



# Agricultural Exemption from Natural Resources Permit Application

This packet has been prepared to assist you through the exemption process for the Natural Resources Permit Section 4.01.03 of the Land Development Code (Code). Included are necessary forms, application materials, and explanations. If you need additional information or have questions, please contact the Natural Resources Team, Development Services Division, at (813)272-5600. After all the necessary materials have been assembled, you will need to file your request with the Development Services Department, Development Review, County Center, 20th Floor, 601 E. Kennedy Boulevard. **In order to avoid delays, please contact a County representative at [naturalresources@HCFLGov.net](mailto:naturalresources@HCFLGov.net) for assistance with this application.** You may bring the application to County Center between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for a sufficiency review from Natural Resources staff or submit your documents online at [HCFLGov.net/DigitalDropoff](https://HCFLGov.net/DigitalDropoff). The County representative will review the application for completeness and assign an application review number. No fee is required for an agricultural exemption review, however, if an exemption is not justified a permit application and applicable fee will be required. A determination supporting your request for an exemption from permitting will result in a formal written response.

**Please Note:** This is **not** an application for [Agricultural Exemption from a Building Permit](#). Those applications must be submitted on [HillsGovHub](#).

### Property Information

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Size of Property (acreage): \_\_\_\_\_ Folio#: \_\_\_\_\_  
Section/Township/Range: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Directions to property: \_\_\_\_\_

### Property Owner Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

### Applicant Information (if other than owner)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

### Person, Firm or Corporation to physically conduct land alteration/tree removal activity

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

### Zoning Information

Is this property being rezoned?  YES  NO  
If yes, to what zoning district? \_\_\_\_\_ Zoning Petition Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current land use of property: \_\_\_\_\_  
Have you been counseled by Development Services Department staff?  YES  NO  
If yes, by whom? \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT(S): The Owner or Authorized Agent hereby applies for a Agricultural Exemption for the purpose of performing the following activity(ies) (✓ & complete as applicable):**

- Tree Removal (number, trunk diameter, type):
- Grubbing (type of vegetation):
- Clearing (type of vegetation):
- Grading
- Excavating (cubic yards to be removed off-site):
- Filling (type, source, and cubic yards):



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## Proposed Agricultural Activity Information

1. Proposed Agricultural Use(s)

<u>Use</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Anticipated Years of Use</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Citrus	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cropland	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Grazing Land	_____	_____
Number of livestock: _____		
Will supplemental feeding be required? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry ( <b>attach copy of proposed Forest Management Plan</b> ).		
<input type="checkbox"/> Poultry, swine, or beeyard _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish Farm _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify type) _____		

2. Land Use History

- a. What has been the historical land use of the property?
- b. For how long?  
Current land use?
- c. Was this property classified as Agricultural for Ad Valorem Tax purposes by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser in the last year?  Yes  No
- d. If yes, for how many years and for what agricultural uses?

3. Agricultural Income

	<u>Proposed Crop</u>	<u>Projected Income</u>	<u>Projected Expense</u>	<u>Projected Net Income</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Land Purchase: (Date) _____		(Price) _____		

I hereby certify that this application, as well as any plans, tree survey, and environmentally sensitive area delineation submitted herewith, are a true representation of all facts concerning the proposed land alteration/tree removal. This application is made with my approval as Owner or Authorized Agent for the Owner, as evidenced by my signature below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Owner or Authorized Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Name Here

OFFICE STAFF USE ONLY					Submittal Date Stamp:
Optix Tracking NRAE #: _____	Current Zoning _____	Atlas Page _____			
Staff Initials: _____	Receipt #: _____				
Agricultural Exemption Justified?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No			
NRL Permit Required?	<input type="checkbox"/> NR(O)	<input type="checkbox"/> NR(G)	<input type="checkbox"/> NR(C)	<input type="checkbox"/> NRSFD	
Natural Resources Fee _____	Grand Oaks Fee _____	EPC Fee _____			



# Hillsborough County Florida Agricultural Exemption Documents That May Be Required (Staff Determined)

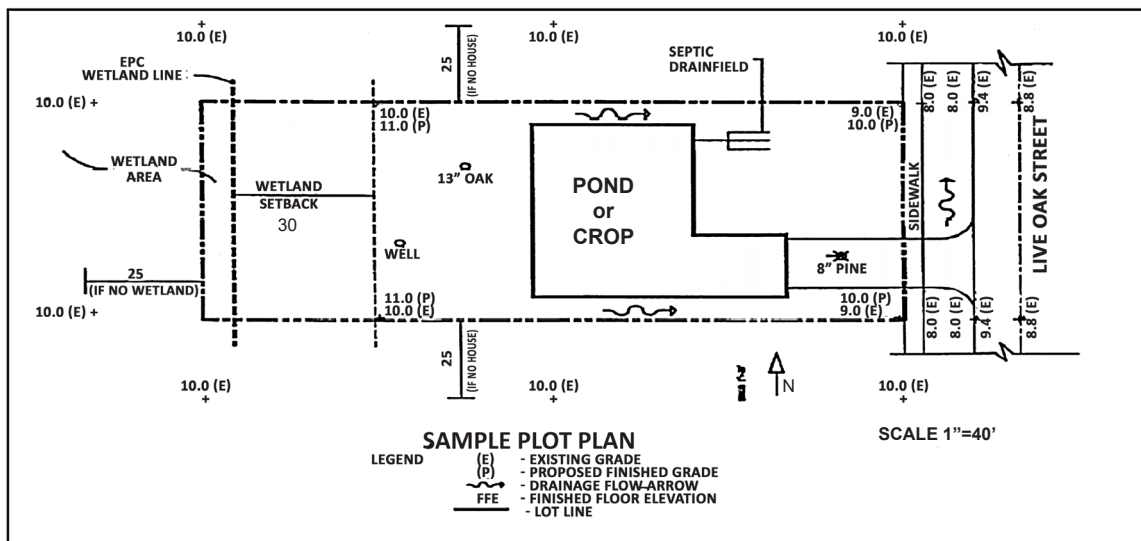
Required?	Submitted?	Requirements
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Completed Natural Resources Agricultural Exemption Application
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Legal Description of Property. This may be all or the area of the land alteration within the property as indicated in the deed. This should be labeled "Attachment A."
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Aerial Photograph. A recent section aerial photograph, at a scale of 1 inch = 200 feet with property boundaries and area of proposed land alteration activities outlined and the adjoining roadways labeled. This may be downloaded for the <a href="#">Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's</a> website.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Site Plan. See example below.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Wells. Type and location of any well within 500 feet of any area to be excavated and dewatered.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Permeability Test. Results of the analysis of an in-situ field permeability test (horizontal) of any area to be excavated and dewatered.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Dewatering Method. Description of dewatering method indicated on site plans and methods used to control turbidity.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Soil Borings. Three test results, signed and sealed by a Civil Engineer registered in Florida, for any excavation that goes below natural land surface.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. For proposed <b>agriculture irrigation reservoirs</b> : provide a copy of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) permit or exemption from permitting document or Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) permit. The submission of this documentation will exclude items 5 thru 8.

Note: Items 5 thru 8 are only necessary for excavations proposed to go more than 15 feet below natural grade unless determined otherwise by staff. Items 5 thru 8 will not be required for excavations which have received a Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) or Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) permit or other pertinent SWFWMD or FDEP document addressing water quality and quantity concerns. A copy of this documentation must be furnished with the application.

## Site Plan Example

SITE PLAN must be drawn to scale to show the following items:

1. Location and size of parcel. Identify location of proposed land alteration activity.
2. Existing and proposed grades on maximum 100 foot centers throughout the proposed land alteration area.
3. Typical cross section of each area to be excavated or filled, estimated depth of excavation or fill area, and estimated volume of material to be hauled on and/or offsite.
4. The dimension of the excavation or fill area.





## **Agricultural Exemption from Natural Resources Permit Application Additional Information**

A. An exemption from permitting may apply for land alteration activities which are normal and necessary to conduct bona fide agricultural operations in zoning categories which allow agricultural uses as long as the activities:

1. Does not involve the removal of more than 500 cubic yards of material offsite.
2. Does not cause an adverse impact to upland and/or wetland environmentally sensitive areas.
3. Does not cause an adverse impact to neighboring properties by impeding or diverting the flow of surface water entering or leaving the property boundaries.
4. Do conform to the standards specified in Placement of Fill, Section 4.01.05. E of the Land Development Code.

B. Bona fide agricultural operations mean activities normal and necessary for good faith commercial agricultural use of the land. Such agricultural uses include horticulture, floriculture, viticulture, forestry, dairy, livestock, poultry, bee, aquaculture, pisciculture, and activities that might include but are not limited to the following activities: transplanting, tilling; plowing; planting; harvesting; contouring to prevent erosion; fencing; construction of internal roads, bridges, or culverts to facilitate these operations; construction or maintenance of irrigation and drainage ditches; control structures or dikes; and construction, operation or maintenance of agricultural use ponds. In determining whether the activity is normal and necessary for the good faith commercial agricultural use of the land, the following factors may be considered.

1. Specific agricultural use of the property.
2. Size of the property as it relates to specific agricultural use.
3. Land designated agricultural by the Hillsborough County Tax Assessor.
4. Pending applications for land use or zoning changes.

C. Development Services Department staff will consider the following factors to determine approval, approval with conditions, or disapproval of the proposal with comments:

1. The effect that the proposed land alteration will have on soil conservation, surface water quality and flows, and possible drainage disturbance to surrounding properties.
2. The effect that the proposed land alteration will have to onsite trees and vegetation.
3. The effect that the excavation will have on the quality of groundwater.
4. The effect that the excavation will have on water levels of surface and ground waters.
5. The effect that the proposed land alteration will have on all environmentally sensitive areas (i.e., wetlands, and upland significant and essential wildlife habitats).
6. The necessity for compliance with other regulations, (e.g., zoning, building, and environmental regulations).

### **D. The following activities for existing bona fide agricultural operations do not require an application for an Agricultural Exemption to the Natural Resource Permit:**

- A. Normal agricultural practices such as, field preparation, transplanting, tilling, plowing, planting, and harvesting, however, forestry operations and the conversion of natural lands to improved pasture do require completion of an Agricultural Exemption application.
- B. Routine resetting or replacement of tree crops (citrus) or other crops to replace dead or diseased plants.
- C. Removal of plant material (trees, shrubs, other plants) grown on a plant farm specifically for sale during the ordinary course of business.
- D. Tree removal which is exempted by Section 4.01.03 of the Land Development Code.
- E. Trimming of trees in accordance with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 Standards.
- F. Limited tree removal and/or trimming not conforming to ANSI A300 Standards on existing farm operations to achieve crop production requirements.
- G. Installation, repair, or replacement of irrigation piping systems.
- H. Maintenance of existing permitted ponds, water control structures, culverts and drainage systems.
- I. Recontouring of raised beds, water furrows, and swales.
- J. Fire line maintenance.