



Cooperative Agriculture Agreement Application

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge 17076 293rd Ave NW Zimmerman, MN 55398

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is now accepting bids on 2 areas to graze approximately 2,500 acres from approximately May 1st – August 31st, 2021. The Northeast and the Southeast Grazing Cells consists of a large blocks of refuge land. The grazing cells will be broken into smaller grazing paddocks and grazed each season. Not all acres of the grazing cell will be grazed every year and not all paddocks are grazed each season. Paddock rotation averages from 7 – 21 days depending on stocking rate and paddock size. The Northeast grazing cell is part of a multi-year Silvopasture research study between the refuge and the University of Minnesota (U of MN). This study is looking at how high intensity, short duration grazing can assist land managers with Oak Savanna management in overgrown woodlands. This study will require more intense moves of cattle in smaller paddocks for a portion of the 2021 grazing seasons as directed by the U of MN and the Sustainable Farming Association. Move duration during the study time period of each grazing season could be as frequent as daily for a short period of time.

A minimum of 120 AU is required for bidding each area. The Cooperative Agriculture Agreements (CAA) will cover a 5-year period (2021-2025). After a successful grazing season on the refuge, the successful bidder's permit may be extended yearly for up to 4 additional grazing years, not to exceed the 2025 grazing season. Selection for each cell will be based on the following criteria: answers to bid sheet questions, bid price per Animal Unit Month (AUM) and an applicant interview, as needed.

Applicants must read the official Cooperative Agriculture Agreement (CAA) Special Conditions, fill out the CAA Bid Sheet and a Permit Application Form: National Wildlife Refuge System Commercial Activities Special Use (FWS Form 3-1383-C).

FWS Form 3-1383-C is a general application used for many commercial activities. Only the following sections need to be completed for cooperative agriculture applications.

- Complete sections 1b-12 on pages 1 and 2.
- Indicate in section 15 on page 2 which cell is being bid on.
- Complete sections 25 and 26b on page 4.
- Sign and date section 31 on page 5.

Please write "Agriculture Bid" on the outside of your sealed envelope containing the CAA Bid Sheet and FWS Form 3-1383-C. **Sealed bids are due at the refuge office no later than 3:30 pm Friday, March 26th, 2021.** Those individuals interested in submitting an application can find the information on the refuge [web page](#). Bids will be opened on Tuesday March 30th. The bids will reviewed and all applicants will be notified by April 2nd, 2021. Please call Greg Dehmer at 763-389-3323 ext 102 if you have any further questions.