Filling out surveys is not always fun. It can sometimes feel the same way as when you sit down with your accountant: it may not be pleasant, but it’s very important, and doing it right will pay off huge benefits. Just as your accountant helps you balance your budget and make your farm enterprises more efficient, survey data can also provide producers with valuable insights into the economic landscape of their surrounding area, helping them make strategic financial decisions about cashflows, capital outlays, and marketing objectives.

However, just as survey data has the potential for great rewards, it naturally comes with its own risks. Sharing personal information about your farming practices, even if it is kept strictly anonymous and confidential, is not always an attractive idea to consider. It is natural to want to keep private information private, and we here at the River Valley Extension District are in total agreement with that sentiment; we would never ask anyone to disclose their business information under any condition but strict anonymity. Nevertheless, if it’s the goal of farmers in our district to be able to receive accurate, reliable data about the leasing of farm ground in our district, that goal can only be expected to be achieved by people who are willing to participate in the process.

As of December 13th, 2022, the River Valley Extension District Land Leasing Arrangement Survey is available to the public. Anyone who operates a lease of farm ground within the extension district, either for cropland or pastureland, is encouraged to fill out a copy of the survey. This will help both the local extension service and your own farm enterprises by compiling a pool of data that reflects the trends of farm ground leasing practices in each county of the extension district.

This year’s survey is divided into three brief sections: a Demographic and Employee Information section, a Cropland Lease section, and a Pastureland Lease section. If you only lease cropland and not pastureland, you are not required to fill out the Pastureland Lease section. Likewise, if you only lease pastureland and not cropland, you are not required to fill out the Cropland Lease section. Also, if you do not employ any farm employees, you are not required to fill out the Employment Information portion on the first page of the survey. Even if you are unable to complete all the questions in all the applicable sections, we would still appreciate it if you would be willing to send us your partially completed survey. Any and all information is valuable to our analysis of land leasing arrangements in the River Valley Extension District, and we desire to be able to share that information with you.

The survey is available in multiple formats. A paper copy is attached in this month’s newsletter and can be acquired by contacting any of the local extension offices in the River Valley District. Copies will also be available at many of the local bank branches in the district but be sure to call ahead to check for availability. Surveys can be submitted in person or mailed to any of the local extension offices, or they can be scanned and emailed to either Luke Byers at lsbyers@ksu.edu or Kaitlyn Hildebrand at khildebrand@ksu.edu. Both Luke and Kaitlyn are also more than happy to come and visit you on your farm to help you fill out the survey at your convenience. This year, we are also offering a digital version of the survey that can be filled out and submitted completely online. To access the digital version of the survey, please visit our website at www.rivervalley.k-state.edu and click on the “Cropland Lease Survey” link or the “Pastureland Lease Survey” link.

All surveys will need to be submitted to one of the local extension offices by Monday, February 20th, at 7:30 AM, so if you plan to send your survey in the mail, please postmark it a few days earlier than the deadline. Luke Byers and Kaitlyn Hildebrand will be hosting a meeting on Tuesday evening, February 21st, 2023, in Clifton to review the data retrieved from the survey and discuss important points with local producers from around the district. A meal will be provided at the meeting as well. We hope that many of you from across the four counties in our district will choose to participate and help us to deliver leasing data that you can trust. If you have any questions, please contact Luke Byers in the Clay Center office at (785) 632-5335 ext. 203 or Kaitlyn Hildebrand in the Concordia office at (785) 243-8185 ext. 304.
2022 Land Leasing Arrangement Survey

Please provide the following information on your one *most economically important* agricultural land lease. We cannot accomplish the goal of recognizing the need for reliable, local lease information without your help. All individual survey information will be kept strictly confidential and will be compiled with all responses. As an additional measure of privacy, please do not sign your name on the form.

If you prefer to take the survey online, please visit:

1. **What is the age of the primary operator(s) (write in)?** __________________________________________

2. **What is gender of the primary operator(s) (write in):** ________________________________

3. **What is the race of the operator(s) (circle all that apply)?** Asian African American Native Hawaiian White Hispanic/Latino Middle Eastern American Indian Other:____________

4. **Do you hire farm labor:** □ Yes □ No

*If “Yes”, please fill out information below. If “No”, then no further response required; you may skip to page bottom.*

Below is a list of possible benefits you may offer to your employees; please list all that apply in each corresponding blank.

**Benefits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Insurance</th>
<th>Dental Insurance</th>
<th>Vision Insurance</th>
<th>Paid Holidays</th>
<th>Paid Vacation</th>
<th>Sick Leave</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retirement</td>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Use of Equipment</td>
<td>Vehicle</td>
<td>Meals/Meat</td>
<td>Clothing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Employee Information**

**Full-time:** # Male ___ # Female ___ Pay Range _______ _______ Age(s) _______

Benefits________________________

**Part-time:** # Male ___ # Female ___ Pay Range _______ Age(s) _______

Benefits________________________

**Seasonal:** # Male ___ # Female ___ Pay Range _______ Age(s) _______

Benefits________________________

If you lease crop land, please turn to page 2, and fill out completely before returning.

If you lease pastureland, please turn to page 3, and fill out completely before returning.

If you lease both crop and pastureland, please fill out completely before returning.

Information from this survey will be used for general education and information purposes only. All responses are strictly confidential.
Cropland Leasing Arrangement Survey

Please provide the following information on your ONE most economically important cropland lease in either Clay, Cloud, Republic, or Washington counties.

1. Lease operation county __________________ 2. Landowner residence county __________________

3. Your relationship to landowner: immediate family distant family unrelated

4. Is this lease (circle one): written oral 5. Total lease duration (how long): _______year(s)

6. How often are rent/lease terms renegotiated? ______________

7. Rental rate paid to landowner in 2022: Cash Rent: $_____/ac Or Landlord Whole Farm Crop Share: _____% Or Flex Rent: base $_____/ac Flex Trigger: ________________ Or Landlord Crop Share by Crop: Wheat: _____% Milo: _____% Corn: _____% Soybeans: _____% Alfalfa: _____%

8. Payment Month ____________ 9. Is the piece of land in this lease: dryland irrigated

10. If crop share, what inputs are shared with the landowner? (please check all that apply)

☐ Fertilizer  ☐ Seed  ☐ Herbicide  ☐ Harvest  ☐ Fungicide  ☐ Insecticide  ☐ Terrace/Structure Maintenance  ☐ Irrigation Maintenance  ☐ Application costs  ☐ Other: ________________________________

11. Grazing Crops: Typical Stocking rate _____acres/animal for _____days

Corn/Sorghum: $_____ /ac -or- $_____/hd./day Cover Crops: $_____ /acre -or- $_____/hd./day

If grazing, what cattle type typically graze this lease? ___ Dry Cows  ___ Cow/calf  ___ Stocker

12. Custom Work: Were custom farming services rendered by you or for you in 2022?

☐ Performed  ☐ Received  ☐ Neither

What type of custom field operations were done and what custom rates were paid/charged? (Ex: Disking $9/acre)

Operation #1 ______________________________ Rate: $_____ per _______

Operation #2 ______________________________ Rate: $_____ per _______

Operation #3 ______________________________ Rate: $_____ per _______

Operation #4 ______________________________ Rate: $_____ per _______

13. Do you pay/charge more for variable rate? YES or NO Rate: $_______ per _______

14. Do you own and run your own sprayer? YES or NO

15. Describe pesticide container disposal: ________________________________________________

Information from this survey will be used for general education and information purposes only. All responses are strictly confidential.
Pastureland Leasing Arrangement Survey

Please provide the following information on your ONE most economically important agricultural land lease in either Clay, Cloud, Republic, or Washington counties.

1. Lease operation county: ________________  
2. Landowner residence county: ________________

3. Your relationship to landowner (circle one): immediate family  distant family  unrelated

4. Is this lease (circle one): written  oral

5. Payment Month: ________________

6. How long (in years) have you leased this pasture to/from the other party? ________ years

6. For this lease, how often do you renegotiate the rental rate or the terms of the lease contract?

Lease Rates: (every)  1 yr.  2 yrs.  3 yrs.  5 yrs.  Other Lease Terms: (every) 1 yr.  2 yrs.  3 yrs.  5 yrs.

6. What is the rental rate paid per acre or per for pasture you own or lease?

Rent = $ _________ per ACRE for the grazing season  -OR-  Rent = $ _________ per head per day  -OR-  
Rent = $ _________ per COW/CALF PAIR for the grazing season

On this lease: What is your targeted calving date for _______________, target weaning date _______________?

7. During what period is leased pasture grazed during the year? Typical Year: Beginning Date: __________

Ending Date __________  In Year 2022: Beginning Date: __________  Ending Date __________

8. What is the stocking rate for this pasture lease?

For Cow-Calf enterprises:  For Backgrounding or Stocker/Feeder Enterprises:

Number of Acres = ________ acres/Cow-Calf Pair  Number of Acres = ________ acres/calf

Mature Weight of Cows = ________ lbs. per cow  Starting Weight: ________ lbs. Ending weight: ________ lbs.

10. Livestock Water Supply

In what form is water available to drink for livestock? (write in) _______________

Who is responsible for maintaining the livestock water supply during the grazing season (circle one)?

Tenant  Landowner  Both

11. Maintaining Fences

Who furnishes the labor to maintain the fence? Landlord  Tenant  Both

Who supplies the materials to maintain the fence? Landlord  Tenant  Both

12. Weed Control

What is your most critical pasture weed/brush/tree problem(s)? (circle all that apply)

Cedar Trees  Locust Trees  Hedge Trees  Brush (list) _______________

Musk Thistle  Sericea Lespedeza  Other (list) _______________

Who is financially responsible for weed control?  Who is physically responsible?

Landlord  Tenant  Both  Landlord  Tenant  Both

What methods do you use and how frequent do you do them?

1.) Spot Spray: Every ________ year(s)  3.) Prescribed Burn: Every ________ years(s)

2.) Mechanical (cut): Every ________ year(s)  4.) Aerial Spray: Every ________ years(s)

13. Grazing Crops: (please refer to and complete #11 on the Crop Lease Survey)

Information from this survey will be used for general education and information purposes only.  
All responses are strictly confidential.