

Qualified Agricultural Property

Only the owner can claim an exemption. An owner generally is the person who holds the legal title to the property. An owner includes the buyer on a land contract, the holder of a life lease and the grantor of property placed in a revocable trust or qualified personal residence trust (QPRT). An owner may be an individual, or a legal business entity of any type.

For property classified agricultural, qualified agricultural property is:

1. vacant land;
2. all farm-related structures;
Farm-related buildings do not include those used for commercial storage, commercial processing, commercial distribution, commercial marketing, commercial shipping, or any other commercial or industrial use.
3. any residences on the property if they are occupied by a person who is employed in or who is actively involved in the farming operation and who has not filed a Homestead Exemption Affidavit for another residence.

Property that is not classified as agricultural still qualifies for this exemption if more than 50 percent of the acreage is devoted to an agricultural use. "Agricultural use" means the production of plants and animals useful to humans, including forages and sod crops; grains, feed crops, and field crops; dairy and dairy products; poultry and poultry products; livestock, including breeding and grazing of cattle, swine, captive cervidae, and similar animals; berries; herbs; flowers; seeds; grasses; nursery stock; fruits; vegetables; Christmas trees; and other similar uses and activities. Agricultural use includes use in a federal acreage set-aside program or a federal conservation reserve program. Agriculture use does not include the management and harvesting of a woodlot.

Property not classified agricultural that is used for agricultural purposes is subject to the same limitations as property classified agricultural (see 1 - 3 above).