

## BEEKEEPING USE REQUIREMENTS

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. (Sec. 23.512(2) Tax Code)

Acreage Requirement: the State of Texas has set a minimum of 5 acres and a maximum of 20 acres to qualify beekeeping as an agricultural use.

Our degree of intensity standard is set at a minimum of six colonies and 5 acres. The minimum degree of intensity was established using Section 131.001 Texas Agriculture Code's definition of apiary, which is a place where six or more colonies of bees or nuclei of bees are kept. A colony is the hive and its equipment and appurtenances including bees, comb, honey, pollen and brood.

For each additional 2.5 acres one additional colony is required. If additional acreage is less than 2.5 acres, no additional colony is required. For example, if a property owner has 14.6 acres of land used for beekeeping, nine colonies would be needed to qualify.

First 5 acres	6 colonies
Additional 7.5 acres	3 colonies
<u>Remaining 2.1 acres</u>	<u>0 colonies</u>
Total colonies required	9 colonies

### Beekeeping

(5 Acres minimal – 20 Acres Maximum)

For each 2.5 acres, one additional colony is required. If additional acreage is less than 2.5 acres, no additional colony is required.

<u>Acreage</u>		<u># of Colonies</u>
0.5 - 7.49	=	6
7.5 - 9.99	=	7
10.0 - 12.49	=	8
12.5 - 14.99	=	9
15.0 - 17.49	=	10
17.5 - 19.99	=	11
20	=	12

When property owners initially qualify for agricultural appraisal they must show proof of history for agricultural use/beekeeping for any of the five preceding seven years. 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 colonies.