

**Productivity Improvement Policy
Agricultural Crown Land
February 2018**

A. Purpose

To assist lessees of agricultural Crown land to improve the productivity of their leases.

B. Range Assistance

1. Conditions

- a. Lessees, whose range is in less than satisfactory condition, as determined by the Land Management Specialist, may make application for range management assistance under this section of the policy. The application must be in the form provided by the Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry) and must include a detailed aerial photograph or map showing fences, watering sites, corrals, etc.
- b. The lessee is required to enter into a Range Improvement Agreement with the Ministry which will provide for:
 - i. The Ministry to determine the number of livestock which can be put on the lease in any year of the agreement;
 - ii. The number of years, being not less than five and not more than 10, that the agreement will be in effect;
 - iii. The first date upon which the cattle may be grazed in each year of the agreement;
 - iv. The last date upon which the cattle may be grazed in each year of the agreement; and
 - v. The keeping of records in a form prescribed by the Ministry and which must be submitted to the Land Management Specialist by December 1, of each year.
- c. The lessee agrees to undertake other grazing management measures recommended by the Ministry that will help speed up the range recovery rate. Such measures include changes in size of fields, location of watering sites and number of watering sites.

2. Assistance Provided

- a. In consideration for entering the Agreement for Controlled Stocking, the basis for rent will be reduced for the duration of the agreement, to the average for range in similar condition as the land now included in the agreement. This will reflect actual stocking rate as opposed to potential stocking rate.

C. Land Development

1. Conditions
 - a. A field inspection by the Land Management Specialist will be conducted to identify the area within the lease suitable for improvement, based on topography, soil structure and texture, stoniness and other factors.
 - b. The lessee must agree to a plan of improvement.
 - c. Lessees must complete a Land Development Contract with their Land Management Specialist prior to any work being initiated.
2. Assistance Provided
 - a. Lessees develop leased land at their own expense. As consideration for their costs, rental rate increases, caused by development and increased productivity, are to be implemented as per the following:
 - i. Areas Requiring Clearing and Breaking
Where year one is the year of clearing, rental rates will remain at that level for seven years. In year eight, the rental will be adjusted and will be based on the increased productivity resulting from the development.
 - ii. Areas Requiring Breaking Only
Where year one is the year of breaking, rental rates will remain at that level for five years. In year six, the rental will be adjusted and will be based on the increased productivity resulting from the development.

D. Rejuvenation of Tame Forage

1. Conditions
 - a. The lessee must obtain permission from the Land Management Specialist prior to breaking.
 - b. The lessee may grow annual crops, including a nurse crop, on the area broken for up to three years without a rental increase.
 - c. The area broken must be reseeded to perennial forage by the fourth year.

E. Marginal Land Protection

1. Conditions
 - a. Perennial forages may be grown on lands designated as cultivated lands in a lease. Where, from a land management point of view, it is deemed that previously cultivated land remain in perennial forage, the lessee may request a change in rental base to reflect the difference in production.
 - b. Rental adjustment approved above will occur for the year in which the request for conversion is made and will not be pre-dated.

Visit saskatchewan.ca/crownlands for more information or to contact your local regional office.