

How do I qualify for exemption from getting a building permit, for an Agricultural Building?

Before it can be determined if you qualify for an Agricultural Building Code Exemption, a completed building permit application, along with all other associated documentation, must be submitted to the Building Official for review. Each application will be reviewed, on an individual basis, for eligibility.

THERE ARE TWO MAIN CRITERIA THAT MUST BE MET TO RECEIVE THE AGRICULTURAL BUILDING CODE EXEMPTION:

1. The parcel of property on which you plan to build the structure must be classified as agricultural or it must have a qualified agricultural exemption. *It is your township assessor who classifies the use of your property, according to state law, while using state guidelines.*
2. The use of the new structure, must be related to the agricultural use of the parcel of land on which it will be constructed, **AND may not be used in the business of retail trade or for residential storage or use.**

The definition of “Agricultural” is: “Agricultural or agricultural use, means of, or pertaining to, or connected with, or engaged in agriculture or tillage which is characterized by the act or business of cultivating or using land and soil for the production of crops for use by animals or humans, and includes but is not limited to, purposes related to agriculture, farming, dairying, pasturage, horticulture, floriculture, viticulture, and animal and poultry husbandry.”

You must meet **BOTH** criteria to be eligible for the Agricultural Building Code Exemption. If you do not meet both criteria, you will be required to obtain a building permit, before construction begins.

If the Building Official finds you are eligible for the Agricultural Building Code Exemption, you will be required to sign an affidavit, which will be provided to you.

If you have questions, please call the building department M-F from 8:30a – 4:30p at 269-208-3109 or stop by the office on Wednesday mornings from 9am – 11am.