

Flexible Cash Lease Provisions

Farmers face numerous business risks related to agricultural production, including commodity prices, input prices, technology, legal issues and interpersonal communications. One of the greatest expenses in an operation is often land rent and leasing fees; however, flexible cash lease provisions offer a means to, both manage business risks, while at the same time offering opportunity to improve farm profitability.

Flexible cash lease provisions are not new to Nebraska or agricultural production. A 1996 research study from The Ohio State University showed even then, 8% of cash leases contained some form of flexible provision. Similar studies have shown producers using flexible

leases have improved the net profit of their operations, better managed land input costs and improved their understanding of land economics. Land owners using flexible cash lease provisions have reported a marked improvement in understanding of land economics and improved returns, particularly in bumper crop years.

Flexible leases are becoming so popular, the most recently adopted USDA Farm Bill includes favorable modifications to the very definition of a cash lease. So ask yourself, as a producer or land owner, can your agricultural business operation afford not to use flexible cash lease provisions?

—UNL Extension Educator Tim Lemmons

Flexible Lease Workshop, Dec. 16

In response to an overwhelming request for additional training in flexible lease preparation and use, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension will be holding a workshop, "Managing Risk and Making Money with Flexible Cash Lease Provisions" on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1–4 pm at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444

Cherry Creek Road. Fee of \$10 per person covers materials and presentation fees. Pre-registration with payment is required. For more information, call 441-7180.

Past participants have indicated they wished they had their landlord or tenant with them, so use this as an opportunity to build a stronger business relationship and come together.

Thistle Control Still Possible This Fall – but Hurry

Did you have thistles this year? If so, walk out in the infected areas this week and look for thistle seedlings. Most thistle seedlings this fall will be small, in a flat, rosette growth form and they are very sensitive now to certain herbicides. Spray this fall if air temperatures are above 50° F and thistles will not be a big problem next year.

Several herbicides are effective and recommended for thistle control. Bruce Anderson thinks the most effective is a newer herbicide called Milestone. Milestone is a general-use pesticide so does not require a pesticide applicator license. Two other very effective herbicides are Tordon 22K and Grazon. But be careful with Tordon and Grazon, since they also can kill woody plants, including trees you might want to keep. Both Tordon 22K and Grazon are restricted-use herbicides. To buy and/or



Musk thistle rosette



Musk thistle rosette

apply these products requires a private pesticide applicator or commercial pesticide applicator — ag plant license. 2,4-D also works well while it's warm (temperatures in the upper 50's) but you will get better thistle control by using a little less 2,4-D and adding a small amount of dicamba (Banvel, Clarity or Sterling) to the mix.

Other herbicides also help control thistles in pastures — like Redeem, Ally and Curtail. No matter which weed killer you use, be sure to read and

follow label instructions and be sure to spray soon while the plants are still growing.

Next year, avoid over-grazing your pastures so your grass stands get thicker and compete with any new thistle seedlings that germinate in spring or during the summer.

Give some thought now to thistle control during October and November. Your pastures can be cleaner next spring.

Source: Bruce Anderson

Use Season-Long Records to Assess Pumping Plant Performance

Tom Dorn
UNL Extension Educator

Irrigation season is over for 2009. Now is a good time to analyze the performance of your pumping plant before you lose your receipts for energy purchased and records of water pumped. Poor pump performance can be caused by poor pump design for the current pumping conditions, pumps with excessive wear or are not properly adjusted, and/or inefficient power units. If you

determine your pumping plant is below par by running a season-long pumping plant analysis, you will have plenty of time to consider your options and schedule a well driller to make necessary repairs or replace worn or mismatched components before next irrigation season.

UNL Extension Educator Tom Dorn, developed an Excel worksheet named Long_Term_Pump.xls. It is available on the Web at no cost. This worksheet can be found on the Irrigation page of the UNL Extension in Lancaster County Web site at <http://lanaster.unl.edu/ag/crops/irrigate.shtml> under the heading "What Can Be Done About Irrigation Energy Bills." The user can run the worksheet online in most Internet browsers or save it to their computer and open it with Microsoft Excel.

Information necessary to run an analysis includes: the type of energy used for pumping, the price per unit of energy (\$/Gallon, \$/kWh), the type of water meter installed, and the beginning and ending water meter readings. If there is no water meter, the user selects "no meter" and estimates the acres irrigated and the gross inches of water applied. The user then reports the estimated average pumping water level and the average system pressure over the season. Finally the user reports the total fuel (energy)

Estimate Pumping Plant Performance Rating and Potential Energy Savings From Your Records			
Developed by Tom Dorn, UNL Extension Educator			
Date: _____			
Note: You may change values in blue cells and drop-down menus only. Instructions and examples are available on tabs at the bottom of the sheet.			
Step 1. Select energy type:	Energy	HP	Energy Units
Choices: Diesel, Electricity, Gasoline, Nat Gas, NG Therm, or Prop.	Selected	0	0
Step 2. Input energy price per unit in cell B12	Energy Unit		
Water Meter Readings			
Step 3. Select Water meter installation units:	Units	Beginning	Ending
Choices: Gallons, Ac-ft, or No meter	Ac-ft		
Step 4. Type beginning reading in D15 and ending reading in E17			
Please input the following:			
Step 5. Pumping water level		Feet	
Step 6. Pressure at the discharge head		PSI	
Step 7. Total fuel used for test period			
Results:			
Acres of water pumped (from water meter readings)	0.0	ac-ft	
Water horsepower hours (whp-h) for test period	0.0	whp-h	
Estimated performance of this pumping plant	0.00	whp-h per unit of fuel	
Performance rating, % of the NHP		Percent	
Potential Fuel Savings over test period	0		
Potential Fuel Cost Savings over test period			
Based on 75% pump efficiency			
Nat Gas is priced \$4.00 assumed \$25.00/1000 BTU			
NG Therm is priced by the Therm (\$0.000 \$1.00)			
3 phase electric meter assumed to be 0.08¢/kWh			

An Excel worksheet is available free online to help analyze the performance rating of a pumping plant.

consumption for the season. The worksheet does all of the calculations necessary to analyze the performance rating of the pumping plant and reports the performance rating as a percentage of the Nebraska Pumping Plant Performance Criteria and estimates the potential savings if a sub-par pumping plant were brought up to the criteria.

With high energy prices, it is vitally important for irrigators to identify those pumping plants with low efficiencies so you can take corrective action before the 2010 irrigation season. This handy performance calculator makes it easy to spot pumping plants that may require some attention so they can be repaired or redesigned to match the current pumping conditions. Locating and correcting inefficient pumping plants can literally save thousands of dollars per year in energy costs.



Scrap Tire Collection

Nov. 7 & 8
7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

New Location!

NW 38th & W Webster St. on Airport Authority Property, Air Park/Arnold Heights area, Lincoln (signs will be posted)

Will accept tires of all shapes and sizes with no limit, free of charge!

We cannot accept tires from dealers, outside the state or with rims.

For more information, call 476-3590

Hosted by: Community of Emerald, NE
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