

Central Appraisal District of Bandera County Beekeeping Guideline



This handout acts as additional information that could be beneficial and necessary when applying for agricultural valuation under beekeeping. Inside you will find information regarding how to qualify for agricultural use based on beekeeping only. Please note that you must fill out the ag application along with the supplemental beekeeping questionnaire attached.

Table of Contents

Central Appraisal District of Bandera County Beekeeping Guidelines.....	2
Typical Requirements.....	2
Management Practices.....	2
Annual Update	3
Supplemental Questionnaire	4

Central Appraisal District of Bandera County Beekeeping Guidelines

Sec. 23.51(2) "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.

Beekeeping, like regular agricultural operations, must show proof of history of agricultural use for five (5) out of the preceding seven (7) years. The history can be traditional agriculture, wildlife or beekeeping.

This type of operation provides many products: honey, beeswax, propolis, pollination of crops, and bees to sell to other beekeepers. To qualify for agricultural appraisal, state law permits keeping bees for two purposes:

1. Pollination of crops
2. Production of human food or products which have commercial value

TYPICAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Typical requirements in the District include keeping a minimum of three (3) active hives of honeybees.
2. Each hive must include at a minimum one brood box (8 or 10 frames) with a cover and bottom.
3. Hives must be located on the property for the bulk of the year, be maintained and kept alive.
4. Due to the limited flowering vegetation located in our county, planting of flowering plants and shrubs may be necessary.
5. A 3 to 5-year plan of action is required to be submitted with the initial application. This plan must state what type of production will occur on the property, what is the primary operation, any secondary uses of the bees, plans for expansion, contingency plan in case of a catastrophic disaster of hives.
6. Annual Report is required.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Beekeeping operations should be managed just as any other operation would be. The required number of hives should be cleaned and maintained each year. A prudent manager will provide adequate shade and water for the bees, along with adequate pest control. Receipts and records of any purchases of equipment or bees and records of production and sales of product should be kept and maintained. Should the operation lease bees rather than purchase them, a current lease agreement must accompany any application.

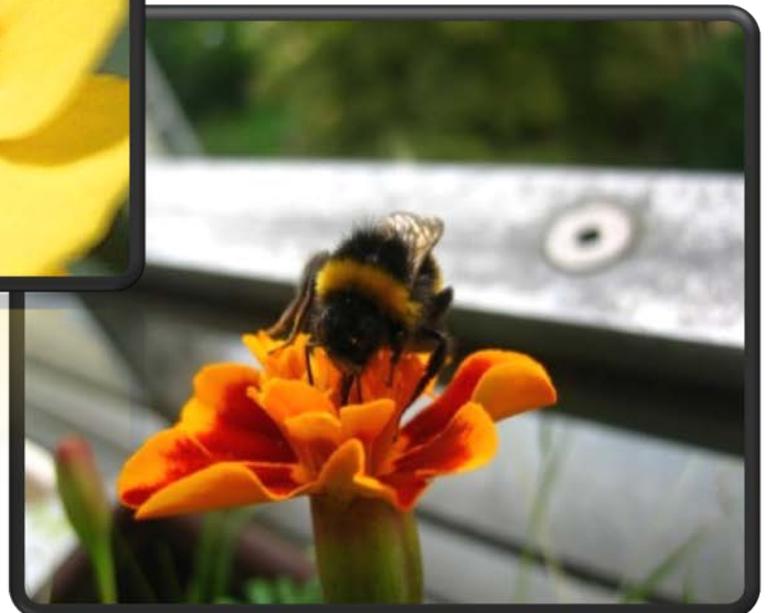
TYPICAL EQUIPMENT

The equipment for beekeeping operations typically include, but is not limited to, protective clothing (head net, suite, gloves), smoker, hive tool, hive boxes (deep brood boxes, honey supers, etc.)

ANNUAL UPDATE

This annual update should give the District an overview of activities throughout the past calendar year. Examples of items to include in the annual report would be:

1. How much honey was produced
2. Were the bees used primarily for pollination
3. What by-products were produced
4. What products were purchased for the operation
5. Maintenance log of the hives
6. Supplemental feeding log of the hives
7. Additional bees purchased during the year
8. Predator prevention such as Africanized bees or fire ants
9. Any other information important to the operation



Supplemental Beekeeping Questionnaire

Property Owner's Name: _____

Property ID #'s: _____

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

Number of acres for application _____ When did you receive your bees? _____

Attach a copy of the apiary receipt from your purchase.

When did you obtain your equipment for the bees? _____

What type of bees are you raising? _____

How long have you been raising bees? _____

How many hives do you have on the property now? _____

Who will be managing the bee colony? _____

Is there a hired bee wrangler? If yes, who? _____

Describe any beekeeping education obtained _____

DESCRIBE THE PRODUCTS YOU EXPECT TO HARVEST:

____ Honey – (Extracted, Comb, Chunk, Creamed or Whipped Honey)

____ Beeswax

____ Propolis

____ Royal Jelly

____ Pollen

____ Bees themselves

Expected pound of production per hive is _____

How do you plan to market your products? _____

DESCRIBE ANY POLLINATION PLANS FOR YOUR PROPERTY:

(i.e.: what plants are on your property now? Have you planted specific flowers for the bees?)

PLEASE NOTE: The bees must be alive, active and producing to qualify. The operation is subject to an annual review and verification.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____