

Guidelines for Beekeeping FAQ

Beekeeping is an agricultural use and shall qualify for agricultural use productivity valuation if used for pollination or to produce human food or other tangible products having a commercial value. (Sec. 23.51 (2) Tax Code).

Acreage Requirement: Texas State Tax Code has set a *minimum* of 5 acres and a *maximum* of 20 acres to qualify beekeeping as an agriculture use.

When property owners initially apply for agricultural appraisal, they must show *proof of history* for agricultural use or beekeeping for credit history. One way to do this is to ask for export, import or intra-state permits, which are required by the Texas Apiary Inspection Service to transport hives, or apply for *five years to build 5 of 7-year history*.

Our degree of intensity standard is set at a minimum of 5 acres with a minimum of 6 hives. The minimum degree of intensity was established using Section 131.001 Texas Agriculture Codes definition of an apiary, which is a place where six or more colonies of bees or nuclei of bees are kept. A *“colony”* is a *hive and its equipment and appurtenances including bees, comb, honey, pollen and brood*.

For each *additional 2.5 acres one additional hive* is required. If *additional acreage is less than 2.5 acres, no additional hive is required*. For example, if a property owner has **14.6** acres of land used for beekeeping, **9** hives would be needed to qualify. For **19** acres, **11** hives would be required.

First 5 Acres	6 hives	First 5 acres	6 hives
Additional 7.5 acres	3 hives	Additional 12.5 acres	5 hives
Remaining 2.1 acres	0 hives	Remaining 1.5 acres	0 hives
Total hives required	9 hives	Total hives required	11 hives

Land *must be used* for bee pollination or production over **50%** of the year.

The hives must be *maintained and kept alive*.