



VAN ZANDT COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

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Beekeeping Intensity Standards

Sec. 23.51 (2) of the Texas Property Tax Code identifies beekeeping as an agriculture use. The term “agricultural use” includes the use of land to raise and keep bees for pollination or for the production of human food or other tangible products having commercial value, provided that the land used is not less than 5 acres or more than 20 acres.

To be eligible to qualify for this 1-d-1 special use appraisal, the property must have been principally used at least 5 of the preceding 7 years for a qualified agriculture activity. The property must be currently devoted principally to beekeeping to the degree of intensity generally accepted within Van Zandt County.

Van Zandt’s degree of intensity standard for the required acreages is as follows:

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

ALL HIVES MUST BE ACTIVELY MANAGED (maintained and kept alive) AND REMAIN ON THE PROPERTY FOR AT LEAST 7 MONTHS OF THE YEAR (JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST).

“Active management” includes but is not limited to:

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| 1. Inspections of the hive | 4. Management of disease |
| 2. Supplemental feeding | 5. Splitting or requeening hives |
| 3. Harvesting honey and other products | 6. Maintenance of equipment |

Products Produced includes but is not limited to:

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| 1. Honey | 5. Bee Pollen |
| 2. Honey Candies | 6. Candles |
| 3. Beeswax | 7. Soaps, Balms, & Lotions |
| 4. Propolis | 8. Royal Jelly |

Bees need adequate sources of nectar, pollen, and water throughout the year. Bees will typically travel within a 3-mile radius from the hive to find adequate forage for survival, and will store resources for use during winter. If adequate forage cannot be collected and stored, the bees will simply move (abscond) or die. It is the responsibility of a prudent and conscientious manager to ensure that adequate forage and water is available for their bees, and supplementally feed when necessary.

The goal of VZCAD is to assist “legitimate beekeepers” seeking to qualify for special appraisal. Legitimate beekeepers will have their bees in locations that provide food for their bees, allow for the pollination of various agriculture and food crops, and manage their bees in a manner to keep them healthy, surviving, and producing for the long term. ***Beekeeping is not a “cheap” endeavor, nor is it a short-term endeavor.*** If you are new to beekeeping, we highly suggest getting involved with a local beekeeping club or association for education, support, and additional resources.