

The Department reminds all bidders that information obtained through any other source or identified in a "Bidder Question" should not be relied upon when making bidding decisions.

FINAL SET OF RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE QUESTION CUT-OFF DATE: 2023 FARM LEASE AUCTION

BIDDER QUESTION 1.

Are you able to provide further clarity on how the reclamation credits were calculated? In looking at the le24-009 lease opportunity, the credit amounts to \$125/acre. However on the lease I questioned, le24-011, the new credit you applied only amounts to \$50/acre. From looking at both properties, I don't understand this disparity. The condition of le24-011 is very poor, whereas the le24-009 isn't bad. As an additional datapoint, I see that the LE24-007 lease credit also amounts to \$125/acre. Can I request that the reclamation credit amount be re-evaluated and that a consistent methodology be applied? Can you help me to understand why a different amount was applied? The current credit is insufficient for a responsible lessee to adequately remediate the property, in my opinion.

RESPONSE: The Department will not provide any additional credits for LE24-011. The Department determined the reclamation credit based on the past use of the fields, current conditions, and the type of work that will need to be done to reclaim them. Current In-Kind Rates were used to determine the reclamation credits. The Department has determined that the LE24-009 fields, which were previously used for pasture, will need more extensive work to make them suitable for growing crops.

BIDDER QUESTION 2.

Is the credit also expected to remediate any dead Ash Trees adjoining the farm fields? Or can that be handled via a separate in-kind action? Given the magnitude of dead trees, and the fact that they appear to fall outside of the defined lease field area, I would hope that they treated separately vs the field remediation work.

RESPONSE: The Department is unclear on which lease you are referring to regarding the ash trees. Any area that is outside of the Leased Premises is or remains the responsibility of the Department.

BIDDER QUESTION 3.

Are we required to attend in person or is there an option of doing it over the phone?

RESPONSE: You are required to attend in person. There is no option for bidding over the phone. Please refer to #9 in the auction rules at <https://dep.nj.gov/otpla/2023-farm-lease-opportunities/> regarding sending someone to bid on your behalf if you cannot make it.