

SHARE CROP LEASE PROGRAM



CROP YEAR 2021



TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Annual Report

Sharecrop Lease Program

Calendar Year 2021

This report is provided annually to the State Building Commission (SBC) to verify that TWRA is complying with all requirements under the "Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Procedures for Crop Leases". Lease program results are also reported, including number of leases and associated acreages in leases and monetary amounts earned.

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 State Building Commission in January 2011.

During the 2021 calendar year, TWRA processed 2 new Service Leases and 17 new Cash Leases for a total of 19 new sharecrop leases. This is a slight increase over the 12 new leases in 2020. These numbers fluctuate widely due to many reasons; including when the properties were acquired, as well as the habitat goals on Wildlife Management Areas. All requirements specified by the SBC were followed in awarding these 19 new leases, including advertising and administering a bidding procedure. All 19 leases are within the maximum period of five years.

During 2021, the TWRA oversaw 111 active Sharecrop Leases issued under the SBC Procedures. Sharecrop leases are categorized by Service or Cash Leases. In 2021 there were 35 Service Sharecrop Leases, and 76 Cash Sharecrop Leases, with the agency managing 17,562 acres under the sharecropping program throughout the TWRA's four regions.

TYPE A. SERVICE LEASES: The 35 Service Leases manage 4,968 acres. Service Leases cover agricultural work in which a percentage of crops are left in the field, and haying operations in which wildlife forage is provided. In 2021 values of each crop based on UT Extension Data for 2019 were assigned for the crops left for wildlife. That value will count as program income and is \$244,663.

TYPE B. CASH LEASES: The 76 Cash Leases manage 12,594 acres. Cash Leases return revenue to the TWRA. In 2021, there was \$493,061 received from farm leases. There was also \$782,643 worth of services provided by the lease farmer in lieu of cash payment.

Work performed in lieu of cash is calculated using a University of Tennessee Technical Report that indicates the value of different services either by the acre or by the hour. Some examples of the type of services provided to TWRA managers are backhoe or

dozer work to fix failing levees or planting of crops on adjacent land for habitat. Both the cash received, and the in-lieu of cash services help TWRA offset program expenses. Management of habitats on these lands through a sharecrop program reduces costs to the hunters and taxpayers.

TABLE Showing 5-year History

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Service (A) Leases	35	53	70	73	78
Cash (B) Leases	76	66	56	55	61
Total Crop Leases	111	119	126	128	139
Service Lease Acreage	4,968	5,133	7,428	6,685	7,638
Cash Lease Acreage	12,594	10,839	11,155	10,258	8,411
Total Acres	17,562	15,972	18,583	16,943	16,049
Value of Crops left for Wildlife	\$244,663	\$501,301	\$767,136		
Cash Lease Revenue	\$493,061	\$441,099	\$414,574	\$404,852	\$412,396
Value of In lieu services	\$782,643	\$660,101	\$734,435	\$949,935	\$807,933
Total Value of Crop Leases	\$1,520,367	\$1,602,501	\$1,916,145	\$1,354,787	\$1,220,329
Number of New Leases	19	12	8	20	45

The Sharecrop Program is administered by the Federal Aide and Real Estate Division who ensures documentation and bid requirements for new and existing contracts have been followed throughout the four regions of the TWRA. The last audit of the Sharecrop Program by the state Comptroller's was completed in September 2016. Implementations to improve record keeping have been followed by land managers and central office's Real Estate Division.

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

Any delinquent payments from a crop year are pursued by area managers and if unsuccessful, are turned over to the TWRA 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 for collection for 2021. There were no cancellations due to nonpayment in 2021.

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 Service Leases in the 2021 calendar year.

NEW LEASES for CROP YEAR 2021 (TYPE A) SERVICE

Contract #	Start	End	County	WMA
21AB-1-21-25	6/30/2021	12/31/2025	Montgo mery	Shelton Ferry
21AB-2-21-25	6/30/2021	12/31/2025	Montgo mery	Shelton Ferry

NEW LEASES for CROP YEAR 2021 (TYPE B) CASH

Contract #	Start	End	County	WMA
23AA-01-21-25	2/1/2021	12/31/2025	Coffee	AEDC
23AA-02-21-25	2/1/2021	12/31/2025	Franklin	AEDC
31AG-1-21-25	3/15/2021	12/31/2025	Jackson	Cordell Hull
31AG-2-21-25	3/15/2021	12/31/2025	Jackson	Cordell Hull
31AG-3-21-25	3/15/2021	12/31/2025	Jackson	Cordell Hull
31AG-4-21-25	3/15/2021	12/31/2025	Jackson	Cordell Hull
31AG-5-21-25	3/15/2021	12/31/2025	Jackson	Cordell Hull
31AG-6-21-25	3/15/2021	12/31/2025	Jackson	Cordell Hull
31AG-7-21-25	3/15/2021	12/31/2025	Jackson	Cordell Hull
31AG-8-21-25	3/15/2021	12/31/2025	Smith	Cordell Hull
31AG-9-21-25	3/15/2021	12/31/2025	Smith	Cordell Hull
31AG-10-21-25	3/15/2021	12/31/2025	Smith	Cordell Hull
WR408-1-21-25	4/15/2021	12/31/2025	Weakley	Harts Mill
WR197-1-21-21	4/15/2021	12/31/2021	Obion	Three River
11AF-1-21-25	4/15/2021	12/31/2025	Dyer	Moss Island
11RW-1-21-25	4/15/2021	12/31/2025	Dyer	Thorny Cypress
1236-1-21-22	4/15/2021	12/31/2022	Hardin	White Oak

Prepared and submitted by Roger Jackson, Real Estate Specialist for the Federal Aid and Real Estate Division at Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.