RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE QUESTION CUT-OFF DATE: 2021 FARM LEASE AUCTION

BIDDER QUESTION 1. It appears the lease start date isn’t until January 1; should we be the successful bidder, can we plant a winter crop in the interim?

RESPONSE: Farming will not be permitted at any of the areas after the current lease expires (11/30/21) and until a new lease is executed (1/1/22).

BIDDER QUESTION 2. 2) When, and how, will the “Riparian Areas” be demarcated?

RESPONSE: The Division of Fish & Wildlife (“DFW”) has identified and removed the riparian areas from the Leased Premises. The riparian areas will be marked by the DFW this fall with signs on posts to mark the areas that are off limits.

BIDDER QUESTION 3. Bidder reference Assunpink lease, LE22-012: Field 006 has no access. Will we be able to cut a hole in the hedgerow from 005 and put a pipe across the ditch?

RESPONSE: The DFW will have a contractor widen the access from Field 005 and install a culvert. It will be completed before January 1, 2022.

BIDDER QUESTION 4. Bidder reference Assunpink lease, LE22-012: Fields 016, 018, 019 and 020 are being added with the loss of 026 on Breshnahan Rd. In particular 020 is going to be left with a narrow strip. From an agronomic standpoint, the tall trees around this group of fields, and the ultimate new growth of the riparian areas over time will deem this group virtually non-farmable. There have been years when we have fought the weather to even access 016 & 018 just to mow it as they also tend to be wet. Why weren’t the farmers consulted to find a happy medium before this was put out? Can the remainder of 026 be swapped for 016-020?

RESPONSE: One of DFW’s goals for selecting lease fields was to rotate some fields that had been in agricultural production for the past 10 years over to in-kind and vice versa to promote soil health. DFW is not making any changes to the lease fields and will hire a contractor to clear the field edges before January 1, 2022.

BIDDER QUESTION 5. Bidder reference Assunpink lease, LE22-012: Are we allowed to clean/maintain the existing ditches around all of these fields? This pertains to all of the State-owned lands as many of the fields are “agriculturally modified” per NRCS definition and are good farms, however, if drainage is not maintained, much of this will become worthless over time. Shrinking field sizes become less profitable, which includes the height of trees along field edges. I understand some of the management objectives are primarily for wildlife purposes, however we still need to feed America.

RESPONSE: This matter shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis pursuant to the “IMPROVEMENTS” section of the Agreement. The DFW will work with Tenants to improve drainage where deemed appropriate.
**BIDDER QUESTION 6.** (Screenshot of Map LE21-004) Sir, please let me know if farmland auction is needed. Send your requirements & how many acres you need kindly. Please kindly help how many acres.

**RESPONSE:** The Minimum Bid ($592.00) and acreage (13.7) for this parcel is identified directly on the Map. Bid forms and additional information for the farm auction can be found at [https://www.njparksandforests.org/parks/business_ops/current_leases.htm](https://www.njparksandforests.org/parks/business_ops/current_leases.htm).

**BIDDER QUESTION 7.** (Screenshot of Map LE21-014) Sir, kindly let me know about agriculture livestock & mixed vegetable land use & how many acres are available here?

**RESPONSE:** The Minimum Bid ($104.00) and acreage (6.91) for this parcel is identified directly on the Map. Tenant shall not be permitted to use the Premises for greenhouse production, raising or grazing animals, forestry, mining, or removal of natural resources. The production of vegetable crops is permitted. Tenant shall not be permitted to install any fencing or greenhouse structures on the Leased Premises. Please refer to Paragraph 5 (USE OF PREMISES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION) and Paragraph 9 (IMPROVEMENTS) for additional information.

**BIDDER QUESTION 8.** (Screenshot of Map LE21-015) Please kindly let me know how many acres are available for farmland livestock & mixed vegetable land?

**RESPONSE:** The Minimum Bid ($51.00) and acreage (2.074369) for this parcel is identified directly on the Map. Tenant shall not be permitted to use the Premises for greenhouse production, raising or grazing animals, forestry, mining, or removal of natural resources. The production of vegetable crops is permitted. Tenant shall not be permitted to install any fencing or greenhouse structures on the Leased Premises. Please refer to Paragraph 5 (USE OF PREMISES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION) and Paragraph 9 (IMPROVEMENTS) for additional information.

**BIDDER QUESTION 9.** I am inquiring as to access to this property. LE22-024 Is there an easement in place for access?

**RESPONSE:** This parcel has been removed from the farm auction as of October 1, 2021.

**BIDDER QUESTION 10.** Bidder asked if they would be able to use an automated drone that would patrol their lease area to deter deer.

**RESPONSE:** No.