

Management Policy  
Agricultural Crown Land  
June 2021

**A. Purpose**

To provide a means to ensure leased agricultural Crown land is managed in accordance with proper land use practices and the lease agreement, and to provide enough flexibility to allow a lessee every opportunity to avoid cancellation of the lease.

**B. Definitions**

1. **Resource Abuse:** Any situation where a lessee, in the opinion of the minister, is not complying with any conditions of the lease that may lead to degradation of the land resource (overgrazing of native pasture land, poor summer fallow practices on cultivated lands, etc.).
2. **Administrative Abuse:** Any situation where a lessee, in the opinion of the minister, is not complying with any administrative condition of the lease (i.e. pasturing a third party's cattle on a grazing lease, subletting cultivated land, etc.).

**C. Procedures**

Abuses will be substantiated by a field inspection, an interview with the lessee, an interview with a complainant, and any other investigation deemed necessary, where the Ministry becomes aware of a resource or an administrative abuse. Cases will be prioritized based on severity of the abuse and resources available.

Lessees will always be given an opportunity to correct the abuse by agreeing to corrective action. The Ministry will follow-up to ensure the agreed to action has occurred.

1. Resource Abuse

The Land Management Specialist will provide the lessee with an option or options to rectify the situation along with a specified timeframe, once a resource abuse has been substantiated. The following timeframes will be used:

- Improper use of cultivated land will require immediate correction.
- Improper use of grazing land will require correction within a maximum of five years.
- Improper use of non-agricultural land will require immediate correction within 30 days. In addition, specific guidelines will be established for each type of abuse.

2. Administrative Abuse

The Land Management Specialist will provide the lessee with an option or options to rectify the situation within a specified time frame, once an administrative abuse has been substantiated. The following timeframe will be used:

- Leases will require correction within a maximum of one year, where the land is not being used for a purpose that it was leased.

- Leases where the land is being used by a person, other than the lessee, will require correction within a maximum of five years.
- Failure to meet other requirements of the lease will require immediate correction.
- In addition, specific guidelines will be established for each type of abuse.

**D. General**

1. In cases where an abuse cannot be corrected within one year;
  - A written Lease Utilization Plan (LUP) must be completed and signed by the lessee,.
  - This LUP will include specific timeframes and deliverables that the lessee must meet over the term of the plan. Input from the lessee will be considered in the creation of the LUP.
  - Failure to meet the terms of the LUP may result in the cancellation of the lease.
  - A Notice of Intent to Cancel will be sent to the lessee in cases where the lessee refuses to agree to a LUP. The notice of intent will be rescinded if the lessee agrees to the LUP before the expiration of the notice.
  - A notice of cancellation may be sent where the lessee does not meet or refuses to sign the LUP.
2. In cases where the abuse can be corrected within one year;
  - A Notice of Intent to Cancel and a cover letter will be provided outlining the abuse, expected actions to remedy the abuse as well as a deadline for completion. The Notice of Intent to Cancel will be rescinded if the abuse is remedied within the provided timeline.
  - A notice of cancellation may be sent where the lessee does not meet the conditions of the notice of intent to cancel.
3. The Ministry may make use of peer groups that have recognized expertise in the area in question to assist in the correction of the abuse, whenever available.
4. The lessee will have the opportunity to make a written representation to the minister within a specified time period as to why the cancellation should not occur. A cover letter will accompany the Notice of Intent to Cancel that will outline this process.

For more information, visit [saskatchewan.ca/crownlands](http://saskatchewan.ca/crownlands) or contact your local regional office found here [saskatchewan.ca/ag-regional-offices](http://saskatchewan.ca/ag-regional-offices) or listed below:

**Regina**  
**306-787-2150**

**Swift Current**  
**306-778-8285**

**North Battleford**  
**306-446-7962**

**Tisdale**  
**306-878-8842**

**Saskatoon**  
**306-933-6781**

**Yorkton**  
**306-786-1531**