



Story County Conservation Board - McFarland Park 56461 180th St. - Ames, Iowa 50010-9451
Phone (515) 232-2516 - Fax (515)232-6989 - Email: conservation@storycounty.com
www.storycountyconservation.org

Memorandum

To: Story County Conservation Board

Through: Michael D. Cox, Director

From: Brandon Clough, Natural Resources Specialist

Date: March 9, 2026

Re: Consideration of Contract with Mark Tjernagel for Prescribed Management Grazing at Carroll Prairie.

The attached contract is with Mark Tjernagel for management grazing using cattle at Carroll Prairie. The cattle will be utilized as a tool to setback invasive, cool season grasses such as smooth brome and reed canary grass. The desired outcome is to give native grasses and forbs space to grow while still providing heterogeneous habitat structure. Much of this area was overseeded with native grasses and forbs last winter. Cattle will be excluded from the areas recently disturbed by the oxbow restoration project.

Conservation grazing practices will be utilized, such as a moderate stocking rate and creek exclusion. Mark placed a bid of \$15/ac – totaling \$315 for the 21 acres in Calendar year 2026. The contract states that there is an option for an additional 2 years of renewals if both parties agree.

Staff urges your approval.

Approval

Disapproval

Date

Date

CONTRACT

Kind of Work Grazing

County Story

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered by and between Story County, Iowa, by its Conservation Board, Contracting Authority, and

Mark Tjernagel Mark Zinnig

of _____ Contractor.

WITNESSETH: That the Contractor, for and in consideration of (\$ \$315)

payable as set forth in the specifications constituting a part of this contract, hereby agrees to construct in accordance with the plans and specifications therefore, and in the locations designated in the notice to bidders, the various items of work as follows:

Item No.	Item	Quantity	Units	Unit Price	Amount
1	Graze selected areas at Carroll Prairie with cattle.	21.00	acres	\$15/acre	\$315
2	Stocking rate is 11.5 animal units - cow/calf pair = 1.2 AU.				
3	Must exclude cattle from dirt which was disturbed during oxbow construction				
4	No equipment shall be left on site without permission from SCC.				
5	Story County may restrict access to fields due to wet conditions.				
6	No pesticides or fertilizers may be used without SCC consent.				
7	No interseeding or supplemental feeding allowed without SCC consent				
8	Use of minerals will not be allowed without SCC consent.				
9	Tenant is responsible for construction of temporary fence.				
10	Temporary fence must be removed within two weeks of when the cattle are removed.				
11	Cattle must be excluded from creek. Water may be pumped or hauled in.				
12	Cooperator must be in compliance with state and local livestock health regulations.				
13	Equipment, including ATVs/UTVs must be clean and free of invasive plant material.				
14	SCC reserves the right to modify or terminate the grazing contract if habitat conditions warrant.				
15	SCC is not responsible for providing alternative pasture if the grazing contract is terminated.				
17	Start date is flexible upon SCC consent. Activities such as fence building may start up to 1 month in advance.				
18	There is an option for a contract renewal for 2 additional years if both parties agree.				
19	Successful bidder shall indemnify Story County from any damages or claims arising from this contract and add Story County, Iowa and Story County Conservation Board as additional insureds on bidder's General Liability and Automobile Liability insurance.				
20	All liability relating to livestock and livestock management to include all persons working for the Cooperator, whether related, hired or as a partner is strictly that of the Cooperator. The Cooperator must have/acquire liability insurance that covers the livestock being grazed on County lands.				
21	Bidder will hold Story County harmless for any damage to bidders equipment.				
22	Bidder will hold Story County harmless for injuries to members of the public caused by acts or omission of the Bidder.			Subtotal:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> See supplemental information on Page 2			Pg2 Subtot:	
				TOTAL:	315

Said specifications and plans are hereby made a part of the basis of this agreement and a true copy of said plans and specifications are now on file in the Story County Conservation Office.

That in consideration of the foregoing, the Contracting Authority hereby agrees to pay the Contractor, promptly and according to the requirements of the specifications the amounts set forth subject to the Conditions as set forth in the specifications.

That it is mutually understood and agreed by the parties hereto that the notice to bidders, the proposal, the specifications for Project No. Carroll Grazing 2026

in Story County, Iowa, the within contract, the contractor's bond, and the general and detailed plans are and constitute the basis of contract between the parties thereto. That it is further understood and agreed by the parties of this contract that the above work shall be commenced and completed on or before:

Approximate Starting Date	Specified Completion Date	Late Start Date	Number of Working Days
1-Apr-26	30-Jun-26		

That time is the essence of this contract and that said contract contains all of the terms and conditions agreed upon by the parties hereto. It is further understood that the Contractor consents to the jurisdiction of the courts of Iowa to hear, determine and render judgement as to any controversy arising hereunder.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have set their hands for the purposes herein expressed to this and three other instruments of like tenor, as of the

Recommended by: _____

Approved: _____

Story County, Iowa
Contracting Authority

By: _____
Director, Story County Conservation Board

Date: _____

By: *Mark Jensen* Contractor

Date: *3-4-26*