

This is the Legislative Intent for Agricultural Exemptions that was presented to the Board of County Commissioners after discussions with agricultural interests and citizens.

**Legislative Intent
Agricultural Exemptions**

It is the intent of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners that Chapter 62, Article XIII, Division 3, Brevard County Code, be amended to

1. Clearly state that bona fide commercial agricultural/silvicultural operations as determined by the Property Appraiser's Office are exempt from the provisions of Article XIII, Division 3 provided best-management practices are employed. Allow exemptions for the addition of new lands to existing bona fide agricultural operations.
2. For properties seeking new commercial or domestic exemption for agricultural/silvicultural use, establish a three-year time period (from the date of clearing) for which the County shall not entertain the conversion of these properties to nonagricultural uses and require the recording of an agricultural covenant. Allow for waivers in hardship cases, such as, but not limited to, bankruptcy or property sold for settlement of an estate.
3. Establish requirements for properties seeking conversion prior to the 3 year time period, including land clearing penalties under Sec. 62-4362 and vegetation replacement under Sec. 62-4366 (d) except in hardship cases as waived above.
4. Require the preservation of "protected" trees (10" or larger) on land cleared for domestic agricultural use consistent with the preservation requirements of Section 62-4366(b).
5. Define domestic agriculture as property used for non-commercial agricultural activities such as, but not limited to, the keeping of livestock or vegetable production for personal use.
6. Exempt historical agricultural/silvicultural lands that are put back into production.
7. Exempt the expansion areas of bona fide operations that have been in existence for 3 or more years.
8. Allow waiver for fire management practices and habitat management.