

Hood Central Appraisal District Agricultural Degree of Intensity Requirements

Degree of intensity generally accepted for livestock grazing by Hood Central Appraisal District is one animal unit for fifteen acres of native pasture or five acres of improved grasses to be determined as follows:

To qualify for productivity appraisal for agricultural use, the land must be “currently devoted to agricultural use to the degree of intensity generally accepted in the area.” Livestock definition: Livestock is defined in Section 1.003, Texas Agricultural Code, as “cattle, horses, mules, asses, sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas, exotic livestock, including elk & elk hybrids, and hogs, unless otherwise defined.”

Raise or keep bees: Effective January 1, 2012. Not less than 5 acres or more than 20 acres: Documentation showing the purchase of bees, queens and hives, what food sources are available, a map of the property showing the hive placement, and a basic marketing plan showing how the honey and related products will be sold. Annual inspections will be conducted.

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

Orchard: Plants must be non-native species, cover the whole tract, have irrigation system, be planted for harvest and the product sold commercially. These operations typically have a regular schedule of pruning, spraying, cultivating and weed control.

Exotic Game: Must be raising or keeping exotic animals for the production of food or other commercially valuable products. Exotic livestock means: grass-eating or plant-eating, single-hooved mammals that are not indigenous to this state and are known as ungulates, including animals from the swine, horse, tapir, rhinoceros, elephant, deer and antelope families but not including a mammal, a game animal, as a fur-bearing animal, or any other indigenous mammal regulated by the Parks and Wildlife Department as endangered or threatened species. Documentation would include a copy of business plan showing physical improvements such as high fences, herd size, restocking levels, harvest report, harvesting schedule, breeding and herd management procedure that emphasizes commercially valuable product such as meat or leather and if state or federally approved inspectors supervise slaughter and dressing. Degree of intensity to be determined by type of exotic. Any exotic game ranch devoted solely to hunting animals could never qualify for agricultural appraisal. Annual reporting and an inspection will be required to document production.

Livestock: Land used primarily for “raising, breeding and/or grazing horses” and other activities that are for “farm or ranch purposes” are agricultural uses. Definition of Farm or Ranch: includes one or more tracts of land used, in whole or in part, in the production of crops, livestock or other agricultural products held for sale. Horse Breeding facilities, stud farms, horse training facilities that train horses that will be sold. The following activities DO NOT qualify: owning horses for pleasure riding, show or sport, horse boarding, training facilities that train horses used for sport, pleasure or show, riding stables, racing stables that are not horse breeders, racetracks, veterinary clinics, commercial arena operations, and “dude” ranches, lodges and hunting operations.

Hay Production: The land must be involved in standard hay production practices including, plowing, fertilizing, cutting, baling, hauling and brush control. The product should be marketable. In a typical year, 2-3 cuttings could be achieved.