

SPRING 2026 SURFACE LEASE AUCTION SCHEDULE

The Department of Trust Lands Surface Division, on behalf of the Board of University and School Lands will hold Spring Surface Lease Auctions Monday, March 23rd through Thursday, March 26th. Once the list of tracts to be offered for Surface Lease Auction are finalized they will be posted to this website and advertised in the official county newspapers.

Date	Time	County	City/Town	Location/Site
Monday 3/23	8:30 AM CT	OLIVER	CENTER	Center Betty Hagel Memorial Civic Center
Monday 3/23	10:00 AM CT	MCLEAN	WASHBURN	Courthouse, Commissioner's Room
Monday 3/23	10:00 AM MT	SLOPE	AMDION	Courthouse, Community Conference Room
Monday 3/23	1:30 PM CT	MOUNTRAIL	STANLEY	City of Stanley South Complex, Conf. Room
Monday 3/23	1:30 PM MT	DUNN	MANNING	Courthouse, Meeting Room
Tuesday 3/24	8:30 AM CT	DIVIDE	CROSBY	Courthouse, Commissioner's Room
Tuesday 3/24	11:00 AM CT	WILLIAMS	WILLISTON	Admin. Building, Appam Conference Room
Tuesday 3/24	1:30 PM CT	MCKENZIE	WATFORD CITY	Courthouse, Yellowstone Room
Wednesday 3/25	10:00 AM CT	MCHENRY	TOWNER	City of Towner, Senior Citizen Center
Wednesday 3/25	11:30 AM CT	PIERCE	RUGBY	Courthouse, Community Room
Wednesday 3/25	2:30 PM CT	ROLETTE	ROLLA	Courthouse, Commissioner's Room
Thursday 3/26	9:30 AM CT	BENSON	MINNEWAUKAN	Courthouse, Commissioner's Room
Thursday 3/26	10:30 AM CT	MCINTOSH	ASHLEY	Courthouse, Commissioner's Room
Thursday 3/26	11:00 AM CT	EDDY	NEW ROCKFORD	Courthouse, Meeting Room
Thursday 3/26	1:30 PM CT	LOGAN	NAPOLEON	Courthouse, Commissioner's Room
Thursday 3/26	2:00 PM CT	GRIGGS	COOPERSTOWN	Courthouse, Multi-purpose Room

**NOTICE OF LEASING
STATE SCHOOL LANDS**

**The Board of University and School
Lands will offer the following lands
for lease in Benson County.**

Twin Tree (151-065)

	AC	Term	Rent
36 NE4SW4, SW4SW4	79	5	\$810

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The public lease auction will be held in Minnewaukan, ND at Benson Co. Courthouse, Commissioner's Room on 3/26/2026 9:30 AM CT. Other than the descriptions of the lands to be auctioned, the information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Any such revisions will be announced at the auction and will be binding upon the bidders. Bidding will begin at minimum rent. 1st year's rent must be paid in full immediately after the sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800. For auxiliary aids and services, please call by 3/13.

Joseph A. Heringer COMMISSIONER
1707 N 9th St | Bismarck ND 58506-5523
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**NOTICE OF LEASING
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**The Board of University and School
Lands will offer the following lands
for lease in Divide County.**

Writing Rock (161-101)

	AC	Term	Rent
16 NE4	160	1	\$1729
16 NW4	160	1	\$1633

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The public lease auction will be held in Crosby, ND at Divide County Courthouse, Commissioner's Room on 3/24/2026 8:30 AM CT. Other than the descriptions of the lands to be auctioned, the information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Any such revisions will be announced at the auction and will be binding upon the bidders. Bidding will begin at minimum rent. 1st year's rent must be paid in full immediately after the sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800. For auxiliary aids and services, please call by 3/13.

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**NOTICE OF LEASING
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**The Board of University and School
Lands will offer the following lands
for lease in Dunn County.**

Unorganized (148-097)

	AC	Term	Rent
16 SE4	160	1	\$629
36 NE4	160	4	\$917
36 NW4	160	4	\$875
36 SE4	161	4	\$683
36 SW4	162	4	\$823

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The public lease auction will be held in Manning, ND at Dunn County Courthouse, Meeting Room on 3/23/2026 1:30 PM MT. Other than the descriptions of the lands to be auctioned, the information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Any such revisions will be announced at the auction and will be binding upon the bidders. Bidding will begin at minimum rent. 1st year's rent must be paid in full immediately after the sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800. For auxiliary aids and services, please call by 3/13.

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**The Board of University and School
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for lease in Eddy County.**

Gates (150-066)

		AC	Term	Rent
22	W2SW4 E of HWY	41	1	\$802

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The public lease auction will be held in in New Rockford, ND at Eddy County Courthouse, Meeting Room on 3/26/2026 11:00 AM CT. Other than the descriptions of the lands to be auctioned, the information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Any such revisions will be announced at the auction and will be binding upon the bidders. Bidding will begin at minimum rent. 1st year's rent must be paid in full immediately after the sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800. For auxiliary aids and services, please call by 3/13.

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**NOTICE OF LEASING
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**The Board of University and School
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for lease in Griggs County.**

Bartley (144-060)

	AC	Term	Rent
16 NE4	156	2	\$2750
Hay: 7 Crop: 24			

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The public lease auction will be held in in Cooperstown, ND at Griggs County Courthouse, Multi-purpose Room on 3/26/2026 2:00 PM CT. Other than the descriptions of the lands to be auctioned, the information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Any such revisions will be announced at the auction and will be binding upon the bidders. Bidding will begin at minimum rent. 1st year's rent must be paid in full immediately after the sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800. For auxiliary aids and services, please call by 3/13.

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**NOTICE OF LEASING
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**The Board of University and School
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for lease in Logan County.**

Red Lake (134-071)

	AC	Term	Rent
36 NE4	160	4	\$9907

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The public lease auction will be held in in Napoleon, ND at Logan County Courthouse, Commissioner's Room on 3/26/2026 1:30 PM CT. Other than the descriptions of the lands to be auctioned, the information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Any such revisions will be announced at the auction and will be binding upon the bidders. Bidding will begin at minimum rent. 1st year's rent must be paid in full immediately after the sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800. For auxiliary aids and services, please call by 3/13.

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**The Board of University and School
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for lease in McHenry County.**

Bjornson (151-080)

	AC	Term	Rent
16 E2SE4	80	5	\$1291

Gorman (155-075)

	AC	Term	Rent
16 NE4	160	4	\$1514

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The public lease auction will be held in in Towner, ND at Senior Citizen Center on 3/25/2026 10:00 AM CT. Other than the descriptions of the lands to be auctioned, the information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Any such revisions will be announced at the auction and will be binding upon the bidders. Bidding will begin at minimum rent. 1st year's rent must be paid in full immediately after the sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800. For auxiliary aids and services, please call by 3/13.

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**The Board of University and School
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for lease in McIntosh County.**

Berlin (129-072)

	AC	Term	Rent
36 SE4	160	1	\$5304

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The public lease auction will be held in Ashley, ND at McIntosh County Courthouse, Commissioner's Room on 3/26/2026 10:30 AM CT. Other than the descriptions of the lands to be auctioned, the information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Any such revisions will be announced at the auction and will be binding upon the bidders. Bidding will begin at minimum rent. 1st year's rent must be paid in full immediately after the sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800. For auxiliary aids and services, please call by 3/13.

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**The Board of University and School
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for lease in McKenzie County.**

Unorganized (148-098)

	AC	Term	Rent
36 NE4	160	2	\$1014
36 NW4	160	2	\$1247
36 SE4	160	2	\$1106
36 SW4	160	2	\$1180

Arnegard (150-100)

	AC	Term	Rent
36 S2S2NE4	40	1	\$289
36 SW4	160	1	\$894

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The public lease auction will be held in Watford City, ND at McKenzie County Courthouse, Yellowstone Room on 3/24/2026 1:30 PM CT. Other than the descriptions of the lands to be auctioned, the information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Any such revisions will be announced at the auction and will be binding upon the bidders. Bidding will begin at minimum rent. 1st year's rent must be paid in full immediately after the sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800. For auxiliary aids and services, please call by 3/13.

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**NOTICE OF LEASING
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**The Board of University and School
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for lease in McLean County.**

Unorganized (148-081)

	AC	Term	Rent
9 S2SW4	80	5	\$684

Unorganized (148-090)

	AC	Term	Rent
16 E2NE4	80	4	\$1030

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The public lease auction will be held in Washburn, ND at McLean County Courthouse, Commissioner's Room on 3/23/2026 10:00 AM CT. Other than the descriptions of the lands to be auctioned, the information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Any such revisions will be announced at the auction and will be binding upon the bidders. Bidding will begin at minimum rent. 1st year's rent must be paid in full immediately after the sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800. For auxiliary aids and services, please call by 3/13.

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**The Board of University and School
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for lease in Mountrail County.**

Unorganized (150-092)

	AC	Term	Rent
15 W2SW4	80	2	\$547

Kickapoo (155-088)

	AC	Term	Rent
16 SE4	125	1	\$1113

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The public lease auction will be held in Stanley, ND at Mountrail County South Complex, Conference Room on 3/23/2026 1:30 PM CT. Other than the descriptions of the lands to be auctioned, the information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Any such revisions will be announced at the auction and will be binding upon the bidders. Bidding will begin at minimum rent. 1st year's rent must be paid in full immediately after the sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800. For auxiliary aids and services, please call by 3/13.

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**The Board of University and School
Lands will offer the following lands
for lease in Oliver County.**

Unorganized (141-082)

	AC	Term	Rent
NW4, E2 W of 16 Hwy & N of County Rd	278	1	\$9800

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The public lease auction will be held in Center, ND at Betty Hagel Memorial Civic Center, Conference Room on 3/23/2026 8:30 AM CT. Other than the descriptions of the lands to be auctioned, the information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Any such revisions will be announced at the auction and will be binding upon the bidders. Bidding will begin at minimum rent. 1st year's rent must be paid in full immediately after the sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800. For auxiliary aids and services, please call by 3/13.

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**The Board of University and School
Lands will offer the following lands
for lease in Pierce County.**

Antelope Lake (152-074)

		AC	Term	Rent
2	W2SE4, N2SW4	160	1	\$7341
Hay: 0 Crop: 158				

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The public lease auction will be held in Rugby, ND at Pierce County Courthouse, Community Room on 3/25/2026 11:30 AM CT. Other than the descriptions of the lands to be auctioned, the information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Any such revisions will be announced at the auction and will be binding upon the bidders. Bidding will begin at minimum rent. 1st year's rent must be paid in full immediately after the sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800. For auxiliary aids and services, please call by 3/13.

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**The Board of University and School
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for lease in Rolette County.**

Oxford (161-069)

	AC	Term	Rent
5 S2NE4	78	4	\$1391

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The public lease auction will be held in Rolla, ND at Rolette County Courthouse, Commissioner's Room on 3/25/2026 2:30 PM CT. Other than the descriptions of the lands to be auctioned, the information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Any such revisions will be announced at the auction and will be binding upon the bidders. Bidding will begin at minimum rent. 1st year's rent must be paid in full immediately after the sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800. For auxiliary aids and services, please call by 3/13.

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**The Board of University and School
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Sunshine (135-104)

	AC	Term	Rent
16 NE4	160	2	\$1121
16 NW4	160	2	\$1268
16 SE4	160	2	\$1014
16 SW4	160	2	\$1243

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The public lease auction will be held in Amidon, ND at Slope County Courthouse, Community Conf. Room on 3/23/2026 10:00 AM MT. Other than the descriptions of the lands to be auctioned, the information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Any such revisions will be announced at the auction and will be binding upon the bidders. Bidding will begin at minimum rent. 1st year's rent must be paid in full immediately after the sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800. For auxiliary aids and services, please call by 3/13.

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**The Board of University and School
Lands will offer the following lands
for lease in Williams County.**

Hofflund (154-096)

	AC	Term	Rent
16 NE4	160	1	\$1491

Hebron (155-104)

	AC	Term	Rent
36 NE4	160	4	\$1501
36 NW4	160	4	\$1548
36 SE4	157	4	\$1391
36 SW4	157	4	\$1491

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The public lease auction will be held in Williston, ND at Williams County Administration Building, Appam Conference Room on 3/24/2026 11:00 AM CT. Other than the descriptions of the lands to be auctioned, the information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. Any such revisions will be announced at the auction and will be binding upon the bidders. Bidding will begin at minimum rent. 1st year's rent must be paid in full immediately after the sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800. For auxiliary aids and services, please call by 3/13.

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Surface Leasing - Frequently Asked Questions

For additional information please contact the Department at (701) 328-2800

What are Trust Lands?

At statehood, lands were granted to the state (typically section 16 and 36 of every township) with the sole purpose of providing funding for "common schools". Currently the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands (NDDTL) manages approximately 706,480 surface acres and 2.6 million mineral acres. NDDTL is charged with managing these lands and 18 separate Trusts and Funds, with the largest Trust being the Common Schools Trust (K-12th grade students are the recipients of the Common School Trust fund dollars).

Who can lease Trust Lands?

Anyone can lease Trust Lands with a few caveats. Bidders and lessees must be 18 years of age or older and provide payment in full at the auction. Trust Lands can only be leased for pasture and meadow purposes which is laid out in the ND Constitution.

How long is a Trust Lands lease?

Leases are usually offered for a 5-year term, effective from January 1st to December 31st. In some cases, NDDTL may offer leases for shorter terms than the standard. Rents are fixed for the life of the term.

When and where are Surface Lease Auctions Held?

Auctions are held in-person, in the county seat where the land is located. The Department conducts most auctions in the Fall, around October. But auctions are also held on a limited basis in the Spring. Auctions are open to the public.

How does bidding occur on School Trust Lands?

Tracts are offered according to the advertisement, in order of appearance. Bids will start at the minimum advertised Fair Market Value (FMV) Price. No bids lower than the advertised amount will be accepted.

Is a lease payment due every year?

Yes, the first year's lease payment is due directly after the lease auction. Subsequent yearly payments are due before the last business day in January.

Can a tract be subleased?

Subleasing is a direct violation of the lease. Lessees should contact the department in advance of any third party use so that NDDTL can determine whether the arrangement is prohibited by the lease. Allowances can be made for shares agreements, custom grazing, or grazing associations if disclosed in advance.

How can Trust Lands be used?

Trust Lands are leased under three main categories: Grass, Crop, and Hay.

Grass: These acres may either be grazed or, if suitable, hayed.

Crop: These acres designated for annual crop production and may be utilized for cash crops, hay, or forage.

Hay: These acres must remain in perennial cover and cannot be cropped. Hayland renovations may be approved by Department.

Who owns the fence on Trust Lands?

The Department does not own or provide fence on School Trust Lands (except for a few rare circumstances). An existing fence may belong to the previous lessee or be owned wholly or partially by an adjacent landowner. NDDTL does not determine or defend claim to fencing materials; meaning bidders are responsible to provide fence or make necessary arrangements to obtain it. Rental rates are discounted from the market average to offset for the lack of fence.

Is access to Trust Lands guaranteed to lessees?

Trust Lands are leased as is and NDDTL makes no guarantee of legal access. Bidders should ensure they have legal access to tracts before leasing them at auction.

Do Trust Lands have water available for livestock?

Access to water for livestock depends on the specific tract of Trust Lands. Trust Lands may have dams, dugouts, wells, or in some cases no access to water. Cost share is available to install water developments. It should be noted that any non-permanent infrastructure associated to a water development (water tanks, submersible pump, solar panels, etc.) would be the property of the current lessee.

Does Trust Lands have specific turn-in or turn-out dates for cattle grazing?

No, Trust Lands do not have specific grazing timelines or stocking rates as long as the lessee keeps the Trust Lands in a good range condition. If the Trust Lands is determined to not be in good range condition, a specific grazing restriction will be implemented.

Are lessees responsible for noxious weed control?

Yes, lessees are responsible for noxious weed control. Cost share is available for noxious weed control on grass acres for lessees (up to 100% of the approved chemicals and up to 50% of the labor).

Can a lessee control hunting access on Trust Lands?

No, a lessee cannot control hunting access. A Trust Lands lease only grants agricultural use. Trust Lands are open to non-vehicular public access. However, lessees can apply for Trust Lands to be either closed to public access or to receive notification before the public enters Trust Lands. For lands to be closed, specific criteria must be met.

Can a Trust Lands Lease be terminated?

Yes, a Trust Lands lease can be terminated if the lessee has violated the lease terms and conditions.