



COUNCIL POLICY C-AG23

Leasing of Agricultural Land

Prepared By: Agricultural Services
 Effective Date: September 26, 2000
 References:
 Function: Agricultural Services

Council Approval Date: September 26, 2000
 Council Resolution No.: 421-00 (AG 023)
 Previous Revision Date: N/A
 LAS Review Date: January 4, 2013

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide the standards to which County-owned agricultural land may be leased to an individual/company in order that the quality of the land may be maintained or improved through proper agricultural husbandry.

POLICY STATEMENT

Parkland County supports agricultural use of County-owned agricultural land and, as such, may lease such land to an individual or company.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Cultivation Permit" shall mean a permit for the use of land as cultivated farm land for crops.
2. "Grazing Permit" shall mean a permit for the use of land for grazing livestock or pasture land.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all residents in Parkland County.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Manager of Agricultural Service is responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluating of this policy.

STANDARDS

1. All new permits shall be approved by Council and shall be subject to the signing of Parkland County's established lease agreement.
2. Cultivation permits shall be subject to the following requirements:
 - a. The Agricultural Services Department shall develop a cropping program for each parcel of property that is permitted.
 - b. The Agricultural Services Department shall inspect the property annually during the growing season, in the presence of the permittee, to ensure the cropping program is being followed.

- c. The term of the permit to a particular permittee on any one parcel is to be from three to five (3-5) years (as determined by the Manager of Agricultural Services and the Manager of Legislation and Administration Services), renewable to a maximum of ten (10) years following which it must be publicly advertised calling for tenders. The previous permittee may submit a tender as if applying for the first time.
3. Grazing permits shall be subject to the following requirements:
 - a. The Agricultural Services Department shall develop a grazing program for each parcel of property that is permitted.
 - b. The Agricultural Services Department shall inspect the property annually during the grazing season, in the presence of the permittee, to ensure the grazing program is being followed.
 - c. The term of a permit to a particular individual/company on any one parcel is to be from three to five (3-5) years (as determined by the Manager of Agricultural Services and Manager of Legislative and Administrative Services), renewable to a maximum of ten (10) years, following which the permit must be publicly advertised calling for tenders. The previous permittee may submit a tender as if applying for the first time.
4. All and any improvements (e.g. fencing, brush removal, etc.) made to any permitted County-owned property, whether it be for cultivation or grazing purposes, shall be at the sole expense of the permittee and remain with the property upon termination of the permit.