

**HOUSTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT**

**AG DEPARTMENT**

**BEE GUIDELINES DECEMBER 2014**

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. 23.51(2) Tax Code)

**Acreage requirement:** the State of Texas has set a minimum of five (5) acres and a maximum of twenty (20) acres to qualify beekeeping as an agricultural use.

The property needs to have been previously in an agricultural process or the property owner needs to be able to show a five year history of Bee's or AG use. Bees can be used to establish history with supporting documentation. Hives must be maintained and kept alive. Flowering plants must be planted to support hives **IF** the hives are in an area where there is limited vegetation that requires pollination.

**Degree of Intensity:** (first 5 acres 6 hives as per Section 131.001 Texas Agriculture Code's definition of an "Apiary"). "Apiary" means a place where six or more colonies of bees or nuclei of bees are kept. "Colony" means the hive and its equipment and appurtenances including bees, comb, honey, pollen, and brood.

5 acres.....6 active hives  
7.5 acres.....7 active hives  
10 acres.....8 active hives  
12.5 acres.....9 active hives  
15 acres.....10 active hives  
17.5 acres.....11 active hives  
20 acres.....12 active hives

The hives must be located on the property at least 7 months of the year. January 1<sup>st</sup> thru December 31<sup>st</sup>.

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

Dennis Herbert  
Conservation One  
Wildlife & Land Management Services  
PO Box 781  
Salado, TX 76571-0781  
254-947-8604