



ARMY AGRICULTURAL AND GRAZING OUTLEASE

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The Army has supported efficient land management and the military mission by outleasing their suitable lands for agricultural and grazing purposes for over 50 years. In 1983, legislation was passed that established the Army's "reimbursable" agricultural and grazing outlease program, permitting installations to use proceeds from outleases to cover expenses associated with integrated natural resource management and lease administration.

Primary goals of the Army's agricultural and grazing outlease program include:

- Maintaining Army land holdings to support mission and ecological requirements
- Reducing maintenance and custody costs
- Providing access to additional agriculture and grazing lands to local communities

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

Today, the Army agriculture and grazing outlease program operates under an ecosystem approach to land management. Ecosystem management is an integrated approach to managing natural systems and all their component parts: soil, water, wildlife, and vegetation. The policy supports multiple-use activities, including agriculture outleasing, when compatible with the mission and long-term ecosystem management goals. The military mission is the primary objective and agriculture and grazing outleases must support mission activities. The Army manages approximately 750,000 acres of outlease nationwide.

Over the past five years, between 20 and 35 installations participated annually in the Army's agricultural and grazing outlease program, and have generated an average of \$3 million per year. All revenues are used by installations and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to cover their natural resource management and lease administration expenses. Installations may also receive compensation for outleases in the form of rental offsets. Typical rental offsets include mowing, fence repair, soil erosion control, access road maintenance, and other land management expenses.

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management is the Army's agriculture and grazing program manager, and receives support from the U.S. Army Environmental Command.

For more information

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