



# FLORIDA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

THE VOICE OF AGRICULTURE

March 9, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in support of the Apiculture Agricultural Classification Guidelines developed by the Florida State Beekeepers Association and the Florida Association of Property Appraisers. Florida Farm Bureau commends both organizations for taking this step to bring uniformity to apiculture agricultural assessment qualification. Members of Florida Farm Bureau's Apiculture Advisory Committee were a part of this conversation from the beginning and we are confident that the guidelines presented represent the interests of the commercial apiculture industry.

Florida Farm Bureau has supportive policy of this as outlined below:

16. Beekeeping Greenbelt Assessment

We recommend that the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry (FDACS/DPI), the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) and the Florida State Beekeepers Association (FSBA) work to educate county property appraisers in an effort to standardize rules that harmonize beekeeping agricultural assessment classification for greenbelt tax assessment purpose.

Agricultural assessment is an exemption for Florida farmers and is one that must be protected for commercial beekeepers; especially as interests in hobby beekeeping rise. Thank you for supporting Florida agriculture and the apiculture industry.

Sincerely,

Director of Agricultural Policy