

Important Questions You May Have About Your Crown Agricultural Lease

Please contact a Land Management Specialist in your district for questions about your lease and leased land.

- 1. What does it mean to be actively involved in the farming operation?** Typically, when a lessee is actively involved in a farming operation, you are the decision maker for the operation, you would be claiming the operation on your Canada Revenue Agency taxes, Crop Insurance would be in your name and if it's a grazing operation you would own the cattle.
- 2. What does it mean to farm in a "husbandry like manner?"** To farm in a "husbandry like manner" is to use farming practices that do not cause unnecessary harm to the people, animals, and the environment that the farming practices occur in and/or around. These practices "can include developing grazing rotations that do not exceed the amount of forage available on a lease area, or ensuring optimal management of the crop for establishment, growth and harvesting. Lessees are to ensure quick, uniform, vigorous growth of plants through the use of crop rotation, timing, row spacing and fertilizer inputs.
- 3. What if I have questions about farming in a "husbandry like manner"?** Husbandry is a broad term that can include many different practices that depends on the land the lease area is located, the lease terms and the needs of the lease holder. Please contact your Land Management Specialist or the Agricultural Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 to learn about practices that are best suited for your agricultural lease land needs.
- 4. Do I need prior approval to construct improvements such as fences and watering facilities?** Yes, all improvements require prior approval. Improvements include, but are not limited to: clearing and breaking land, including fence line clearing, construction of or major repairs to buildings and any beneficial changes to land that include clearing/breaking, dams, dugouts and fencing. Failure to obtain prior approval can impact your ability to access funding under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.
- 5. What does it mean if my leased land is ecologically sensitive?** All lessees who lease ecologically sensitive land have a shared responsibility for its protection. Obtaining permission from your Land Management Specialist before making improvements including fencing and dugouts on ecologically sensitive land is a benefit to you to ensure you're not in violation of the following:
 - *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act;*
 - *The Wildlife Act, 1998;*
 - *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002;*
 - *The Migratory Birds Convention Act (Canada)*
 - *The Saskatchewan Water Corporation Act;*
 - *Species at Risk Act (Federal);*
 - *The Conservation and Development Act;* and
 - *The Heritage Property Act.*

6. **Can I cultivate/convert native prairie on my leased land?** The cultivation or conversion of native prairie is prohibited and will not be approved on agricultural Crown lands.
7. **Can I sublet my lease?** Sub leasing is allowed only with written permission under prescribed conditions. Please contact your Land Management Specialist to discuss.
8. **I no longer want my lease. What are my options?** You may work with your Land Management Specialist to either surrender your lease or assign your lease to another eligible legal entity. Please note that you need to surrender by March 31 of the current year, in order to avoid full year rent and municipal taxes.
9. **How should weeds and invasive species be managed on my leased lands?** All lessees are responsible for controlling the spread of noxious weeds and invasive species preventing the introduction of new weeds to their leased land. Please contact your Land Management Specialist for assistance in weed management on your leased land.
10. **What is considered acceptable fencing?** A fence must contain your cattle. If complaints are received, a site assessment will be completed and adequate time will be given to repair or construct acceptable fencing if repairs are required.
11. **Is public hunting allowed on my Crown agricultural leased land?** Lessees control hunting access unless their lease specifically contains a clause allowing access for hunting. This clause allows seasonal, public hunting on the land as per the Saskatchewan Hunters and Trappers Guide and permits seasonal access for First Nation, Métis hunters and licensed hunters.

General Reminders:

- Active lease agreements that have arrears may be subject to cancellation. This includes municipal taxes arrears.
- If requested, ensure you have submitted all required documentation to complete the renewal of your lease.
- The conditions of your lease are legally binding, failure to meet the conditions may result in a Lease Utilization Plan (LUP), administration penalties and/or cancellation. The LUP will outline what the issues are, the specific things that need to be done to address them and the time over which these changes need to occur.