

**571—21.3(456A) Habitat lease policy.** The policy of the department is to lease agricultural land under its jurisdiction so as to protect and enhance natural resources and to provide public use opportunities. Generally accepted farming practices will be followed so long as they are commensurate with good resource management practices. All leases shall be in writing.

**21.3(1) *Agricultural land use.*** Leased agricultural land is subject to any practice necessary to enable the department to carry out its resource management and subject to recreational use by the public according to the laws of the state of Iowa. Operators shall not inhibit any lawful use of the land by the public including, but not limited to, use by the public for hunting and fishing as described by the rules of the department and the laws of the state of Iowa, except as otherwise may be agreed to between the department and the operator.

**21.3(2) *Soil conservation.*** Farming practices shall not exceed compliance-based soil loss limits as established by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service or the local soil and water conservation district.

**21.3(3) *Lease basis.*** Leases shall be in writing on a cash rent basis, except a crop share basis may be utilized when determined to be in the state's best interest.

**21.3(4) *United States Department of Agriculture programs.*** The inclusion, by the operator, of land under lease in any U.S. Department of Agriculture program will be allowed only if it is compatible with the department's management plan established for said land.

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