

# Agricultural Crown Lands Program: Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. What is the Agricultural Crown Lands Program?

The Agricultural Crown Lands Program administers agricultural use of provincial Crown lands which:

- supports the sustainable expansion of the livestock herd in Manitoba
- contributes to ecological goods and services
- provides mitigation and adaptation to climate change

## 2. What are the legislative and regulatory documents related to the Agricultural Crown Lands Program?

[The Crown Lands Act, CCSM, C340](#)

[The Agricultural Crown Land Leases and Permits Regulation, M.R. 152/2017](#)

## 3. What changes had to be made to the Agricultural Crown Lands Program because of Manitoba's entry into the New West Partnership Trade Agreement?

Manitoba is obligated to make trade possible with our partners in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Agricultural Crown Lands Program opened eligibility to get a lease or permit on agricultural Crown land to include Canadian citizens and permanent residents. This change removed the previous requirement that only Manitoba residents were eligible.

## 4. What other changes were made in the new regulations?

- combined previous regulations for forage leases, hay and grazing permits, as well as incorporated policy related to cropping leases
- included the obligation of having legal physical access to the leased or permitted lands (previously in policy and in lease agreements)
- added the authority to address fraud in the application process as it relates to eligibility
- provided clarity about applicable fees and rents, and payment due dates
- introduced a tender system to set annual fee and rent for forage leases and renewable permits
- introduced average tendered value system to set an annual fee and rent for existing forage leases and renewable permits, as well as setting an annual fee and rent for all forage leases and renewable permits after the first five years
- clarified that the fees listed in the [Land Administration Fees Regulation](#) apply to activities in the Agricultural Crown Lands Program (e.g.: applications, generation of lease and permit documents)

## 5. When do these regulatory changes take effect?

The new [Agricultural Crown Lands Leases and Permits Regulations](#) came into force on January 1, 2018. Additional policies to support the regulatory amendment are in development.

## **6. What was moved from regulation into policy, and why?**

The proposed changes are intended to:

- simplify and modernize the regulatory environment related to the use of agricultural Crown land in Manitoba
- enable modernization of the program
- clarify program requirements

The Agricultural Crown Lands Program recognizes the need for further engagement with stakeholders in these important areas:

- management aspects on agricultural Crown land – defining management and/or labour
- forage land use – determining acceptable alternative management practices (e.g.: consider subletting, sale of hay or ownership of livestock)
- improvements (fence or water) – review government and leaseholder roles

## **7. What additional policy changes will be necessary to implement the proposed changes?**

Revisions will be required to the eligibility policy (applied to all agricultural Crown lands), as well as to all policies that support the implementation of a tender process for getting a forage lease, renewable hay or grazing permit, and setting of the forage rental rate.

## **8. When will the first forage tender process take place?**

The first forage tender process will likely take place in the fall of 2018, for 2019 agricultural Crown land allocations.

## **9. How will these changes affect existing leases and permits?**

Existing leases and permits will remain in place until they expire, are cancelled or are surrendered. Revised regulatory requirements will now apply. Note: leases and permits already in place will transition to the new method of setting forage rental rates in 2020.

## **10. How will these changes affect Manitoba's livestock industry?**

- Manitoba farmers will continue to have access to agricultural Crown land, enabling the ongoing production of forage for the provincial livestock industry.
- Using a tender process for setting the forage rent will ensure that Manitoba is using a fair market-based rental rate that will stand up to potential trade challenges from all of our domestic and international trading partners.
- The modernization initiative is expected to contribute to the growth of the livestock sector by optimizing forage production, thereby allowing Manitoba farmers to remain competitive in the livestock industry.

For more information, please contact your Manitoba Agriculture [Agricultural Crown Lands District Farm Production Extension Specialist](#) or email [agcrownlands@gov.mb.ca](mailto:agcrownlands@gov.mb.ca).