Agricultural Classes and Requirements

This is a Guideline only & may be altered on a case by case basis

Category	Definition	Minimum Acreage	Other Requirements
Irrigated Crop/ Timber	Lands which are cultivated on a regular basis for the production of adapted cultivated and close growing crops for harvest. The moisture needs are met by artificially watering on a systematic basis.	50 Acres	Consisting of: Wheat, Corn, Soybeans, Sorghum, or other standing grains.
Dry Crop	Lands which are cultivated on a regular basis for the production of adapted cultivated and close growing crops for harvest, but which **are not** artificially watered.	10 Acres	Consisting of: Wheat, Corn, Soybeans, Sorghum, or other standing grains.
Improved Pasture	Lands which have increased forage production or carrying capacities above the native surroundings due to the improvement of the land through the use of seeding, fertilizing, tending, cut, bailed, and other methods of improvement. These lands may not be artifically watered.	10 Acres	Consist of: Common Bermuda grass, hybrid Bermuda grass, Johmson grass, Old World Bluestems, Crabgrass, Fescue, Dallasgrass, and Bahia Grass.
Native Pasture	Lands used for grazing by **qualifying** livestock and wildlife on which the majority of the grasses and plants are native to the land. Native and natural vegetation, unmanaged **except for weed control, cutting and bailing.**	10 Acres	Consist of: Meadow Dropseed, Annual Threeland, Longspike, Tridens, Little Bluestem, Switchgrass, Indian Grass, Big Bluestems, Sideoats gama, Buffalo Grass, Texas Wintergrass, Paspalams, Panciums, and White Tridens.
Hay Production	Using both improved and native grasses.	10 Acres	**Degree of Intensity:** Requires a minimum of 2,000 lbs of hay production per acre per year for Native grasses and 4,000 lbs per year for Improved.
Irrigated Orchards	Water supplied by direct delivery system.	3 Acres	14 Native (non-orchard setting) or 70 Improved (traditional orchard) productive fruit bearing trees with a 25 ft spacing or 27 Improved (traditional orchard) productive fruit bearing trees with a 40 ft spacing = 1 acre of orchard.
Non-Irrigated Orchards	Water supplied by natural rainfall and runoff.	3 Acres	14 Native (non-orchard setting) or 70 Improved (traditional orchard) productive fruit bearing trees with a 25 ft spacing or 27 Improved (traditional orchard) productive fruit bearing trees with a 40 ft spacing = 1 acre of orchard.
Bees / / / / Truck Farms	Texas Property Tax Code Section 23.51: 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.	No less than 5 Acres, No more than 20 Acres	Minimum of 6 colonies (hives) on first 5 acres. For each additional 2.5 acres one additional hive is required.

***Land must be devoted to agricultural use 5 out of the last 7 years in order to meet the history requirement. If a property does not meet the history requirement, the property owner may apply to begin history. ***

Wildlife Management

Wildlife Management	-Must have been 1-d-1 ag -Must meet minimum acreage set by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for our region **unless** property is under certain deed restrictions, easements, threatened or endangered species	**12.5 Acres individual or 16.6 Acres for Co-op**	Can only be applied to land currently receiving agricultural appraisal. Approved wildlife plan prepared and signed by owner is required at time of conversion to wildlife management

Animal Unit and Soil Type

Animal Unit						
	Cow, 1000 lb, dry	.92	Lamb, 1 year old	.15		**Acre Requirements:**
	Cow, 1000 lb, with calf	1.00	Goat, mature	.15		Native Pasture, Sand 15.0 Acres per Animal Unit
	Bull, mature	1.35	Kid, 1 year old	.10		Native Pasture, Black 15.0 Acres per Animal Unit
	Cattle, 1 year old	.60	Mature Horse	------		Improved Pasture, Sand 4.0 Acres per Animal Unit
	Cattle, 2 year old	.80	(Breeders)	1.25		Improved Pasture, Black 4.0 Acres per Animal Unit
	Sheep, mature	.20	Colt	.20		

Raising livestock requires fences, proper management of land for long run forage, enough animal units to match land's carrying capacity, and a herd management procedure to get the animals to market.