

SOMERVELL COUNTY BEE GUIDELINES

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.**

Terminology descriptions and information from Texas Agriculture Code Sec 131.001:

1. "Apiary" means place where 6 or more colonies of bees or nuclei of bees are kept.
2. "Bee" means any stage of the common honeybee.
3. "Colony" means the hive and its equipment and appurtenances including bees, comb,
 1. honey, pollen & brood.

SCAD requires 4 hives on 5 acres with at least 1 permanent, active hive year-round.

Hives must be maintained and kept alive.

SCAD requires the maximum 20-acre tracts have a minimum of 12 hives year-round.

*See below for breakdown of how many hives are required.

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| 5 acres = 4 hives | 6 acres = 5 hives | 8 acres = 6 hives |
| 10 acres = 7 hives | 12 acres = 8 hives | 14 acres = 9 hives |
| 16 acres = 10 hives | 18 acres = 11 | 20 acres = 12 hives |

The hives must be located on the property for at least 7 months of the year. Bees travel up to 3 miles and will find what they need, or they will move. A prudent beekeeper will do everything necessary to provide for his colonies to keep them alive and will include planting vegetation if necessary.

*It should be noted that these guidelines are to be used as a general guide for qualifying agricultural land. Exceptions to this guide will be handled on a case by-case basis by the Chief Appraiser. *