

Permitting Policy
Agricultural Crown Land
March 2024

A. Purpose

1. To enable vacant agricultural Crown lands with definable acreage; to be used on a short-term basis for grazing, hay and cultivation until a long-term disposition or sale can be arranged.
2. To enable vacant agricultural Crown lands with undefinable acreage; to be used on a short-term basis.

B. Eligibility

The applicant must:

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Actively manage the permitted lands for agricultural purposes;
- Meet all requirements set out under *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act* (including being a Canadian citizen, permanent resident of Canada, or corporation/membership-based organization which is 100 per cent Canadian-owned and not publicly traded);
- Have legal access to the permitted land or written agreements for crossing any adjacent lands;
- Have any existing accounts with the Ministry in an acceptable status;
- Corporations and co-operatives must be registered and in active status with Information Services Corporation (ISC) Corporate Registry;
- Complete the required application form and submit any supporting documentation that the Ministry requests; and
- In the case of a grazing or hay permit, have or will obtain a Saskatchewan Premises Identification Number (PID).

C. Short Term Tender Permit (definable acreage)

Land which has defined acreage (permanently dry upland parcels), may be permitted by the Land Management Specialist on a short-term basis as follows:

1. Land available, including conditions of tender, will be advertised in the local area and on the Saskatchewan.ca website.
2. Issuance of a permit will depend on the acceptance of any special provisions and conditions with regard to land use.
3. Where land was advertised for permit by public tender, but no permit was issued, the land will be available for permit through the Land Management Specialist at a minimum acceptable bid. A permit will be issued on a first come, first served basis to eligible applicants.
4. The Ministry reserves the right to withdraw any lands from the tender ad at any time prior to authorizing a permit.
5. In addition to the tender bid amount, the Ministry will collect a separate cheque payable to the rural municipality for taxes where land is permitted under this section.

D. Hay Tonnage Permit (undefinable acreage)

Land which has undefinable acreage (non-permanently dry wetlands, sloughs) may be permitted by the Land Management Specialist, on a short-term basis for the production of hay. These lands are typically wetlands and sloughs, where usable acreage cannot be defined due to seasonal moisture conditions.

1. Permits may be issued after June 1st:
 - on a first come, first served basis; or
 - to the owner of the balance of the quarter.
2. The applicant will declare a reasonable estimate of the hay production for the land and the Land Management Specialist will verify and calculate the permit fee. This will be the rental for the year and no refund requests based on yield will be accepted.
3. Rural Municipalities are not entitled to taxes for these permits as these lands typically have no SAMA assessment.

E. Director Permit

1. Permits may be issued by a Director of Land Management in extenuating circumstances such as:
 - A new lease cannot be issued pending a Treaty Land Entitlement or Specific Land Claim selection; or
 - Land that has no direct legal and physical access and is only accessible by adjacent land owners; or
 - Land where the balance of the quarter is privately owned.
2. RM taxes will be the responsibility of the permittee.

F. General

1. Permits will first be offered to a First Nation community if the lands have been selected under their Treaty Land Entitlement or Specific Land Claim agreement and are in an 18-month freeze period.
2. The Ministry will not compensate the permittee for any improvements made to the land during the term of the permit.
3. Permits will typically expire on October 31 in the year of issuance.
4. A permit does not convey any consideration or priority right for the future disposition of the land.
5. Bidders must rely on their own personal inspection of the land. Acres and improvement conditions are approximate.
6. Land may be left vacant due to poor condition or lack of adequate fencing/water improvements.

Visit saskatchewan.ca/crownlands for more information or to contact your local regional office.