



RUSK COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 7 – HENDERSON, TEXAS 75653-0007
(903) 657-3578 FAX (903) 657-9073

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR AGRICULTURE LAND

- The land must be currently devoted principally to agricultural use to the degree of intensity generally accepted in the area. It must have been devoted principally to agricultural use for five of the preceding seven years or if within the city limits continuously for the preceding five years.
- An application for 1-d-1 agriculture use valuation and supportive documentation must be filed with the appraisal district no later than April 30th of the current year without penalty.
- A late application, after May 1st of the current year, may be filed until approval of the Appraisal Records which is normally prior to July of the current year. Late application will receive a penalty of 10%. After approval of the Appraisal Records no applications will be accepted per State Law.
- Upon receipt of the application with supportive documentation the property must pass an on-site field inspection by our appraisal staff.

DEGREE OF INTENSITY STANDARDS FOR RUSK COUNTY

- Hay Production – Minimum of 5 acres must be designated to hay production.
- Grazing Pasture – Minimum acreage will be determined by type of livestock and type of pasture later in this document.
- Bee Keeping – Minimum of 5 acres and no more than 20 acres. Minimum of 4 mainframe hives for 5 acres. Minimum of 12 mainframe hives for 20 acres. Hives must be maintained and kept alive. Flowering plants must be planted to support hives if the hives are in areas where there is limited vegetation that requires pollination. RCAD will grant agricultural use on the total acreage, not just the area where the hives sit.
- Wildlife Management – The land must have had either Agricultural Use or Wildlife Management applied to the property the previous year for the land to qualify under Wildlife Management. The 1-D-1 Open Space Texas Parks & Wildlife application must be completed and turned in along with supportive evidence for each of the management practices the property owner is actively using. Included in your plan you must be actively using at least 3 of the following 7 ways to propagate a sustaining breeding, migrating, or wintering population of indigenous wild animals for human consumption, including food, medicine or recreation.
 - (a) Habitat Control
 - (b) Erosion Control
 - (c) Predator Control
 - (d) Providing supplemental supplies of water
 - (e) Providing supplemental supplies of food
 - (f) Providing shelter
 - (g) Making census counts to determine population



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Each management practice must meet the degrees of intensity set forth by the Texas Parks & Wildlife for the Pineywoods ecological region. Detailed information about the degrees of intensity as well as further guidelines and information from the TPWD can be found at the following website: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/private/agricultural/land/> Assistance is encouraged and is available from the TPWD, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the Texas Forest Service or local qualified biologists.

- Orchard/Vineyard
 - Pecan/Fruit Trees – 15 Trees per acre
 - Vineyard – 100 per acre
 - Type of crops and number per acre. Copies of receipts related to planting/harvesting and management of the orchard/vineyard

Levels of intensity are listed in animal units. These units are based on consumption levels of different classes of livestock. RCAD requires a minimum of 4-animal units to qualify for the agriculture valuation.

The following is a list of the number of each class of livestock that typically constitutes one animal unit:

	Typical Animal Unit	RCAD Minimal Head Requirement
Cow/Bull	1	4
Calves	2	8
Goat/Sheep	5	20
Broodmare/Jennies	2	4

Acreage Requirement

This section will serve as a guideline to the required number of acres to handle the required number of animal units.

TYPE OF PASTURE	NATIVE PASTURE (APO)
TYPICAL ACRES PER ANIMAL UNIT	4
Cow/Bull	16
Calves	16
Goat/Sheep	16
Broodmare/Jennies	16