

Beekeeping

Beekeeping is an agricultural use and shall qualify for agricultural use productivity valuation if used for pollination or for the production of human food or other tangible products having a commercial value.

The State of Texas has set a minimum of five acres and a maximum of twenty acres to qualify beekeeping as an agricultural use.

The Loving County Appraisal District degree of intensity standard is set at a minimum of three colonies and five acres. A colony is the hive and its equipment and appurtenances including bees, comb, honey, pollen and brood. An apiary is a place where six or more colonies of bees or nuclei of bees are kept.

When a property owner initially seeks qualification for agricultural use appraisal for beekeeping, they must show proof of history of agricultural use on the land for five of the preceding seven years. Bees can be used to establish history with supporting documentation.

Degree of Intensity:

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| 5 to 6 acres | 3 hives |
| 6.1 to 8 acres | 4 hives |
| 8.1 to 10 acres | 5 hives |
| 10.1 to 12 acres | 6 hives |
| 12.1 to 14 acres | 7 hives |
| 14.1 to 16 acres | 8 hives |
| 16.1 to 18 acres | 9 hives |
| 18.1 to 20 acres | 10 hives |

The hives must be maintained and kept alive. Supplemental food and water should be provided and pests controlled.

The hives must be located on the property for at least seven months of the year.

The property owner will provide a map with location of hives and plant life and a list of vegetation for hive's food source (all plant life intended to support hive).

The appraisal district will grant agricultural use on the total acreage, not just the area where the hives sit.