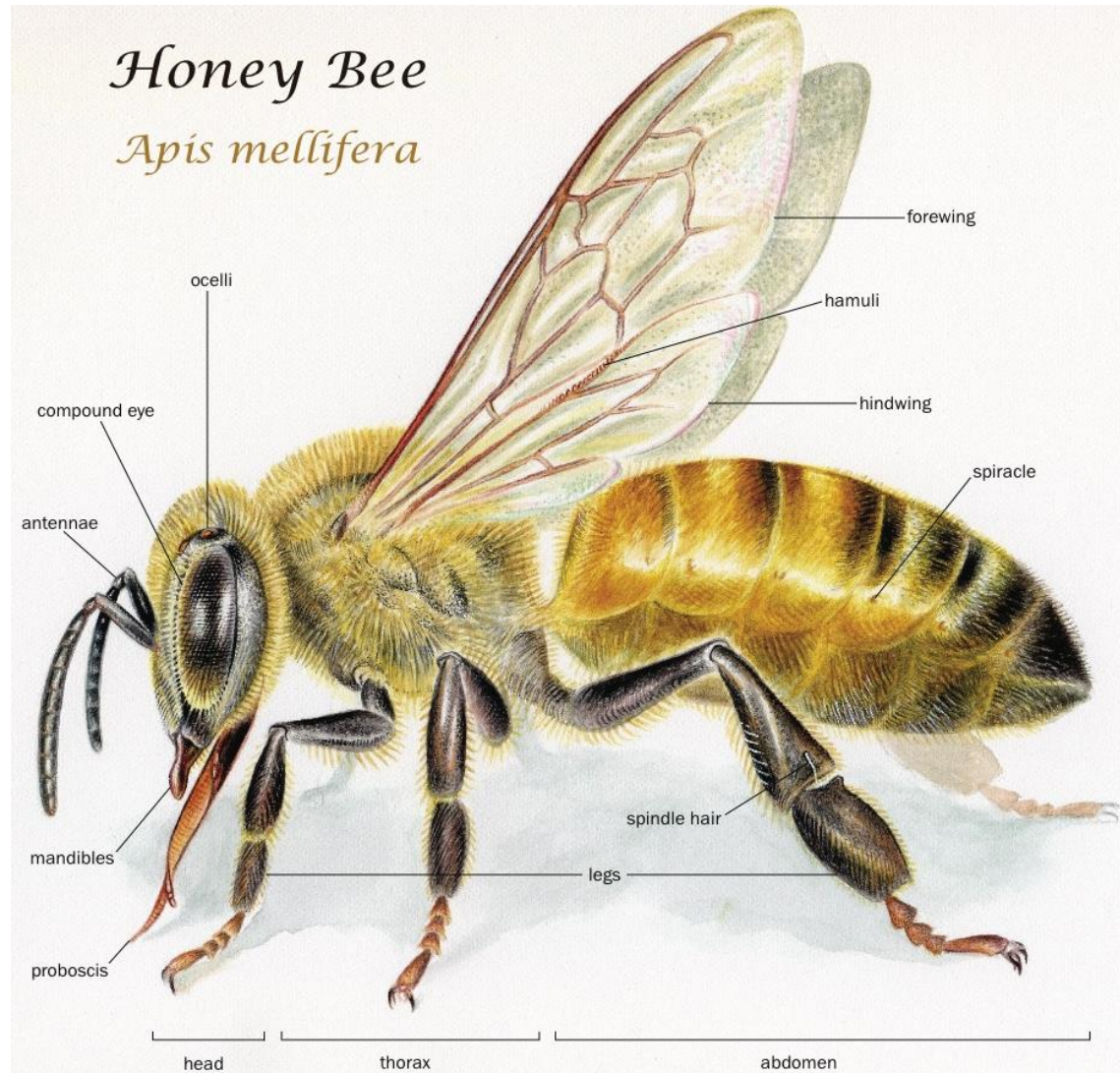




**Travis Central  
Appraisal District (TCAD)  
Beekeeping Policy  
Ag Use Determination**

**Richard Michalski  
TCAD Land/Ag & Residential  
Manager**



**Ag related questions, please call Richard Michalski at (512) 834-9317 extension 458**



# TCAD Beekeeping Ag Policy



## Texas Legislative Basis

### TEXAS TAX CODE, TITLE 1, CHAPTER 23, SUBCHAPTER D, SECTION 23.51(2)

**“Agricultural use” includes but is not limited to the following activities:** cultivating the soil, producing crops for human food, animal feed, or planting seed or for the production of fibers; floriculture, viticulture, and horticulture; raising or keeping livestock; raising or keeping exotic animals for the production of human food or of fiber, leather, pelts, or other tangible products having a commercial value; planting cover crops or leaving land idle for the purpose of participating in a governmental program, provided the land is not used for residential purposes or a purpose inconsistent with agricultural use; and planting cover crops or leaving land idle in conjunction with normal crop or livestock rotation procedure. The term also includes the use of land to produce or harvest logs and posts for the use in constructing or repairing fences, pens, barns, or other agricultural improvements on adjacent qualified open-space land having the same owner and devoted to a different agricultural use. The term also includes the use of land for wildlife management. **The term also 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.**



# TCAD Beekeeping Ag Policy



## Existing Ag Use Requirements

- **HISTORICAL** - 5 out of the **preceding** 7 years of verifiable Ag use
  - Copy of Schedule F from income tax filings
  - Copy of receipts for ag supplies (*e.g.* hives, frames, queens, honey sales, suits, smoker, etc.)
  - Two signed notarized statements from non-family neighbors witnessing 5 years ag use on property
  - Copy of subject property lease agreement for ag purposes
  - Any documentation that substantiates an ag use history
  - Pictures of beekeeping activities on subject property are always helpful
- **GEOGRAPHICAL** - Within Travis County
  - Abstract Legal Description (not in subdivision); or
  - Rural area not in city limits; or
  - Diminished access to typical utilities (*e.g.* water, electric, gas, etc.)
- **APPLICATION** - Timely completion of Application for Agricultural Use (50-129)
  - Filing deadline is April 30<sup>th</sup> for the year of consideration
  - **EXAMPLE:** Beekeeping activities 2013–2017, then apply for 2018 Ag by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018
  - File by mail or in person at TCAD, 8314 Cross Park Drive, Austin, TX 78714-9012



# TCAD Beekeeping Ag Policy



## Degree of Intensity Requirements

- **BEEKEEPING DEGREE OF INTENSITY** – Extract from TCAD Ag Use Guidelines
  - **Standard practices:** Management use of bees, hives, frames, supers, bee suits, smokers, branding, equipment maintenance and supplemental foods.
  - Appropriate registration, permitting and branding by the Texas Apiary Inspection Service.
  - Typical queen management activities to maintain health of hives.
  - Texas Agriculture Code Section 131.001(2) defines a place where six or more colonies of bees or nuclei of bees are kept as an Apiary.
  - Pursuant to Chapter 131 of the Texas Agricultural Code, apiaries are subject to regulatory oversight by the Texas Apiary Inspection Service who reports to the Director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Type	Acreage	Minimum to Qualify
Bee hives	5-20	6 hives



# TCAD Beekeeping Ag Policy

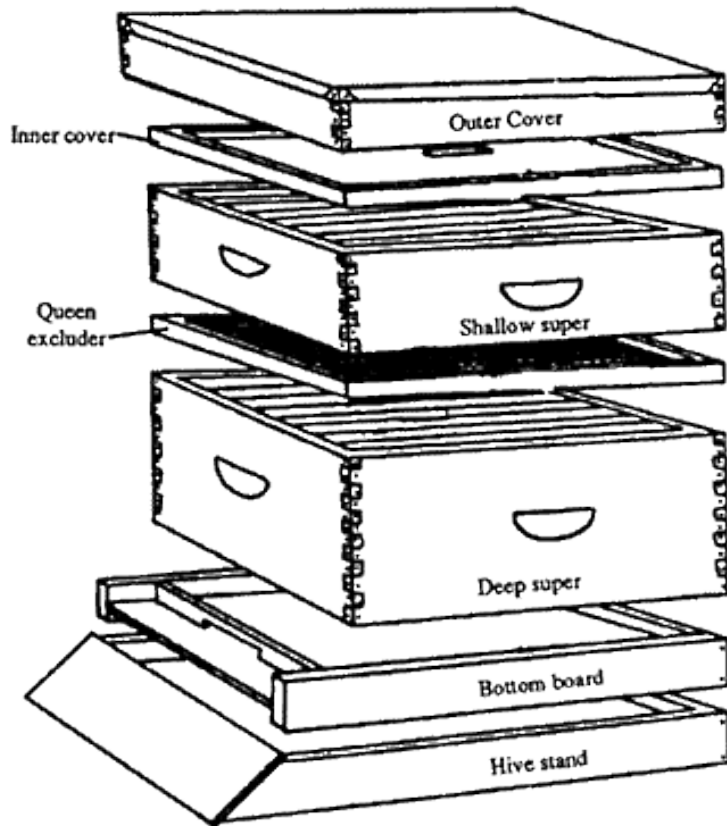


## Informational Resources

- **TCAD (Ag Valuation/Application) –**
  - Kathryn Gil, Ag Administrator, (512) 834-9317, extension 538
  - Richard Michalski, Land/Agriculture & Residential Manager, (512) 834-9317, extension 458
  - <http://www.traviscad.org/forms.html> (PDF links for Ag Application and Guidelines)
- **Texas Apiary Inspection Service (Apiary Permits) –**
  - Bill Baxter, Assistant Chief Apiary Inspector, (979) 845-9721
  - Texas Agriculture Code Chapter 131 - <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/>
- **Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office –**
  - Julie Ansley, County Extension Agent-Agriculture & Natural Resources, Travis County
  - (512) 854-9600
  - [jzansley@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jzansley@ag.tamu.edu)



# Sample of Typical Beekeeping Equipment



*Elements of a beehive*



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