

Game Farming Policy Agricultural Crown Land February 2018

A. Overview of Policy Objectives

Operating a game farm is permitted on certain Crown agricultural lands.

B. Eligibility

1. Producers who have or intend to obtain a domestic game farm license are eligible to apply for a game farm lease on certain agricultural Crown lands.
2. Existing agricultural lessees may request a lease for the purposes of operating a game farm.
3. Successful applicants for a Crown land allocation may request a lease for the purpose of operating a game farm.

C. Crown lands that may be leased for game farming

1. A game farm lease will be issued if:
 - At least 75 per cent of each parcel to be leased is cultivated or seeded to tame forage;
 - The land to be leased is wholly contained within deeded land owned by the lease applicant; or
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment agree that a lease should be issued.
2. A game farm lease will not be issued under any circumstances, if the land to be leased for the game farm is subject to *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*.

D. Procedures to obtain a Game Farm lease

1. An applicant will provide a business - land use plan that details:
 - All the land (deeded and leased) to be used;
 - Species to be produced;
 - Marketing methodology for the animals or products produced;
 - The number of animals to be carried on the land;
 - Development plans for the land which includes fencing, reseeding, shelter and water development;
 - A domestic game farm license, or the application status for a domestic game farm license if the game farm operation is conditional on the leasing of Crown land; and
 - Municipal approvals required to operate a game farm on the lands.

E. Lease Conditions

1. The Crown retains full and beneficial ownership of any improvements. A game farm lease will specify the fencing requirements meet *The Domestic Game Farm Animal Regulations*.
2. The game farm operator may be given 30 days to remove any fencing and other improvements on the leased land after the lease expires, is surrendered or cancelled, provided rent and taxes are current. The Ministry may not compensate the former lessee for the value of the improvements if the improvements are not removed within 30 days. Game farm leases will be at the same rental levels as agricultural leases on the same land for the purposes of growing crops, hay or grazing livestock.
3. Leases are subject to *The Provincial Lands (Agriculture) Regulations* and the Lease Policy as amended from time to time.
4. Game farm leases are conditional on the lessee maintaining a valid domestic game farm license at all times. The game farm lease may be cancelled if a lessee does not have a valid domestic game farm license.
5. The Ministry retains the right to withdraw leased lands from a game farm lease to allow the development of petroleum and gas, sand and gravel or for any other purpose. Every effort will be made to accommodate the game farm lessee's concerns in the event of the development of resources on the leased land.

F. General

1. Game farming leases are not required for raising bison or other species not specifically listed in *The Domestic Game Farm Animal Regulations*.
2. Game farm lessees are expected to operate their leases in an environmentally sensitive manner. Failure to do so could lead to the cancellation of the game farm lease.
3. A game farm lease can be surrendered in favour of an agricultural lease if the game farming operation ceases.

For more information, visit www.Saskatchewan.ca/crownlands or contact your local regional office found here www.saskatchewan.ca/ag-regional-offices or listed below:

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