

Cooperative Agricultural Opportunity at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking bids to farm 85.39 acres of the Two Rivers West Property of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Cooperative Agriculture is used at the Two Rivers West property as a management tool to prepare the site for a habitat restoration project. The property will be restored to native fish and wildlife habitats in 2024 and 2025. As a result, this farming program requires that agricultural crops be planted, cultivated, and harvested in accordance with Special Conditions for Farming (Attachment 1) and other requirements described below.

I. What & Where:

Four farm fields totaling 85.39 acres at Two Rivers West Property are described in the attached Crop Plan and Field Descriptions

(Attachment 2)

1. Acreage will be rented for a period of one crop year beginning May 1st, 2023, and ending Dec. 31, 2023.
2. Fields are located within the Salem Township off Portage River South Road (Co. 18) in Ottawa County, T6N, R15E Section 1 & 12 – Attachment 8 includes Map of Field Locations.

II. How to bid:

1. Review General Conditions for Bids (see Section 3 below).
2. Complete and return Bid Sheet (Attachment 3) along with the Special Use Permit Application (Attachment 4) to: Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, 14000 West State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449 by 2p.m. Friday, April 28, 2023
3. A public Bid Opening will be held at 3p.m. on Friday, April 28, 2023 at the Refuge Office, 14000 West State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449. All bidders are welcome to attend.
4. The highest bidder will be selected as the permittee, assuming they can document comparable farming experience. In the event of a tie, a random drawing will decide the permittee.
5. Refuge staff will notify the highest bidder if not present at the bid opening.
6. Questions regarding the bid process: contact Refuge Manager, Jason Lewis, 419-898-0014 ext 30.
7. Site visits can be arranged by calling the Refuge office at 419-898-0014 Ext. 30.

III. General Conditions for Bids:

1. Bids will be on a per acre basis. Bidders will need to determine what they are willing to pay per acre farmed. The price per acre will be the bid. This is the price the bidder will pay to farm the 85.39 acre Two Rivers West parcels. The highest bidder will be selected as the permittee.
2. Bids will be valid for a one-year period with a Special Use Permit issued 2023. If the permittee does not honor the bid, farming rights will be given to the next highest bidder in this bid cycle or re-bid at the discretion of the Service. If it is re-bid, the original permittee will not be allowed to bid at that time.
3. Once a bid is accepted, 25% of the annual payment must be made by May 1st upon the issuance of the Special Use Permit. The remaining 75% of the payment will be made by December 1. Payments will be submitted in the form of a cashier's check made out to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and mailed or hand delivered to: Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, 14000 West State Route 2, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449. Payment must be remitted to Refuge Manager, Jason Lewis. It will be the responsibility of the permittee to ensure payment has been officially received by the Refuge Manager.

IV. Crop Plan:

The Plan covers planting 85.39 acres of crops. The permittee must agree with Special Conditions for Farming (Attachment 1). Soybeans will be planted on 85.39 acres and harvested. Refuge staff reserve the right to change the crop plan due to flooding. Acreages will remain the same, but locations planted within fields are subject to change if high water does not allow for farming in the areas designated. In the rare occasion that more than ½ of the acres are not able to be farmed during a year because of flooding, the permittee will pay only for the acres farmed. If crops were planted and destroyed by flooding and the permittee received insurance payments and/or replanted crops, this would be considered a year farmed and an additional year would not be given.

V. Permitting Requirements:

1. Before work onsite, the permittee must have an approved Special Use Permit (FWS form 3-1383-C) for the farm year. The Special Use Permit will be issued and approved by the Refuge Manager and include an annual farm plan that identifies crop to be planted and harvested, use of pesticides, use of best management practices, and special conditions. The Special Use Permit also requires the permittee to submit a final Harvest Report identifying acres planted, acres harvested, and herbicides applied. The Special Use Permit is completed, issued, and signed by the Refuge Manager.

2. The permittee will be required to sign the Special Conditions for Farming. (Attachment 1)

VI. Reporting Requirements

1. The permittee will be required to submit a final Harvest Report (Attachment 5) by December 31.
2. Seed labels and receipts must be submitted to the Refuge Manager by the permittee before any planting occurs.
3. Upon completion of the farming year, the permittee will receive a successful or unsuccessful rating from the Refuge Manager. The permittee may receive an unsuccessful rating for not complying with crop plans, following pesticide use guidelines, meeting planting deadlines of specified crops or other general conditions. This determination will be made by using the Farming Checklist and Evaluation (Attachment 6). If the permittee receives an unsuccessful rating, farming rights will be given to the next highest bidder from the bidding process. If none of the original bidders are interested, the bidding process will be restarted.

VII. Summary of Cooperative Agriculture Program

Individuals have the opportunity to submit a bid/per acre for the Cooperative Agricultural opportunity at Two Rivers West which is part of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. The selected permittee will be responsible for the following specifications for the Cooperative Agriculture Program:

1. Plant 85.39 acres within the Two Rivers West Unit to soybeans during the 2023 farm season, as outlined in the crop plan.
2. Harvest 85.39 acres, 100% of the crop.
3. Follow Special Conditions for Farming (Attachment 1).
4. Submit Harvest Report (Attachment 5).
5. Follow guidelines on pesticide use and end of year reporting requirements (Attachments 1 & 7).

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge –Attachment 1

Special Conditions for Farming

- A. The government share of the total farm acreage will consist of designated crops provided by the permittee. See the attached farm plan for the total farmable acreage of crop and the government share of unharvested crop.
- B. Permittee is required to implement and/or maintain site specific Best Management Practices (BMPs):
 - 1. Land alterations including but not limited to, ditching, land leveling, filling, and clearing will be done only upon approval of Refuge Manager.
 - 2. No fall disking is allowed without prior approval from Refuge Manager. Any acreage disked in the fall will require a winter cover crop.
 - 3. Buffers/filter strips will be maintained on field borders and primary field drains. Strips will be 30 feet wide and composed of native grasses maintained by mowing. No ditching, disking, or other farm practices will be allowed in filter strips, except for mowing.
- C. Neonicotinoid-treated (or other insecticide-treated) seed is not permitted.
- D. An approved Pesticide Use Proposal is required before pesticide application and the permittee is required to follow associated guidelines:
 - 1. Only pesticides from the attached list may be requested for use on crops (Attachment 7)
 - 2. Cooperator is required to give advanced notice (24 hours) of pesticide application.
 - 3. Pesticide application on any other vegetation is allowed only with approval by the Refuge Manager.
 - 4. No chemicals will be sprayed within 100 feet of open water, creeks or wetlands as designated by refuge manager. Use of certain herbicides will require a buffer of 150 feet, or more, from water. Cooperator must ensure the use of required 150-foot buffer(s) as needed.
 - 5. Herbicides will not be applied when wind speed is in excess of 10mph, under inversion conditions, or when circumstances increase the probability of drift to non-target areas.

6. Pesticide label application instructions will be adhered to and efforts will be made by the permittee to reduce use of chemicals through alternative nonchemical pest control techniques.
 7. The permittee is required to report pesticide application on the Harvest Report (Attachment 5) and furnish to Refuge Manager by December 31.
 8. Misuse of approved pesticides or use of any unapproved pesticides will result in termination of the Special Use Permit.
 9. No insecticides will be used on the refuge.
 10. Cooperator must maintain proper Ohio pesticide certification (ie. Operator or applicator license), or Operator Pesticide Certification if contracting spraying in accordance with the Ohio Pesticide regulations.
- E. The permittee may begin farming operations once the special use permit is issued.
- F. The permittee is required to notify Refuge Manager of enrollment in FSA program(s). All acreage reporting will be the responsibility of the permittee.
- G. All crops shall be planted and harvested as soon as possible with a target date for completion of harvesting operations of November 15. Refuge crops will be fertilized at the same rate as the permittee's and receive every other like kind treatment (crop scouting, pesticides, tillage, etc.), unless specified by Refuge Manager.
- H. The permittee will abide by all appropriate State and Federal Regulations pertaining to storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials (oils, solvents, pesticides, pesticide containers, etc.). The permittee will immediately notify Refuge Manager in event of any accidental hazardous material release and take appropriate measures to contain the release.
- I. Burning of any kind is not permitted on the refuge by the permittee.
- J. Any violation of these conditions will be grounds for termination of the Special Use Permit.

I understand and agree to all special conditions of the Cooperative Farming Agreement.

Permittee's Signature

Date

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge –Attachment 2

Crop Plan and Unit Descriptions

Cropping Plan-acreage does not include buffer strips *

Field	Crop Acres	2023	2024
Unit 1	19.43	Soybeans	
Unit 2	37.33	Soybeans	
Unit 3	16.63	Soybeans	
Unit 4	12.03	Soybean	
Total	85.39	85.39	

Figure 2. Unit Descriptions-acreage includes buffer strips (Attachment 9 Map)

Field	Acres	Field Description
1	19.43	90% Toledo Silty Clay (To), 0-2 percent slopes, deep nearly level, very poorly drained soil; 10% Nappanee silty clay loam, 0-3 percent slopes, deep, nearly level, somewhat poorly drained soil is on slight convex rises and side slopes along drainageways.
2	37.33	95% Toledo Silty Clay (To), 0-2 percent slopes, deep nearly level, very poorly drained soil; 5% Nappanee silty clay loam, 0-3 percent slopes, deep, nearly level, somewhat poorly drained soil is on slight convex rises and side slopes along drainageways.
3	16.63	80% Toledo Silty Clay (To), 0-2 percent slopes, deep nearly level, very poorly drained soil; 20% Nappanee silty clay loam, 0-3 percent slopes, deep, nearly level, somewhat poorly drained soil is on slight convex rises and side slopes along drainageways.
4	12.03	100% Toledo Silty Clay (To), 0-2 percent slopes, deep nearly level, very poorly drained soil

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge – Attachment 3

Bid Sheet for Smith Family Trust Property

Instructions:

1. Read entire Cooperative Agricultural document.
2. Complete this Bid Sheet (Attachment 3).
3. Complete 1st Page of Special Use Permit Application (Attachment 4).
4. Place Bid Sheet and Special Use Permit Application in an envelope and seal.
5. Mail or deliver sealed envelope to Ottawa NWR by Friday, April 28th, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
6. Public Bid Opening: 3:00p.m. Monday, May 1st, 2023 at the Refuge Office. All bidders are welcome to attend.

If bid sheet is not completed correctly and clearly legible or the Special Use Permit Application page 1 is not completed or the envelope is not sealed the bid will not be considered.

Bidding: Please evaluate the attached Crop Plan and place your bid based upon the average you would pay per acre each year. This will be your competing bid and the highest bidder will be selected, assuming they can document comparable farming experience. Your annual rent will be your bid amount per acre multiplied by 85.39 acres for each year. In the event of a tie, the winning bidder will be randomly drawn from the competing bidders. Feel free to end your bid with cents to help avoid ties such as \$100.08/acre rather than \$100/acre.

Bid Amount (\$/acre): _____

Name _____ Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Can you document comparable farming experience? (The highest bidder will be asked to provide documentation, for example data from FSA). __Yes or __No

I have read and if selected agree to the permit conditions listed in the bid package.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge is located at 14000 West State Rt 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449

Commercial Activities

Special Use Permit Application



Refuge Name: Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Address: 14000 West State Rt 2, Oak Harbor, OH

Attn: (Refuge Official) Jason P Lewis

E-Mail: Jason.lewis@fws.gov

Phone #: 419-898-0014

For Official Use Only:

Approved Permit #:

Station #:

Permit Term: from to

Note: We do not require all information for each use. See instructions at the end of the notice and contact the refuge to determine applicability of a particular item.

1a) Identify the type of Permit you are applying for: New ☐ Renewal ☐ Modification ☐ Other ☐ 1b) Have you applied, or do you intend to apply, to any other refuges for this same activity? ☐ Yes ☐ No

1c) If yes, which refuges?

Applicant Information

2) Full Name: 3) Title:

4) Business Name:

5) Physical Address:

City/State/Zip:

6) Mailing Address: (if different than above)

City/State/Zip:

7) Business Phone #: 8) Business Fax #:

9) E-mail: 10) Business Tax ID #:

11a) Within the past 5 years, has the company (entity), its owners, or any employees who have or will be expected to operate on the refuge, been convicted, pled nolo contendere, forfeited collateral, or are currently under charges for any violations of any State, Federal, or local law, or regulations related to fish and wildlife or permit activities? ☐ Yes ☐ No

11b) If you answered "YES" to question #11a, provide the individual's name, date of charge, charge(s), location of incident, court, and action taken for each violation.

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge – Attachment 5

Final Harvest Report

Please complete the form and return to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge by **December 31, 2023**.

Field	Crop Acres	Acres Planted	Acres Harvested	Crop	Yield/Acre	Pesticide	Number of Applications	Gallons Used	Acres Treated
1	19.43								
2	37.33								
3	16.63								
4	12.03								

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge is located at 14000 West State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449.

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge – Attachment 6
Farming Checklist and Evaluation

Special Use Permit # _____

Permittee Name: _____

Special Use Permit signed and issued prior to start of farming activities?	Yes	No
25% of annual payment received by May 1st?	Yes	No
Pesticide Use Proposals requested and issued prior to pesticide application?	Yes	No
Special Use Permit submitted to county Farm Service Agent?	Yes	No
Seed labels and receipts submitted to Refuge Manager prior to seeding?	Yes	No
Pesticide use reported within 10 days of all pesticide applications?	Yes	No
Unauthorized pesticides applied?	Yes	No
Crop Plan as identified in the SUP was carried out?	Yes	No
Final Harvest Report submitted to Refuge Manager by December 31 st ?	Yes	No
75% of annual payment received by December 1 st ?	Yes	No

Refuge Manager

Date

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge – Attachment 7

Pesticides granted field station level approval in Region 3 under limited conditions.

Pesticide	Some Trade Names
Sethoxydim	Grass Getter, Poast, Poast Plus, Sethoxydim SPC, Sethoxydim E-Pro
Imazapic	Plateau, Cadre
Imazapyr	Arsenal, Chopper, Ecomazapyr 2 SL, Gullwing, Groundclear, Habitat, Imazapyr 2 SL, Imazapyr 4 SL, Polaris, Polaris AC, Polaris SP, Rotary 2 SL, Stalker, etc.
Imazethapyr	Clearpath, Newpath, Pursuit, Thunder
Metsulfuron	Accurate, Escort, Manor, MSM 60, Patriot, Rometsol
Rimsulfuron	Basis, Matrix, Matrix FNV, Matrix SG, Resolve DF, Resolve SG, Resolve Q
Thifensulfuronmethyl	Harmony, Affinity Broadspec, First Shot SG, Resolve Q
Tribenuronmethyl	Express, First Shot SG, Afinity, Harmony Extra SG
2,4-D amine	2,4-D Amine 4, Amine 4 2,4-D Weed Killer, Clean Amine, DMA 4 IVM, Dri-Clean, Orchard Star, Saber, Temstyle, Weedar 64, Weedaxe, Weedestroy, AM-40 Amine, etc.
Aminopyralid	Milestone Specialty, Milestone VM
Clopyralid	Clopyralid 3, Clean Slate, Garrison, Spur, Star Thistle Killer, Stinger, Transline, etc.
Triclopyr amine	Element 3A, Garlon 3A, Grandstand CA, Green Light Cut Vine & Stump Killer, Image, Kraken, Platform, Renovate 3, Tahoe 3A Turflon Amine, etc.
Triclopyr ester	Element 4, Forestry Garlon XRT, Garlon 4, Garlon 4Ultra, Pathfinder II, Relegate RTU, Remedy , Remedy Ultra, Tahoe 4E, Turflon Ester, etc.
Glyphosate	Accord Concentrate, Accord SP, Accord XRT, Accord XRT II, Alecto 41S, Aquamaster, AquaNeat, Aqua Star, Buccaneer, Buccaneer Plus, Cornerstone, Cornerstone Plus, Eraser AQ, Extra Credit 5, GlyphoMate 41, Glyphos, Glyphos Aquatic, Glyphosate 4+, Glyphosate 5.4, Glyphosate Pro 4, Glyphos X-TRA, Gly Star Original, Gly Star Pro, Honcho, Honcho Plus, KleenUp Pro, Makaze, Mirage, Mirage Plus, Prosecutor, Ranger Pro, Razor Pro, Remuda, Rodeo, Roundup Original, Roundup OriginalMAX, Roundup PowerMax, Roundup Pro, Roundu Pro Concentrate, Roundup ProMax, Roundup UltraMax, Roundup WeatherMAX, etc.

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge –Attachment 8

Figure 1. Existing Farm Fields-Smith Family Trust Property



Figure 2. Existing Farm Fields-Smith Family Trust Property- Soil Map

