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Subject: Agriculture at the Ann Arbor Airport 2024 Proposals
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Attachments: [Ann Arbor Airport 2024 Aq Proposals.pdf](#)

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Ann Arbor Airport Advisory Committee,

Please see the attached letter outlining proposed options for agriculture activities at the Airport for the 2024 season. Nathan and I will be available to discuss these options and be available for any questions or concerns the board may have at the next meeting.

Thank you,

David McCalla

Partner
Broadview Farms
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1/10/2024

To the Ann Arbor Airport Advisory Committee,

Thank you for reconsidering the elimination of agriculture inside the grounds at the Ann Arbor Airport. We have been partners and tenants to the Airport for 30 years and hope to continue our long-standing relationship for many years to come. Provided below is a map of fields and acres that were farmed in 2023 and prior. Please reference the field names and acres in regards to the proposals following. We want to make sure all parties understand that whatever is decided, this can always be revisited in the following year. 2024 could be considered a transition or trial year for whichever proposal is adopted.



Image 1. Fields and acres actively farmed in 2023. Field 4 and 5 not to be planted to corn.

Option 1: Currently Broadview Farms, L.L.C. is to only farm field 1(63 acres) in 2024. This option eliminates all active farming within the fenced area of the Airport. This is the current policy in place. This eliminates food sources for certain wildlife during the growing season, but also creates additional maintenance and habitat for geese and other smaller mammals to land and nest throughout the year.

Option 2: Allow Broadview Farms, L.L.C. to lease Fields 1-4(145 acres) and require that fields within the fenced area not be planted to corn. This would eliminate an attractive food source for deer within the fenced area of the airport. By not having any crops grown South of the runway it may reduce wildlife crossings of the runway area. This would provide the Airport with an additional \$4100 of annual rental income.

Option 3: Allow Broadview Farms, L.L.C. to lease Fields 1-3(131 acres) and require that fields within the fenced area not be planted to corn. This would eliminate an attractive food source for deer within the fenced area of the airport. By not having any crops grown South of the runway, it may reduce wildlife crossings of the runway area. This would also eliminate any crops grown within the line of sight of the ends of the two runways. The Airport would receive an additional \$3400 of annual rental income.

Option 4: Allow Broadview Farms, L.L.C. to farm all fields as was done in 2023. Wildlife is a natural part of our world, and sometimes accidents with wildlife are bound to happen. We understand that safety is important, and we don't wish for any harm to come to pilots or passengers. However, air travel is still far and away the safest way to travel. The risk of hitting a deer or a bird in an airplane is far less than if you're driving your car to work. Farm acres are shrinking, and we wish to preserve every acre we can to feed the United States and the world. According to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service the US has been losing approximately 1.9 million acres of farmland per year since 2015. Every acre counts and that's why we feel so strongly about keeping as much of this land in production as we can.

Summary: Whichever option the committee decides on Broadview Farms is committed to work with the Airport Manager in transitioning to the plan for 2024. We believe that Option 2 or 3 would be best, as it would eliminate farming South of the runway. This would aid in discouraging wildlife to cross the runway, while still maintaining a low crop that would act very similar to a grass cover during the spring and summer months. If the Committee would like us to increase our buffer zone back from the runway, we are also open to that.

Fence and tree maintenance has also been discussed, and Broadview Farms is optimistic that we can work together with the maintenance team at the Airport. Whether that entails tree removal or simply aiding with mowing parts of the grounds, we know that we can work together to make sure that the Airport is as functional as it is beautiful.

Thank you for your time and reconsideration of this matter.

Broadview Farms, L.L.C.

David McCalla – Partner

Nathan McCalla – Partner