



## DEGREE OF INTENSITY TEST

The Degree of Intensity test measures what the owner is putting into his agricultural enterprise - in time, labor, equipment, management, capital and compares it with typical levels of "inputs" for the same enterprise in the area generally.

To receive productivity valuation the land must be used for an agricultural purpose to the degree of intensity typical in the area. The test is intended to exclude land on which token agricultural use occurs in an effort to obtain tax relief.

It is the responsibility of each Appraisal District to set up standards according to local agricultural practices. In each of the following categories are the requirements needed to meet the degree of intensity test.

### DRY CROPLAND

#### Typical Crops: Wheat, Oats, Corn, Grain Sorghum

Following the necessary production practices for specific crops are required to meet the degree of intensity for crop production. If proper farming practices are not followed in a timely manner, it is likely that the crop will not make or become overgrown with undesirable plants. The Texas Agricultural Extension Service has developed operator budgets and other guidelines that list proper practices and timing for specific crops.

#### Minimum Acreage – 10

#### Required Practices

Tilling the soil

Planting the crop

Applying herbicides

Applying fertilizer

Harvesting the crop

\* No-Till planting systems are acceptable

## **NATIVE PASTURE**

Native pastures are uncultivated lands occupied wholly or mainly by native or naturally introduced plants useful for grazing. It is desired that a native pasture furnish enough vegetation to sustain livestock year around without the need of supplemental feeding.

It is expected that the land should produce the primary nourishment for the livestock. A stocking rate should not exceed the carrying capacity of the land. A typical stocking rate for native pasture is 6-7 acres per animal unit. Common feeding practices such as supplement feeding the winter months can increase the land's stocking rate.

### **Minimum Requirements:**

**Four (4) animal units and sufficient forage to provide their primary nourishment.  
10 acres**

Other items common to the livestock industry are: fence repair, veterinarian cost, salt, minerals, equipment, labor and marketing.

## **IMPROVED PASTURE**

In this area Coastal Bermuda is the primary grass for this category. Coastal Bermuda is used for both livestock grazing and hay production.

**Grazing:** It is expected that the land should produce the primary nourishment for the livestock. A stocking rate should not exceed the carrying capacity of the land. A typical stocking rate for improved pasture is 3-5 acres per animal unit. Common feeding practices such as supplement feeding during the winter months can increase the land's stocking rate.

### **Minimum Requirements:**

**Four (4) animal units and sufficient forage to provide their primary nourishment.  
8 Acres**

Typically Coastal Bermuda receives an annual fertilization. Other items common to the livestock industry are: fence repair, veterinarian cost, salt, minerals, equipment, labor and marketing.

**Hay Production:** Coastal hay production requires fertilization to maximize production. Typically fertilizer is applied more than once a year to hay fields. Weed control is required. Two or more cuttings per year.

**Minimum Requirements: 8 Acres**

An animal unit (AU) is a livestock grazing unit.  
An animal unit is equal to:  
One cow  
Five sheep  
Six goats with or without offspring  
Two yearlings are equal to one grown animal  
One horse is considered as an animal unit.

## **HORTICULTURE**

**Qualifying land must be the site of production.**

**Minimum Requirements: 5 Acres**

**Nursery:** Commercial scale grower, wholesale operation, must propagate plants.

**Orchard:** Commercial scale fruit or nut orchard. Requires fertilization, weed control, herbicides and pesticides.

**Minimum Pecan trees - 35 per acre (start up) thinned as orchard matures.**

**Tree Farm:** Commercial scale grower, wholesale operation

**Vineyard:** Commercial Scale. Proper trellis construction, proper row and vine spacing, irrigation, weed control, pruning, fertilization, harvest etc.

## **BEE KEEPING**



Land used primary for beekeeping can qualify for agriculture use valuation. The land must be used to raise or keep bees for pollination or for the production of human food or other tangible products having a commercial value.

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

**Number of Hives:** The degree of intensity standard shall require a minimum of 6 colonies/hives. The Texas Agricultural code Section 131.001, defines an Apiary as a place where six or more colonies of bees or nuclei are kept. A colony means the hive and it's equipment and appurtenances including bees, comb, honey, pollen, and brood.

**Vegetation:** Land used primarily for beekeeping should be managed to encourage the growth of plants that support a bee population. The property should be planted primarily with species that are good sources of pollen and nectar such as clovers, goldenrods, milkweed, etc. On the other hand a coastal bermuda field would offer very little of either.

**Water:** There must be a useable water source within 1/4 mile of the hives.