

SHARE CROP LEASE PROGRAM



CROP YEAR 2022



TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Annual Report

Sharecrop Lease Program

Calendar Year 2022

This report is provided annually to the State Building Commission (SBC) verifying that all requirements under the “Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Procedures for Crop Leases” set up by the SBC are in compliance. Lease program results are also reported, including number of leases and associated acreages and monetary amounts.

The Sharecrop Lease Program is based on a calendar year rather than a fiscal year to accurately reflect revenue from the year in which TWRA leases operate. This timeline was approved in the By-laws, Policy & Procedure of the SBC in January 2011.

During the 2022 calendar year the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) processed 16 new Service Leases and 19 new Cash Leases for a total of 35 new sharecrop leases (Table 1). This is a significant increase from the 19 new leases initiated during 2021. Lease numbers fluctuate several reasons; including when the properties were acquired, and varied habitat goals on the Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). All requirements specified by the SBC were followed in awarding these 35 new leases, including advertising and administering the bidding procedure. All 35 leases were within the maximum period of 5 years.

During 2022, the TWRA oversaw 91 active Sharecrop Leases issued under SBC Procedures. Sharecrop leases were categorized by Service or Cash Leases. During 2022, there were 33 Service Sharecrop Leases, and 58 Cash Sharecrop Leases. In total, the agency managed 14,516 acres under the sharecropping program throughout TWRA’s four regions.

TYPE A. SERVICE LEASES: The 33 Service Leases covered 5,112 acres. Service Leases cover agricultural work from which a percentage of crops are left in the field, and haying operations in which wildlife forage is provided. In 2022 values of each crop based on UT Extension Data for 2022 were assigned for the crops left for wildlife. That value will count as program income and is \$443,653.

TYPE B. CASH LEASES: The 58 Cash Leases covered 9,404 acres. Cash Leases return direct revenue to TWRA. In 2022, there was \$518,949 was received from farm leases. There was also \$860,139 worth of services provided by the lease farmer in-lieu of cash payment.

Work performed in lieu of cash is calculated using a State of Tennessee Technical Report that provides estimates for the value of different services either by the acre or by the hour. Some examples of the type of services provided for WMAs include heavy equipment work on failing levees; planting on adjacent land for wildlife habitat; and road grading. Both the cash payments and in-lieu of cash services help TWRA offset program expenses on their WMAs. Management of habitats on these lands through the sharecrop program reduces costs to hunters and taxpayers.

TABLE 1. Five-year history of TWRA crop leases by lease type.

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Service (A) Leases	33	35	53	70	73
Cash (B) Leases	58	76	66	56	55
Total Crop Leases	91	111	119	126	128
Service Lease Acreage	5,112	4,968	5,133	7,428	6,685
Cash Lease Acreage	9,404	12,594	10,839	11,155	10,258
Total Acres	14,516	17,562	15,972	18,583	16,943
Value of Crops left for Wildlife	\$443,653	\$244,663	\$501,301	\$767,136	
Cash Lease Revenue	\$518,949	\$493,061	\$441,099	\$414,574	\$404,852
Value of In lieu services	\$860,139	\$782,643	\$660,101	\$734,435	\$949,935
Total Value of Crop Leases	\$1,822,741	\$1,520,367	\$1,602,501	\$1,916,145	\$1,354,787
Number of New Leases	35	19	12	8	20

The Sharecrop Program is administered by TWRA's Federal Aid and Real Estate Division who ensures that documentation and bid requirements for new and existing contracts have been followed. The last audit of the Sharecrop Program by the Comptroller's Office was completed in September 2016. All audit recommendations to improve recordkeeping have been implemented by TWRA's land managers and real estate staff.

The continued use of the Crop Lease Submission Form assists Field Managers as a checklist to ensure that all leases remained in compliance with SBC's Sharecrop Program requirements.

Any delinquent payments from a crop year were pursued by WMA managers and, if unsuccessful, are turned over to TWRA's Legal Division. There have been some slight issues with slow payments due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but no leases have been turned over to Legal Division for collection for the 2022. There have been no cancellations for non-payment in 2022.

As habitat improvement costs increase, management of these wildlife habitats through the Sharecrop Lease Program continues to provide revenue and services which contribute to the reduction of costs to those who purchase hunting licenses. Whether through hunting or through passive wildlife recreation these lands and the wildlife using these lands are enjoyed by a great number of Tennesseans and visitors alike

Included in this report is a list of new leases issued for Cash and Services leases in the 2022 calendar year.

NEW LEASES for CROP YEAR 2022 (TYPE A) SERVICE

Contract #	Start	End	County	WMA
21AL-10-22-27	3/1/2022	12/31/2027	Wilson	Old Hickory
21AL-9-22-27	3/1/2022	12/31/2027	Trousdale	Old Hickory
21AL-7-22-27	3/1/2022	12/31/2027	Trousdale	Old Hickory
21AL-2-22-27	3/1/2022	12/31/2027	Trousdale	Old Hickory
21AL-3-22-27	3/1/2022	12/31/2027	Sumner	Old Hickory
21AL-4-22-27	3/1/2022	12/31/2027	Trousdale	Old Hickory
21AL-5-22-27	3/1/2022	12/31/2027	Trousdale	Old Hickory
21AL-6-22-27	3/1/2022	12/31/2027	Trousdale	Old Hickory
21AL-8-22-27	3/1/2022	12/31/2027	Wilson	Old Hickory
21AL-12-22-27	3/1/2022	12/31/2027	Trousdale	Old Hickory
13AW-1-22-26	4/15/2022	12/31/2026	Henry	West Sandy
21AL-13-22-27	5/1/2022	12/31/2027	Wilson	Old Hickory
21AL-11-22-27	5/1/2022	12/31/2027	Trousdale	Old Hickory
21AL-14-22-27	6/1/2022	12/31/2027	Trousdale	Old Hickory
23AA-04-22-27	5/20/2022	12/31/2022	Franklin	AEDC
AL21-15-22-27	10/1/2022	12/31/2027	Wilson	Old Hickory

NEW LEASES for CROP YEAR 2022 (TYPE B) CASH

Contract #	Start	End	County	WMA
23AC-4-22-26	1/1/2022	12/31/2026	Franklin	Tims Ford
23AC-9-22-26	1/1/2022	12/31/2026	Franklin	Tims Ford
23AC-5-22-26	1/1/2022	12/31/2026	Franklin	Owl Hollow
23AC-60-22-26	1/1/2022	12/31/2026	Franklin	Owl Hollow
23AC-59-22-26	1/1/2022	12/31/2026	Franklin	Owl Hollow
23AC-7-22-26	1/1/2022	12/31/2026	Franklin	Owl Hollow
23AC-52-22-26	1/1/2022	12/31/2022	Franklin	Owl Hollow
23AC-53-22-26	1/1/2022	12/31/2022	Franklin	Owl Hollow
22AK-1-22-26	2/1/2022	12/31/2026	Lawrence	Laurel Hill
1320-1-22-26	3/1/2022	12/31/2026	Decatur	Cypress Pnd Refuge
WR562-1-22-26	4/15/2022	12/31/2026	Weakley, Gibson	Maness Swamp R
WR573-1-22-26	4/15/2022	12/31/2026	Weakley, Obion	Obion River WMA
21AL-1-22-27	5/1/2022	12/31/2027	Wilson, Trousdale	Old Hickory WMA
23AM-1-22-27	5/1/2022	12/31/2027	Rutherford	Percy Priest WMA
WR573-2-22-26	4/20/2022	12/31/2026	Obion	Obion River WMA
11RL-1-22-26	4/19/2022	12/31/2026	Lauderdale	Lauderdale Refuge
13AE-1-22-24	5/5/2022	12/31/2024	Benton	Camden WMA
11AA-2-22-26	6/8/2022	12/31/2026	Lauderdale	John Tully WMA
WR197-22-22	6/10/2022	12/31/2022	Obion	Three Rivers WMA

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