



**State of Rhode Island
Department of Administration / Division of Purchases
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**Solicitation Information
April 5, 2018**

ADDENDUM # 2

RFP# 7592568

TITLE: Department of Environmental Management Agricultural Land Lease

Submission Deadline:

Wednesday April 11, 2018 at 11:00 AM (Local Time)

-Attached are the questions received with responses, no further questions will be answered |

**Tom Bovis
Interdepartmental Project Manager**

Interested parties should monitor this website, on a regular basis, for any additional information.

1. **Being September 15th is the expectation deadline for us to complete our farming tasks, what crops do you think we can grow in such a short period of time?**

Corn, or any other row crop that will mature and can be harvested in 100 days or less would work well. There are many options available. There are 118 days between May 15th and September 10th; and planting can occur earlier depending on the crop selected.

2. **Being September 15th is the expectation deadline for us to complete our farming tasks, why do you think we can simultaneously harvest crops and plant cover crops by that time frame?**

The annual deadline to complete farming tasks is September 15th, to ensure the growth of suitable winter rye cover crop. Simultaneous harvest and planting of cover crop is not expected. Harvest can occur any time prior to September 15th; cover crop must be planted by September 15th. The action dates were listed separately in the RFP simply for the sake of clarity and transparency. Corn is an ideal crop for this farming plan since harvest can occur very quickly.

3. **Being September 15th is an unreasonable time frame to justify growing crops, is there an option to change the September 15th date to November 1st?**

During the development of this farming plan, several farmers were consulted and they found these dates to be reasonable and acceptable. Through many years of observations at Division of Fish and Wildlife agricultural lease sites, by DFW staff and our hunting constituency, it has become apparent that later annual end dates do not produce suitable wildlife habitat. This property was purchased with Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Grants: W-13-L- 1 and W-13-L-2, with the stated purpose to “preserve waterfowl habitat for nesting of migratory waterfowl and for a public hunting area”. The Division of Fish and Wildlife is mandated to manage the property according to these terms; permitting activities that do not serve the purpose of the grant could result in findings of noncompliance and penalties from US Fish and Wildlife Service or possible forfeiture of the property. We understand that these farming opportunities may not be universally acceptable to all farming operations, but the farming practices here serve as a management tool that the Division can use to sustain and enhance wildlife habitat and provide hunting opportunity.