standards.]

59   **Section [3.2.11] 3.2.10. Accessory Agricultural Uses**

60   \*   \*   \*

61   B.   Farm Alcohol Production

62       1.   Defined

63           Farm Alcohol Production means the transformation of agricultural  
64           products into alcoholic beverages. Farm Alcohol Production includes  
65           wineries, cideries, breweries, or distilleries on farms. Farm Alcohol  
66           Production may include other activities unrelated to the production  
67           and sale of alcohol or farming under certain circumstances.

68       2.   Use Standards

69           a.   Where Farm Alcohol Production is allowed as a limited use, it  
70                     must satisfy the following standards:

71                     i.   The production capacity and associated activities of the  
72                             alcoholic beverage must comply with the license issued  
73                             by the State of Maryland Comptroller's Office.

74                             (a)   A brewery must have a Class 8 Farm Brewery  
75                                     License;

76                             (b)   A winery must have a Class 4 Limited Winery  
77                                     License; and

78                             (c)   A distillery must have a Class 1 Distillery License.

- 79                    ii.    Some ingredients used in the production process must be  
80                    grown [[on-site]] on site.
- 81                    iii.    Wineries and cideries must have at least 5 acres of fruit  
82                    used in alcohol production grown on site or on abutting  
83                    or confronting property rented by the producer, and:  
84                    (a)    have at least 20 acres of grapes or other fruit in  
85                    cultivation on property they own, rent, or control;  
86                    or  
87                    (b)    source a majority of their grapes or other fruit from  
88                    Maryland.
- 89                    iv.    Breweries and distilleries must source a majority of their  
90                    ingredients, if available at competitive prices, from  
91                    Regionally-Grown Products. At least 1.0 acre of  
92                    ingredients must be grown on site for use in the alcohol  
93                    production process.
- 94                    v.    A plan with a schedule to increase the use of local  
95                    Montgomery County agricultural products in the  
96                    production process must be submitted to the Department  
97                    of Permitting Services.
- 98                    [[iii]]vi.    The underlying land must be classified as  
99                    agricultural by the State Department of Assessments and  
100                    Taxation and the facility must be an accessory use of the  
101                    farm.
- 102                    [[iv]]vii.    Subject to all licensing requirements, the facility  
103                    may:  
104                    (a)    operate an on-site tasting room for its  
105                    products; and

106 (b) prepare and sell food to the extent allowed  
107 by the State alcohol manufacturing license.

108 ~~[[v]]~~viii. Events and activities that are normal and  
109 customary to the regular operations of a winery, cidery,  
110 brewery, and distillery, including membership-related  
111 events and traditional festivals related to agriculture or  
112 the business of alcohol production, are allowed without a  
113 limitation on the number of guests. A maximum of 5  
114 days of events that require an entrance ticket or a cover  
115 charge is allowed each calendar year.

116 ~~[[vi]]~~ix. Weddings, corporate retreats, and other events  
117 accessory to the production of alcohol are allowed if the  
118 number of guests is equal to or lower than the capacity  
119 allowed by the Department of Permitting Service's Use  
120 and Occupancy Permit for on-site buildings:

121 (a) ~~[[A maximum number of 9 events or activities~~  
122 with more than 300 participants is allowed in a  
123 calendar year. Additional events with more than  
124 300 participants require conditional use approval  
125 by the Hearing Examiner under Section 7.3.1.  
126 Except as provided in Subsection (b), the  
127 maximum number of participants at any event is  
128 150. The total maximum number of days of events  
129 in a calendar year is 50 including larger events  
130 allowed under subsection (b).]] Except as allowed  
131 under subsection (c), the maximum number of  
132 participants at any event is 225. There is no limit

- 133 on the number of events with 100 participants or  
134 fewer. The total maximum number of days of  
135 events in a calendar year is 50 for events with  
136 more than 100 participants.
- 137 (b) [[All parking must be accommodated on site.]]  
138 [[c) Noise levels must satisfy Chapter 31B standards.]]  
139 A written log of all events must be kept by the  
140 holder of the alcohol production license. That log  
141 must be available for inspection by the Department  
142 of Permitting Services.
- 143 (c) As a conditional use under Section 7.3.1, the  
144 Hearing Examiner may approve additional days of  
145 large public events and events with greater  
146 numbers of participants for either normal and  
147 customary events or other accessory events.
- 148 [[vii]]x. If any structure is used for activities under  
149 subsection [[iv, v, or vi]] vii, viii, or ix, the structure must  
150 satisfy all building, life safety, fire, and sanitation code  
151 requirements.
- 152 xi. Illumination at the property line must be limited to 0.1  
153 footcandles or less.
- 154 xii. All parking must be accommodated on site.
- 155 xiii. Noise levels must satisfy Chapter 31B standards.
- 156 xiv. Any new building or surface parking area used for Farm  
157 Alcohol Production and related events must be located at  
158 least 100 feet from an existing dwelling unit on an  
159 abutting property.

160                    xv. In the AR zone, except for sites where the property  
161                    owner obtained a Maryland alcohol producer’s license  
162                    before October 2, 2018, the minimum site area for  
163                    breweries and distilleries is 25 acres.

164                    b. Where Farm Alcohol Production is allowed as a conditional  
165                    use, it must satisfy the standards under Section 7.3.1.

166 C. Farm Market, On-site

167 \* \* \*

168 **Section [3.2.12] 3.2.11. Temporary Agricultural Uses**

169 \* \* \*

170 **B. Seasonal Outdoor Sales**

171 \* \* \*

172                    **2. Use Standards**

173                    Where Seasonal Outdoor Sales is allowed as a limited use, it must  
174                    satisfy the following standards:

175 \* \* \*

176                    d. Evergreen trees may only be sold beginning the first Saturday  
177                    following Thanksgiving Day through December 24<sup>th</sup>, and are  
178                    exempt from Section [3.2.12.B.2.b] 3.2.11.B.2.b and Section  
179                    [3.2.12.B.2.e.ii] 3.2.11.B.2.e.ii.

180 \* \* \*

181                    **Sec. 4. Division 8.2 is amended as follows:**

182                    **Division 8.2. Residential Floating Zones**

183                    **Section 8.2.3. Use Table for the RT and R-H Zones**

184                    A. Section 3.1.1 through Section 3.1.4 apply to the Use Table in Section 8.2.3.

185                    B. The following Use Table identifies uses allowed in each zone. Uses may be  
186                    modified in Overlay zones under Division 4.9.

USE OR USE GROUP	Definitions and Standards	RT-6.0	RT-8.0	RT-10.0	RT-12.5	RT-15.0	R-H
AGRICULTURAL							
* * *							
Temporary Agricultural Uses	[3.2.12] <u>3.2.11</u>						
Seasonal Outdoor Sales	[3.2.12.B] <u>3.2.11.B</u>	P <sup>1</sup>	P <sup>1</sup>	P <sup>1</sup>	P <sup>1</sup>	P <sup>1</sup>	

187 **Key:** P = Permitted Use L = Limited Use C = Conditional Use Blank Cell = Use Not

188 Allowed

189 1 Limited to the sale of Christmas trees between December 5 and December 25.

190 \* \* \*

191 **Sec. 5. Effective date.** This ordinance becomes effective 20 days after the  
192 date of Council adoption.

193

194 This is a correct copy of Council action.

195

196 \_\_\_\_\_

197 Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq.

198 Clerk of the Council