



Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use

Waukesha County Cropland Rental Frequently Asked Questions

Can I bid on multiple parcels?

Yes, you may bid on as many or as few parcels as you like. A separate lease will be executed for each parcel.

Is it possible to attend the bid opening?

Yes, this is open to the public. Bid opening is held in the Waukesha County Administration building, room 260. If you submit a bid, but are unable to attend the bid opening, a summary of all the bids submitted is emailed to you.

How long is a lease agreement?

The lease is usually a four-year term between Waukesha County and the lessee. The Bid Form will include the lease length for a particular parcel.

What happens after I find out that I have the winning bid?

Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use staff will contact you to set up a meeting. At this appointment, we will review the Waukesha County Cropland Conservation Standards and have you sign the lease.

When are the rent payments due?

The annual rent due for each year of the lease shall be paid as follows: one-third "down payment" due on or before March 1 and the remaining two-thirds payment due on or before December 15. Failure to submit the "down payment" amount by March 1 of any year within the lease will terminate the lease.

Is there a yearly rent increase?

Yes, the price per acre is established through the bidding process. Each subsequent year then has a 2.5 % increase.

Are there restrictions to what type of crops that I may plant?

No, as long as they are legal and the Waukesha County Cropland Conservation standards are met.

The standards include the following items:

- soil erosion rates on all cropland must be maintained at or below "T" value
- annually develop and follow a Nutrient Management Plan for the leased cropland, which requires soil tests every 4 years
- submit an updated Nutrient Management Checklist to the Land Resources Division by May 31 annually
- fifty percent of the soil surface must be covered with crop residue or live vegetation at all times
- maintain 75 foot buffer areas along streams, ponds, lakes, and wetlands
- protect concentrated flow areas with grassed waterways.

For additional information, call the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use, Land Resources Division at (262) 896-8300.