

**GENERAL INFORMATION ON
QUALIFICATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL-USE APPRAISAL
HOUSTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT**

1. An application for 1d1 agricultural-use appraisal must be filed with the appraisal district between January 1 and April 30 and must be fully complete.
2. The land must be currently devoted principally to agricultural use at a level of intensity that is common for such land in the local area. Land where agricultural activities are practiced on a token use basis in an attempt to obtain tax relief does not qualify for agricultural-use appraisal.
3. The land must have been devoted principally to agricultural use or to the production of timber or forest products for a least five of the preceding seven years.
4. The land must be of a size substantial enough to support a typical agricultural operation; not less than 10 acres.
5. The general guidelines for grazing livestock are a **minimum of five animal units** (1 cow = 1AU) and at least 1 cow per 3-5 acres.
6. The general guidelines for hay production are two to three cuttings with a total annual production of approximately 3,000 pounds per acre on native hayfields and two cuttings with an annual total production of approximately 6,000 pounds per acre on improved hayfields.
7. Minimum use guidelines regarding agricultural practices other than grazing livestock and producing hay may be obtained from the appraisal district.
8. The guidelines are general in nature and each tract will be considered on its own merits and circumstances.
9. Land may be idled for a reasonable period of time, generally, one to two years, due to weather, economic conditions, transitions in use or other circumstances and still be considered in agricultural use.
10. All properties which are receiving agricultural appraisal or on which an application for agricultural appraisal has been filed are subject to a physical inspection.
11. The guidelines are subject to change each year.