



Apache County Agricultural Classification Requirements

Forms 82916-C, 82916-S, and 82917-C are to be submitted with forms 82916 and 82917 respectively.

All Agricultural Land Use Applications and Statement of Agricultural Land Lease forms MUST be submitted before September 1st for qualification in subsequent tax year.

I. Eligibility

To be eligible for agricultural classification, property must meet specific criteria in the following areas and be in active production or use, three out of the last five years:

1. Use

- a. The primary use of the land must be agricultural. Ownership alone does not qualify property for agricultural classification.

2. Expectation of Profit

- a. There must be a reasonable expectation of operating profit, exclusive of land cost, from the agricultural use of the property.

3. Functional Contribution

- a. If the property is non-contiguous, the non-contiguous parcel must be managed and operated on a unitary basis and each parcel must make a functional contribution to the agricultural use of the property. In general, non-contiguous parcels must be fenced, have an independent water source and have ingress and egress.

4. Filing Requirements

- a. The owner or the owner's designated agent must file a completed agricultural use application before the property may be classified as agricultural. This form must be filed with the Assessor's Office on the following occasions.
 - i. Applying for the first time on a piece of property.
 - ii. Newly created parcels (parcels either split or combined) regardless of the parent parcel's status.
 - iii. If the parcel changes ownership.
- b. Documents to be included in the Agricultural Land Use Application packet are:
 - i. Agricultural Land Use Application
 - ii. Agricultural Land Lease Abstract (If applicable)
 - iii. Agricultural Affidavit (Grazing or Field Crop)
 - iv. Map
 - v. Brands

If all or part of the property ceases to qualify as agricultural property, the person who owns the property at the time of change shall notify the Assessor with sixty (60) days after the change (A.R.S. 42-12156)

II. Penalties

The penalties for filing false information or failing to notify of change in use include:

- a. The property shall be reclassified immediately as being used for a non-agricultural use and shall be valued at its non-agricultural full cash value.
- b. The owner is liable for the additional taxes on the difference between the non-agricultural full cash value and the full cash value of the property for **all** the tax years in which the property was classified based on the false information.
- c. The owner shall also pay a penalty equal to twenty-five (25) percent of the additional taxes.

III. Crops

1. Field Crops: (Dry Farms per ARS. 42-12151)

Cropland in the aggregate of at least twenty (20) acres.

- a. No leased parcels under ten (10) acres will be classified as agricultural field crops.
- b. A copy of all current leases must be on file with the Assessor's Office and be accompanied by an agricultural lease statement.

2. Permanent Crops: (Including Alfalfa per A.R.S. 42-12151)

An aggregate ten (10) or more gross acres of permanent crops.

- a. No leased parcels under five (5) acres will be classified as agricultural permanent crops.
- b. A copy of all current leases must be on file with the Assessor's Office and be accompanied by an agricultural lease statement.

3. High Density

No minimum acreage.

Intensive use through comparatively large amounts of labor or capital per unit of land.

IV. Grazing Land (Per ARS 42-12151 & 42-12152)

1. Grazing land with a minimum carrying capacity of forty (40) animal units or approx. (3600 acres of natural grazing) and containing an economically feasible number of animal units.

Animal Units are as follows:

- a. One mature beef animal of 1,000 pounds
- b. One and one-quarter horses
- c. Five goats
- d. Five sheep

2. No leased parcel under twenty (20) acres (unless established water supply) will be classified as agricultural grazing. A smaller parcel does not contribute to the overall operation.
3. A copy of all current leases must be on file with the Assessor's Office and be accompanied by **brand inspections, livestock sales receipts, a map showing your parcel(s) in conjunction with the ranchers' lease land and the Grazing Ranch Management Plan.**