

Wood County Appraisal District

Agricultural, Timber, and Wildlife Management Guidelines

The following guidelines are provided to assist property owners in understanding the general requirements for qualifying land under Agricultural, Timber, or Wildlife Management appraisal in Wood County. These guidelines represent the typical degree of intensity required within Wood County and are intended as a general reference.

General Qualification

To qualify for an Agricultural or Timber appraisal, the property must have been devoted principally to agricultural or timber production for **at least five (5) of the preceding seven (7) years**.

Agricultural Production Guidelines

Animal Units

Animal Unit (AU): One (1) Animal Unit is defined as **1,000 pounds of animal weight**.

Pasture or Hay Production

- Minimum of **5 acres** devoted to pasture or hay production.
 - Stocking rate must average **one (1) Animal Unit for every five (5) acres**.
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Beekeeping

- Minimum of **5 acres**.
 - Maximum of **20 acres** may be designated for beekeeping.
 - Minimum of **six (6) active bee colonies**.
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Truck Crops

- Minimum of **5 acres** devoted to truck crops.
- **Orchards:** Minimum of **15 trees per acre**.
- **Vineyards:** Minimum of **100 vines per acre**.
- **Watermelons and Sweet Potatoes:** Minimum of **10 acres**.

Property owners should retain copies of receipts, production records, planting information, and documentation showing crop yields per acre to verify agricultural use.

Timber Production Guidelines

Minimum Acreage

- **Plantation Pine:** Minimum **5 acres**
- **Native Timber:** Minimum **10 acres**

Timber production must be managed with the intent of producing timber and timber products for commercial sale at a degree of intensity that is typical for Wood County.

A **current written Timber Management Plan** must accompany all timber applications.

Timber Management Plan Requirements

The plan should include:

- A map of plat of site showing types of trees and acreage by type.
 - Volume estimate by class of timber stands by class of trees.
 - Detailed history of past timber management activities, including harvest dates.
 - A detailed long-term timber management plan.
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Wildlife Management Guidelines

Land devoted to Wildlife Management must have previously qualified for Agricultural or Timber appraisal for **at least five (5) of the preceding seven (7) years**.

The property must be actively managed to sustain breeding, migrating, or wintering populations of indigenous wildlife by implementing **at least three (3)** of the following approved wildlife management practices:

- Habitat Control
- Erosion Control
- Predator Control
- Providing Supplemental Supplies of Water
- Providing Supplemental Supplies of Food
- Shelter
- Census Counts (Population Monitoring)

Requirements

- Minimum of **15 acres**
 - A completed **Wildlife Management Plan** must be submitted with the application.
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Application Deadlines

Applications for Agricultural, Timber, and Wildlife Management appraisal should be filed **on or before April 30**.

For good cause, the Chief Appraiser may extend the filing deadline for **one period not to exceed 60 days**.

After the extension period, a late application may be accepted **before the Appraisal Review Board approves the appraisal records** (generally around **July 20** for the current tax year). However, a late filing penalty of **10% of the tax savings** will apply. The penalty is based on the difference between the taxes imposed under the special appraisal and the taxes that would have been imposed at market value.

References

Texas Property Tax Code

- **Chapter 23, Subchapter C – Agricultural Land**
 - **Chapter 23, Subchapter D – Timber Land**
 - **Chapter 23, Subchapter E – Wildlife Management**
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Questions?

These guidelines were developed and approved by the **Wood County Appraisal District Agricultural Advisory Board**.

For additional information or assistance, please contact:

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