



Story County Conservation Board - McFarland Park 56461 180th St. - Ames, Iowa 50010-9451
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www.storycountyconservation.org

Memorandum

To: Story County Board of Supervisors
Through: Michael D. Cox, Director
From: Brandon Clough, Natural Resources Specialist
Date: February 17, 2026
Re: Consideration of Cash Rent Farm Lease Amendment

The attached cash rent farm lease amendment is for farming the Deppe Family Conservation Area. We have been using conventional row cropping as a tool to convert a smooth brome-dominated grassland to a diverse prairie reconstruction. Cropping year 2026 will be the last year of the row crops before planting it to prairie in FY27.

The operator paid \$100/ac rent during the cropping year 2024, and \$200/ac rent during the cropping year 2025. Due to the poor farm economy, dense vegetation, and stringent conditions on conservation tillage, including no-till requirements, he has lost money. The proposed amendment removes the cash rent for 2026. If the area is not farmed, it will cost SCC money to spray undesired weeds throughout the growing season to properly prepare it to be planted to prairie. This amendment is in the best interest of the county in order to meet our land management objectives.

The Story County Conservation Board urges your approval.

Approval

Disapproval

Date

Date

Cash Rent Farm Lease Amendment

THIS AMENDMENT TO CASH RENT FARM LEASE is made and entered into on this 5th day of Feb, 2026, by and between Story County, Iowa ("Owner") and **Chance Flynn**, ("Operator").

WITNESSETH:

NOW THEREFORE, Owner and Operator agree as follows:

- (1) The parties have previously entered into a Cash Rent Farm Lease, dated **October 25, 2023**, concerning the **Deppe Family Conservation Area** and amended that Lease in 2025.
- (2) Furthermore, said Lease be amended to include provisions for the 2026 Cropping Year as the last year the property will be cropped and that the foregoing changes are in the best interest of the Owner in order to meet land management objectives.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree to the following Lease amendment:

1. That paragraph 5A of said Lease shall be amended to add: For the 2026 cropping year, the rental rate shall be \$0/acre.
2. That paragraph 5B of said Lease shall be amended to add: Cover crops are not required at the completion of the 2026 Cropping Year, as the Owner will seed permanent vegetation at that time.
3. That paragraph 5D shall be amended to read as follows: The crop for 2026 shall be soybeans unless given written permission by Owner.
4. The parties further agree that all other terms and conditions of the original Lease remain in full force and effect except as specifically modified by this amendment.

Story County Conservation Board:

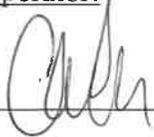
Christine Laumer, Chair

Date

Story County, Iowa:

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Operator:



Chance Flynn, Owner

2/5/2026

Date

Chance Flynn
65297 Richland Street
Nevada, Iowa 50201

Date