

# Agricultural Use Intensity Standards



Under the authority of Section 6.12 of the Property Tax Code, the Freestone County Appraisal District Board of Directors appoints an Ag Advisory Board to aid the Chief Appraiser in recognizing typical agricultural related activities in the area.

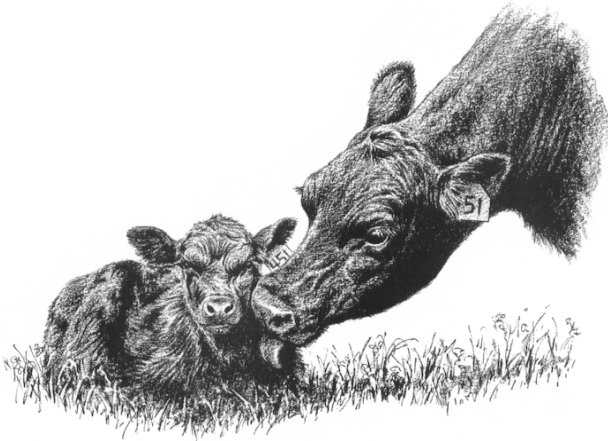
The Ag Advisory Board reviews the chief appraiser's calculations for open-space land values as well as recommends typical intensity standards for agricultural operations in the district.

These standards have were approved by the Freestone CAD Agricultural Advisory Board April 17, 2007

# Pasture

Information listed below is intended to be a representation of typical stocking rates on typical tracts in Freestone County. Appraisers may consider additional information from property owners if their level of use is less than what is considered to be typical in the district.

Qualifying activities include but are not limited to livestock grazing, and hay production. Planting crops and grasses for livestock consumption and fence maintenance.



## An Animal Unit is defined as:

- One 1000 lb cow & calf; or,
- Three sheep; or
- ½ horse

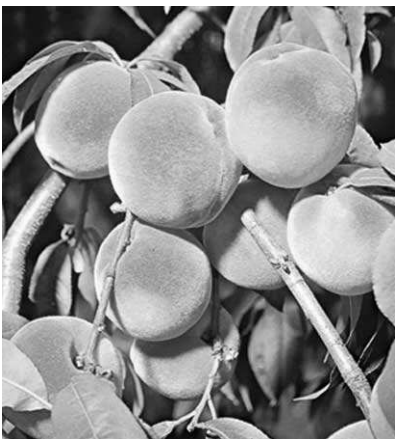
Land Type	Definition & Comments	
<b>Improved Pasture</b>	Land where weed/brush control is practiced as well as areas where fertilizer and/or supplements to the soil are added to enhance the productivity of the land.	3 to 5 acres per animal unit  Hay Meadows typically receive 200 lbs of balanced fertilizer per acre.
<b>Native Pasture</b>	Land that is used in its natural condition. Includes land where little or no weed/brush control is practiced and little or no fertilizer and/or supplements are added to the soil.	7 to 12 acres per animal unit
<b>Wooded Pasture</b>	Land that although primarily wooded, still has an agricultural use.  This does not include land where timber is being propagated for harvest.	This land in itself does not qualify as pasture/grazing land and must be used in connection with land that is devoted primarily to a qualifying agricultural activity and in most cases in connection with improved or native pasture land.
<b>Wooded Pasture</b>	Land that although primarily wooded, still has an agricultural use.  This does not include land where timber is being propagated for harvest.	This land in itself does not qualify as pasture/grazing land and must be used in connection with land that is devoted primarily to a qualifying agricultural activity and in most cases in connection with improved or native pasture land.

<b>Wasteland</b>	Land that has little agricultural productivity capacity due to severe erosion, or flooding; or' soil types that cannot support agricultural products in the same manner as the remainder of the associated land.	This land in itself does not qualify as pasture/grazing land and must be used in connection with land that is devoted primarily to a qualifying agricultural activity and in most cases in connection with improved or native pasture land
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## Orchards

Information listed below is intended to be a representation of typical orchards, croplands, and "truck farms" in Freestone County.

Qualifying activities include but are not limited to site preparation, erosion control, pest control, fungus control, and pruning



**Irrigated orchards should have trees planted 18 to 24 feet apart, approximately 100 trees per acre.**

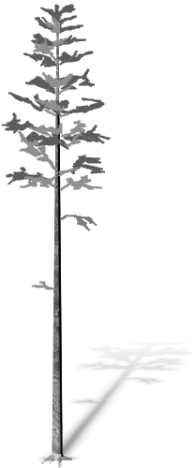
**Non-irrigated orchards should have trees planted 24 to 30 feet with 50 to 75 trees per acre.**

Land Type	Definition & Comments	
<b>Dry Cropland</b>	Land that is devoted to but not limited to the following activities: cultivating the soil, producing crops for human food, animal feed, planting seed or for the production of fibers; floriculture, viticulture and horticulture.	Typically 10.00 acres or more. The appraiser must consider the scale of the operation in terms of the feasibility of capital required in relation to the property's ability to produce income such as would be expected in a business venture rather than a hobby
<b>Orchard</b>	Land that has and/or vines introduced for the production and harvest of fruit i.e. apples, grapes, peaches, pears, pecans, etc.	

# Timber

The Texas Constitution permits timber productivity appraisal only if the property and its owner meet specific requirements defining timber-use. Land will not qualify simply because it has timber standing on it. IN addition, timberland that is used principally for aesthetic or recreational purposes will not qualify.

Freestone County has a soil classification of Soil Type 3 and therefore is not considered to be an area conducive to the production of timber.



**Trees should be planted with 10' between rows and 4' spacing between trees.**

**Pine Straw should be harvested every 4 to 5 years**

**Thinning and culling in 8 to 12 years.**

**Harvest timber in 18 to 20 years.**

Forest Type	Definitions & Comments	
<b>Pine</b>	Includes all forested areas in which the trees are predominately evergreens (green throughout the year and do not lose their leaves.).	Pine and other softwoods make up more than 2/3 of the trees
<b>Hardwood</b>	Includes all forested areas with a predominance of deciduous trees (trees which lose their leaves at the end of the frost-free season.	Deciduous trees make up more than 2/3 of the trees.
<b>Mixed</b>	Includes all forested areas where both evergreen and deciduous trees are growing and neither predominates.	Either evergreen or deciduous trees each make up more than 1/3 of the trees.