

PECAN HARVESTING LEASE

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON §

THIS PECAN HARVESTING LEASE (the "Lease") is made and entered into by and between Williamson County, Texas, being a political subdivision of the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as "Lessor", and Rob Stewart, Stewart Pecan Farm, hereinafter referred to as "Lessee."

In consideration of the rent and the covenants herein contained on the part of Lessee to be kept and performed, the Lessor does hereby lease, demise and let unto the Lessee, and the Lessee hires and rents ONLY THE PECAN TREES situated on approximately Ninety (90) acres of land, more or less, located in Williamson County, Texas, as described in Exhibit "A" (the "Premises"), subject to the following terms and conditions:

ARTICLE 1: TERM OF LEASE

Commencement Date: October 1, 2014

Termination Date: September 30, 2015

Extensions: On or before the Termination Date, the Williamson County Commissioners Court reserves the right to extend this Lease, by mutual agreement of both parties, as it deems in the best interest of Williamson County. Any such extensions will be in twelve (12) month increments for up to three (3) additional years, with the terms, covenants and conditions of this Lease remaining the same for any extension; and with a price escalation at renewal of no more than the current market rate for each

new extended year.

ARTICLE 2: RENT

Lessee agrees to pay to Lessor, as rent for the Premises, Crop share percentage of pecan harvest/gross sales price 30%.

Unless otherwise approved or agreed to by Williamson County, rental payments shall be made in two (2) installments for each twelve (12) month lease term. The first installment will be due on or before the one hundred eightieth (180th) day of each twelve (12) month lease term. The second installment for each twelve (12) month lease term will be due on or before the last day of the twelve (12) month lease term. All rental payments must be made payable to Williamson County and be hand delivered or mailed to Williamson County Parks & Recreation Department, ATTN: Randy Bell, 219 Perry Mayfield Leander, TX 78641

ARTICLE 3: TAXES

Lessee agrees to pay any taxes levied against the pecan crop and personal property and fixtures of Lessee in and about the Premises, provided, however, that if any such taxes of Lessee are levied against Lessor or Lessor's property and Lessor pays those taxes, Lessee, on demand, shall reimburse Lessor for all taxes actually paid on Lessee's behalf.

ARTICLE 4: MAINTENANCE OF PECAN TREES

Lessor will not provide insect scouting or any spraying of herbicides, insecticides and fertilizers in, on and around the pecan trees and grove. Lessee shall remove all dead limbs from the Premises and provide for all necessary wildlife controls. Lessee

shall not apply any herbicides, insecticides or fertilizers to any of the pecan trees unless such application is approved in advance by Williamson County.

ARTICLE 5: USE OF PREMISES

Lessee shall use the Premises solely for the purpose of harvesting pecans from the pecan trees situated on the Premises, together with all other purposes and activities usually and customarily associated with a pecan harvesting operation in Williamson County, Texas. Lessee hereby acknowledges and understands that Lessor may lease the surface of the Premises for the purpose of cattle grazing and that Lessee shall only have pecan harvesting rights to the Premises and shall not have any rights to otherwise farm or graze animals on the Premises or interfere with such other lessee's rights in relation to the Premises.

ARTICLE 6: UTILITIES

Lessee shall pay or cause to be paid all charges for any water, electricity and any other utilities, if any, used by Lessee on the Premises throughout the term of this Lease or any extension thereof, including any costs of installation and connection fees.

ARTICLE 7: LESSEE'S COVENANTS

Lessee further covenants and agrees as follows:

- A. To pay and provide the rent for this Lease, as it is set out herein; to use the Premises in a careful and proper manner for the use specifically described herein; to commit or permit no waste or damages to the Premises; to conduct or permit no business or act that is a nuisance or may be in violation of any federal, state, or local law or ordinance; only use the Premises in such a prudent manner so as to preserve

and protect the land and soil; to cooperate with any other lessees that may be leasing the Premises for purposes other than pecan harvesting; to surrender the Premises and the pecan trees situated thereon on expiration or termination of this Lease in at least as good of a condition as the Premises was in on the date prior to Lessee's occupation of the Premises; harvest the pecans from the pecan trees in a timely, thorough, and harvester-like manner, employing the best methods of harvesting customarily practiced on pecan trees and groves in the area and keep, repair and maintain all existing fencing, if any, during the term of this Lease and any extension thereof.

B. Lessee agrees to not use the Premises for any purpose other than for harvesting pecans or to alter the Premises, including clearing new roads, moving or erecting any fences, or locating on the Premises any type of permanent or temporary improvement without Lessor's prior written consent. Lessee further agrees to not hunt or fish the Premises or allow anyone else to do so.

C. Lessee assumes the risk of loss on all property and all improvements, including any crops, which are situated on the Premises. Lessee agrees to maintain at all times during this Lease, the insurance described herein below.

D. Upon termination of this Lease, Lessee agrees that all improvements situated on the Premises, whether such improvements were situated on the Premises prior to this Lease or placed on the Premises during this Lease, shall become the property of Lessor, or, at the option of the Lessor, Lessee, at Lessee's sole expense, shall remove all improvements and debris and restore the surface of the Premises to its original condition provided that Lessee placed such improvements on the Premises during the

term of this Lease.

E. To permit Lessor to enter, inspect, and make such repairs to the Premises as Lessor may reasonably desire or show the Premises to prospective purchasers and tenants, at all reasonable times.

F. Lessee agrees that it is solely responsible for making all alterations, additions, or improvements necessary to the Premises to cause the Premises and its intended use to be in compliance with any laws, rules, ordinances, development codes or regulations of any applicable governmental authority, entity, or body, including, without limitation, the Federal Government, the local municipality, the County of Williamson, and the State of Texas and the rules and regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Texas Agriculture Commissioner. The allocation of responsibility to Lessee for compliance with said laws, rules, ordinances, development codes or regulations is a material inducement for the parties to enter into this Lease. The costs incurred in causing the Premises and its intended use to be in compliance with said laws, rules, ordinances, development codes or regulations shall be solely borne by Lessee.

G. Keep all gates on the Premises closed and locked, ingress to and egress from the Premises being at those places designated by Lessor and provide Lessor with all keys and/or combinations to each gate locking mechanism used by Lessee on the Premises.

H. In the event this Lease or any extension thereof is terminated early by Lessor, whether such termination be for cause or convenience, Lessee shall pay Lessor any and all rents and amounts, on a pro-rata basis, which were incurred and due prior to or

as of the date this Lease is terminated. If Lessee has paid any portion of the annual rental amount in advance, Lessor shall return to Lessee, on a pro-rata basis, the proportion of rents that have been prepaid for any unused portion of a lease term or extension.

ARTICLE 8: LESSOR'S COVENANTS

Lessor covenants and agrees to warrant and defend Lessee in the enjoyment and peaceful use and operation of the Premises during the term of this Lease or any extension thereof, subject to the termination rights set forth herein.

ARTICLE 9: INDEMNIFICATION & INSURANCE

A. **INDEMNIFICATION OF LESSOR: LESSOR SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS, DAMAGE, OR INJURY OF ANY KIND OR CHARACTER TO ANY PERSON OR PROPERTY ARISING FROM ANY USE OF THE PREMISES OR ANY NEARBY PREMISES USED BY LESSEE OR ANY PART THEREOF; OR CAUSED BY ANY DEFECT IN ANY BUILDING, STRUCTURE OR OTHER IMPROVEMENT THEREON; OR IN ANY EQUIPMENT OR OTHER FACILITY THEREIN; OR CAUSED BY OR ARISING FROM ANY ACT OR OMISSION OF LESSEE, OR OF ANY OF LESSEE'S AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, LICENSEES, OR INVITEES, OR BY OR FROM ANY ACCIDENT ON THE LAND OR ANY SURROUNDING PREMISES OR ANY FIRE OR OTHER CASUALTY THEREON, OR OCCASIONED BY THE FAILURE OF LESSEE TO MAINTAIN THE PREMISES IN SAFE CONDITION, OR ARISING FROM ANY OTHER CAUSE WHATSOEVER; AND LESSEE HEREBY WAIVES ON ITS BEHALF ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS AGAINST LESSOR FOR ANY SUCH LOSS, DAMAGE, OR INJURY OF LESSEE OR OF LESSEE'S AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, LICENSEES, OR INVITEES, AND HEREBY AGREES TO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD LESSOR ENTIRELY FREE AND HARMLESS FROM ALL LIABILITY FOR ANY SUCH LOSS,**

DAMAGE, OR INJURY OF OTHER PERSONS, AND FROM ALL COSTS AND EXPENSES ARISING THEREFROM. THE TERMS OF THIS INDEMNITY PROVISION SHALL SURVIVE ANY TERMINATION OF THIS LEASE.

B. Insurance: In order to insure the fulfillment of the above referenced indemnity provision, Lessee hereby agrees to maintain, at all times during the Term of this Lease and any extension thereof, at Lessee's sole cost, a comprehensive public liability insurance policy protecting Lessor against all claims or demands that may arise or be claimed on account of Lessee's use of the Premises, in an amount of at least \$1,000,000.00, per occurrence of accident and/or injury, for injuries to persons and damages to real and/or personal property. Said insurance shall be written by a company or companies acceptable to Lessor, authorized to engage in the business of general liability insurance in the state of Texas, and name Lessor as an additional insured. Furthermore, said insurance shall be primary as to any other existing, valid, and collectible insurance. Lessee shall deliver to Lessor annual certificates demonstrating that said insurance is paid up and copies of the insurance policies issued by the insurance companies.

Lessee further agrees to maintain at all times during the Term of this Lease and any extension thereof, at Lessee's cost, broadcoverage fire and casualty insurance on its property and to provide Lessor with a copy of the policy and a certificate issued by the insurance company demonstrating that insurance is paid up.

Lessee shall, within ten (10) calendar days from the execution of this Lease, obtain a certified statement by each insurance carrier containing a clause providing that

the insurance carrier will give Lessor 30 days' written notice before any cancellation shall be effective. The insurance policies shall be provided by Lessee and shall be for a period of at least one year.

ARTICLE 10: DEFAULTS BY LESSEE

In addition to the remedies specifically set forth herein and those available at law or in equity, if Lessee fails to perform or breaches any term, condition or covenant set forth in this Lease, and this failure or breach continues for ten (10) calendar days after a written notice specifying the required performance has been given to Lessee, Lessee shall be in default and Lessor may:

- A. enforce specific performance causing Lessee to strictly comply with and perform such term, condition or covenant; or
- B. may, but not be obligated to do so, enter the Premises and perform Lessee's obligations for the account of and at the expense of Lessee. Bills for all amounts paid by Lessor and all losses, costs, and expenses incurred by Lessor in connection with such performance by Lessor pursuant to this clause, including without limitation, all amounts paid and costs and expenses incurred by Lessor for any property, material, labor or services provided, furnished, or rendered or caused to be provided, furnished or rendered by Lessor to Lessee may be sent by Lessor to Lessee monthly or immediately, at Lessor's option, and shall be due and payable by Lessee to Lessor as additional rent within five (5) calendar days after same is sent to Lessee by Lessor; or

C. terminate this Lease, without liability, by written notice to Lessee, in which event, the Lease hereby created shall terminate on the tenth (10th) day after such notice is given (the "Termination Date") and Lessee shall within such ten (10) day period vacate the Premises and surrender them to Lessor in the state required under this Lease, with Lessor having the right to reenter and repossess the Premises discharged of this Lease and to remove all property therefrom.

Upon the occurrence of any default, Lessor may enter and take possession of the Premises by self-help, by picking or changing locks if necessary, and may lock out Lessee from the Premises, until the default is cured, without being liable for damages.

ARTICLE 11: DEFAULTS BY LESSOR

Defaults by Lessor are failing, within thirty (30) calendar days after receiving written notice from Lessee, to comply with any term, condition or covenant set forth in this Lease. In the event that Lessor fails to cure its default within the said thirty (30) calendar days, Lessee may, as Lessee's sole remedy, terminate this Lease.

ARTICLE 12: VOLUNTARY TERMINATION

Lessor or Lessee may terminate this Lease, without cause or liability, upon giving sixty (60) calendar days written notice to the other party. Upon the termination of this Lease, Lessee will surrender the Premises peaceably to the Lessor and pay Lessor all rental amounts or any pro-rata portion of rental amounts owing and any other amounts that may be due hereunder as of the date of termination. In the event that Lessor

Not later than sixty (60) calendar days from the date in which Lessor gives Lessee notice that the Premises has been sold, Lessee shall vacate the Premises.

ARTICLE 16: ELECTION BY LESSOR NOT EXCLUSIVE

The exercise by Lessor of any right or remedy to collect rent or enforce its rights under this Lease will not be a waiver or preclude the exercise of any other right or remedy afforded Lessor by this Lease or by statute or law. The failure of Lessor in one or more instances to insist on strict performance or observations of one or more of the covenants or conditions of this Lease or to exercise any remedy, privilege, or option conferred by this Lease on or reserved to Lessor shall not operate or be construed as a relinquishment or future waiver of the covenant or condition or the right to enforce it or to exercise that remedy, privilege, or option; that right shall continue in full force and effect. The receipt by Lessor of rent or any other payment or part of payment required to be made by Lessee shall not act to waive any other additional consideration, rent or payment then due. Even with the knowledge of the breach of any covenant or condition of this Lease, receipt will not operate as or be deemed to be a waiver of this breach, and no waiver by Lessor of any of the provisions of this Lease, or any of Lessor's rights, remedies, privileges, or options under this Lease, will be deemed to have been made unless made by Lessor in writing.

ARTICLE 17: LIMITATIONS OF WARRANTIES

LESSEE ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT, OTHER THAN AS MAY BE SPECIFICALLY SET FORTH HEREIN, LESSOR HAS NOT MADE, DOES NOT MAKE AND SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIMS ANY REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES, PROMISES, COVENANTS, AGREEMENTS OR GUARANTIES OF ANY KIND OR CHARACTER WHATSOEVER, WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, ORAL OR WRITTEN, PAST, PRESENT OR FUTURE, OF, AS TO, CONCERNING OR WITH RESPECT TO (A) THE NATURE, QUALITY OR CONDITION OF THE PREMISES, INCLUDING,

WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE WATER, SOIL, GEOLOGY, OR CONDITIONS OF THE PECAN TREES; (B) THE INCOME TO BE DERIVED FROM THE PREMISES, (C) THE SUITABILITY OF THE PREMISES FOR ANY AND ALL ACTIVITIES AND USES WHICH LESSEE MAY CONDUCT THEREON, (D) THE COMPLIANCE OF OR BY THE PREMISES OR ITS OPERATION WITH ANY LAWS, RULES, ORDINANCES OR REGULATIONS OF ANY APPLICABLE GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY OR BODY; (E) THE FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OF THE PREMISES, OR (F) ANY OTHER MATTER WITH RESPECT TO THE PREMISES AND THE PECAN TREES THEREON, AND SPECIFICALLY THAT LESSOR HAS NOT MADE, DOES NOT MAKE AND SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIMS ANY REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING SOLID WASTE, AS DEFINED BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGULATIONS AT 40 C.F.R., PART 261, OR THE DISPOSAL OR EXISTENCE, IN OR ON THE PREMISES, OF ANY HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE, AS DEFINED BY THE COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE COMPENSATION AND LIABILITY ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPLICABLE STATE LAWS, AND REGULATIONS PROMULGATED THEREUNDER. LESSEE FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT HAVING BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO INSPECT THE PREMISES, LESSEE IS RELYING SOLELY ON ITS OWN INVESTIGATION OF THE PREMISES AND NOT ON ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED OR TO BE PROVIDED BY LESSOR. LESSEE FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED OR TO BE PROVIDED WITH RESPECT TO THE PREMISES WAS OBTAINED FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES AND THAT LESSOR HAS NOT MADE ANY INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OR VERIFICATION OF SUCH INFORMATION. LESSEE FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT THE USE AND OPERATION OF THE PREMISES AS PROVIDED FOR HEREIN IS MADE ON AN "AS IS, WHERE IS" CONDITION AND BASIS "WITH ALL FAULTS". LESSEE ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH WERE A MATERIAL FACTOR IN THE DETERMINATION OF THE AMOUNT OF THE RENT OF THE PREMISES. THE TERMS OF THIS PARAGRAPH WILL SURVIVE ANY TERMINATION OF THIS LEASE.

ARTICLE 18: CONDEMNATION

If during the term of this Lease or any extension thereof, all of the Premises are taken for any public or quasi-public use under any governmental law, ordinance, or regulation, or by right or eminent domain, or are sold to the condemning authority under threat of condemnation, this Lease will terminate, effective as of the date the condemning authority takes the premises. If only a part of the premises shall be so taken or sold, but the remainder of the premises is not capable of being used for the purposes set forth herein, Lessor may terminate this Lease, without liability, at any time within forty-five (45) calendar days following such taking or sale. Any and all payments

made for or arising from any such taking or for damages to the premises resulting therefrom shall belong and be payable entirely to Lessor.

ARTICLE 19: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

A. **Gender, Number and Headings.** Words of any gender used in this Lease shall be held and construed to include any other gender, and words in the singular number shall be held to include the plural, unless the context otherwise requires. The headings and section numbers are for convenience only and shall not be considered in interpreting or construing this Lease. The captions and paragraphs or letters appearing in this Lease are inserted only as a matter of convenience and in no way define, limit, construe, or describe the scope or intent of the sections or articles of this Lease or affect this Lease in any way.

B. **Place of Performance.** This Lease shall be interpreted according to the laws of the State of Texas and shall be performed in Williamson County, Texas, and exclusive jurisdiction and venue shall lie in Williamson County, Texas.

C. **Terms Inclusive.** As used herein, the terms "Lessor" and "Lessee" include the plural whenever the context requires or admits.

D. **Severability.** If any provision of this Lease shall be held invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not invalidate or render unenforceable any other provision hereof, but rather this entire Lease will be construed as if not containing the particular invalid or unenforceable provision or provisions, and the rights and obligation of the parties shall be construed and enforced in accordance therewith. The parties acknowledge that if any provision of this Lease is

determined to be invalid or unenforceable, it is the desire and intention of each that such provision be reformed and construed in such a manner that it will, to the maximum extent practicable, give effect to the intent of this Lease and be deemed to be validated and enforceable.

E. **Governmental Immunity.** Nothing in this Lease shall be deemed to waive, modify or amend any legal defense available at law or in equity to Lessor nor to create any legal rights or claim on behalf of any third party. Lessor does not waive, modify, or alter to any extent whatsoever the availability of the defense of governmental immunity under the laws of the State of Texas and of the United States.

F. **No Assignment or Lease by Lessee.** Lessee may not sell or assign any interest granted herein or lease the Premises or any portion of the same or any portion of any improvement erected on said premises at any time without the prior written authorization and approval of Lessor.

G. **No Indemnification by Lessor.** Lessee acknowledges and agrees that Lessor, as a Texas Lessor and a political subdivision of the State of Texas, under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas, cannot enter into an agreement whereby it agrees to indemnify or hold harmless any other party, including but not limited to Lessee; therefore, all references of any kind, if any, to Lessor indemnifying, holding or saving harmless any other party, including but not limited to Lessee, for any reason whatsoever are hereby deemed void and deleted.

relative to the Premises and supersedes any prior understandings or written or oral agreements between the parties with respect to the to the Premises. There are no other promises, agreements, conditions, or understandings, either oral or written, between them. No subsequent alteration, amendment, change, or addition to this Lease will be binding on Lessor or Lessee unless in writing and signed by them and made a part of this Lease by direct reference.

EXECUTED this _____ day of _____, 20____, by authority of the governing board of each party.

Lessor:

Williamson County, Texas

By: _____

Dan A. Gattis,
Williamson County Judge

Lessee:

By: _____

Printed Name: Rob Stewart

Name of Business: Stewart's Pecan Farm

Title of Signer: owner

Exhibit "A"

Being ONLY THE PECAN TREES situated on ninety (90) acres of land, more or less, out of a greater 353.692 acre tract situated in the Silas Palmer Survey, Abstract No. 499, Williamson County, Texas, with said greater tract being more particularly described by metes and bounds in a Special Warranty Deed recorded under Document No. 2008007749, Official Records, Williamson County, Texas. The said ninety (90) acres on which the pecan trees are situated, which is referenced in this Pecan Harvesting Lease as being the "Premises", is further depicted in the sketch attached to the immediately following page.

