

Navarro County Appraisal District — Beekeeping Intensity Standards (2026)

Source: Navarro CAD published agricultural intensity standards, captured 2026. Archived copy retained by Timber Creek Bees for the timbercreekbees.com county reference pages. Captures below are reproduced at original resolution.

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Statutory Authority

Beekeeping qualifications for agricultural valuation are governed by Texas Tax Code, Title 1, Chapter 23, Subchapter D, Section 23.51(1) and (2). The law took effect January 1, 2012, when the Texas Legislature amended Section 23.51 to include beekeeping as a qualifying agricultural use.

The minimum hive intensity standard is drawn from Section 131.001 of the Texas Agriculture Code, which defines an apiary as a place where six or more colonies of bees are kept.

Definition of Agricultural Use

The term agricultural use includes the use of land to raise or keep bees for pollination or for the production of human food or other tangible products having a commercial value, provided that the land used is not less than 5 or more than 20 acres.

Use Standards

Eco-region location is not a productivity consideration since bees freely fly to food sources and return to the hive to store nectar.

The state of Texas has set a minimum of 5 acres and a maximum of 20 acres to qualify beekeeping as an agricultural use.

A colony is defined as the hive and its equipment and appurtenances including bees, comb, honey, pollen, and brood. Biologically, each colony is a distinct socio-biological unit. Key points:

Component	Description
Queen	One active queen per colony — the primary biological identifier of a distinct colony
Workers	20,000 – 80,000 worker bees
Drones	Male bees; hundreds per colony
Brood	Eggs, larvae, and pupae — evidence of an active, reproducing colony
Comb & Honey	Built comb with honey and pollen stores

Note: A queenless hive is not a qualifying colony. Without an active queen, no new brood is produced and the colony will eventually die off. A tall hive with multiple supers (additional boxes stacked on top) still counts as one colony if it has one queen. Each qualifying hive must have its own active queen.

Intensity standards by tract size are:

Minimum of 5.0 ac	Up to 7.5 ac	Up to 10.0 ac	Up to 12.5 ac	Up to 15.0 ac	Up to 17.5 ac	Up to 20.0 ac
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

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