

**MARSHA M. FAUX CFA, ASA
POLK COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER**



AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Information and Guidelines

Bartow Office

255 N. Wilson Ave
Bartow, FL 33830

Phone: 863-534-4777
Fax: 863-534-4753
Hours: 8:30am-5:00pm
(M-F)

Lakeland Office

912 E. Parker St.
Lakeland, FL 33801

Phone: 863-413-2549
Fax: 863-413-2550
Hours: 8:30am-5:00pm
(M-F)

Winter Haven Office

3425 Lake Alfred Rd.
3 Gill Jones Plaza
Winter Haven, FL 33881

Phone: 863-401-2424
Fax: 863-401-2428
Hours: 8:00am-5:00pm
(M-F)

Website: www.polkpa.org

For property to qualify for agricultural classification, land must be used in good faith for commercial agricultural purposes.

Factors to be considered per FS 193.461 (3) (b)

- The length of time the land has been so utilized.
- Whether the use has been continuous.
- The purchase price paid.
- Size, as it relates to specific agricultural use.
- Whether an indicated effort has been made to care sufficiently and adequately for the land in accordance with accepted commercial agricultural practices, including, without limitation, fertilizing, liming, tilling, mowing, reforestation, and other accepted agricultural practices.
- Whether such land is under lease and, if so, the effective length, terms, and conditions of the lease.
- Whether a citrus grower is a CHRP participant
- Such other factors as may from time to time become applicable.

HOW TO APPLY FOR AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATION

An official application for agricultural classification must be completed and submitted to our office on or before **March 1st** of the year an owner first applies for the classification. Failure to file by March 1st will result in a loss of agricultural classification for 1 year. **January 1st** is the statutory assessment date therefore the property must be in use on this date. Each property is physically inspected before the classification is approved or denied. Notification of approval or denial should be received on or before **July 1st**.

LEASED PROPERTIES

If property is leased, the lease must be in effect as of January 1st. Please attach a copy of the lease to the application. The lease is not sufficient if actual use is not in place. It is the responsibility of the owner to make sure the lessee is complying with all the laws governing the greenbelt classification.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

• **How many head of cattle does it take to qualify?**

One head on a one acre parcel cannot be construed as commercial agriculture while 70 head on 100 acres could be. The smaller the tract of land, the more concentrated the use should be.

• **Do I have to reapply every year?**

No, if however the property sells it is the responsibility of the new owner to file a new application.

• **Will a dwelling on my property cause my parcel to be ineligible for the greenbelt classification?**

No, the parcel could still qualify. However, the home site and cartilage is NOT eligible for the classification, the home site may be eligible for homestead exemption.

The following is intended to serve as a suggestion and are NOT the sole deciding factor for determining if a property is granted the agricultural classification.

Minimum Guidelines *NO HOBBY FARMS*

Classification	Required	Acres Suggested
Citrus	100+ Trees/Acre	4 +/-
Cattle	Min. 6 Head	10+/-
Nursery	Irrigated & Stocked	1+/-
Goat Farm	Min. 12 Herd	3+/-
Hay Field	1-2 Cuts per Year	10+/-
Horses	Breeding Operation Only	10+/-
Planted Pines	600-800 Trees/Acre	10+/-
Natural Timber (Pines)	Commercial Stand	10+/-