

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS
FORD COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

Ford County is accepting **sealed bids for Custom Grain Harvesting and Grain Hauling Services.**

Bid packets, including specifications and bid requirements, are available on the Ford County website at **fordcounty.illinois.gov** or may be picked up at:

Ford County Clerk & Recorder's Office

200 W. State Street, Room 101

Paxton, IL 60957

Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Email: clerk@fordcounty.illinois.gov

Sealed bids must be received by the Ford County Clerk & Recorder's Office **no later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 2026.**

The required envelope marking and email subject line are:

"SEALED BID – 2026 CUSTOM GRAIN HARVESTING – DO NOT OPEN BEFORE 6:00 P.M. CT ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2026"

Bids will be publicly opened at the **Ford County Board Meeting on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**

Ford County reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding process.

**COUNTY OF FORD, ILLINOIS
COUNTY BOARD**

INVITATION TO BID

2026 CUSTOM GRAIN HARVESTING AND GRAIN HAULING SERVICES

Bidder Name	
Date Issued	August 28, 2026
Question Deadline	September 12, 2026, 4:00 p.m. Central Time (CT)
Bid Receipt Deadline	September 14, 2026, 4:00 p.m. Central Time (CT)
Public Opening, Review, and Intended Award	September 14, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. CT, Ford County Board meeting, Sheriff's Boardroom, Ford County Jail
Contract Term	2026 fall harvest season; work only after written Notice to Proceed

IMPORTANT CONTINGENCY: An award does not authorize entry or harvest. No work may begin until Ford County issues a field-specific written Notice to Proceed after determining that it has lawful authority to proceed.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The County Board of Ford County, Illinois ("County") invites bids from qualified custom grain harvesting contractors ("Bidder" or "Contractor") to harvest and haul corn and soybeans from three agricultural properties during the 2026 fall harvest season. The successful Contractor shall provide all labor, supervision, machinery, vehicles, operators, fuel, maintenance, insurance, and other resources required by this packet.

Each bid must state a mandatory, all-inclusive per-acre price for each farm. The Bid Form uses estimated acres only to evaluate bids. Payment will be based on County-approved actual harvested acres at the applicable contract rate. An optional all-farms discount may be stated only as a uniform percentage applied to each farm's per-acre rate if all three farms are awarded to the same Bidder.

Physical bids must be sealed and delivered to the Ford County Clerk & Recorder, Ford County Courthouse, 200 W. State Street, Room 101, Paxton, Illinois 60957. Emailed bids must be sent to clerk@fordcounty.illinois.gov. The required envelope marking and email subject line are:

SEALED BID - 2026 CUSTOM GRAIN HARVESTING - DO NOT OPEN BEFORE 6:00 P.M. CT ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

A bid is timely only when actually received by the Ford County Clerk & Recorder no later than 4:00 p.m. CT on September 14, 2026. Transmission, postmark, courier acceptance, or an email sender's timestamp does not control. Late bids will not be opened or considered.

Subject to its express right to reject any and all bids, the County will award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder under the evaluation method stated in this packet. The County Board intends to open, review, and award the bid at the same public meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. CT on September 14, 2026.

SECTION 1 - GENERAL INFORMATION, FARMS, AND CONTINGENCY

1.1 Purpose. The County seeks a responsible Contractor with sufficient personnel, equipment, experience, hauling capacity, insurance, and financial ability to complete the authorized work safely, timely, and in a good and workmanlike manner.

1.2 Farms Included. The following acreage figures are estimates derived from 2026 planting records and are used only for bid evaluation. They are not surveys, legal boundary determinations, or guarantees of harvestable acreage.

Farm	FSA / Township	Crop	Estimated Acres
Farm No. 1 - Nursing Home Farm	FSA No. 933 / Patton Township	Corn	103.5
Farm No. 2 - Bowen/Grider Farm	FSA No. 180 / Button Township	Soybeans	142.6
Farm No. 3 - Hatfield/Bowen Farm	FSA No. 2944 / Button Township	Corn	118.5
TOTAL			364.6

1.3 Contingent Solicitation and Award. This solicitation, any County Board award, and any resulting contract are expressly contingent upon the County obtaining or confirming lawful authority to enter the identified fields and harvest, remove, deliver, and direct disposition of the crops. The County does not represent that it presently owns the crops, and the Contractor acquires no ownership, lien, security interest, or right of sale by bidding, award, possession, harvest, or delivery.

1.4 Written Notice to Proceed Required. No Contractor shall enter a field, mobilize onto a farm, sever or remove a crop, or transport or deliver grain unless and until it receives a written Notice to Proceed identifying the authorized farm or field, crop, authorized start, delivery destination and account, and County representative. A verbal instruction, bid award, contract signature, site visit, or request to remain available is not a Notice to Proceed.

1.5 No Guaranteed Work or Acreage. The County may withhold, limit, postpone, modify, or decline to issue a Notice to Proceed if the tenant cures or redeems, authority remains disputed, judicial relief is sought or denied, the crop is unavailable or unharvestable, or the County otherwise determines the work is unnecessary or inadvisable. No minimum acreage, number of farms, number of loads, revenue, reimbursement of bid expense, mobilization payment, standby payment, or anticipated profit is guaranteed.

1.6 County Control of Proceeds. All grain shall be delivered only as directed by the County. The Contractor shall not sell, price, pledge, assign, divert, barter, store, commingle, or otherwise dispose of any grain or proceeds and shall not represent that it has authority to do so.

SECTION 2 - BID INSTRUCTIONS, QUESTIONS, RECEIPT, AND OPENING

2.1 Receipt Deadline. Bids must be actually received by the Ford County Clerk & Recorder no later than 4:00 p.m. CT on September 14, 2026. The Clerk's date-and-time stamp controls a physical bid. The time the email appears as received in the designated Clerk mailbox controls an emailed bid. Receipt, not attempted or completed transmission by the Bidder, controls in every instance.

2.2 Sealed Physical Bids. A physical bid must contain one complete, signed original in a sealed envelope delivered to the Ford County Clerk & Recorder, Ford County Courthouse, 200 W. State Street, Room 101, Paxton, Illinois 60957. The envelope must bear the exact marking stated in the Notice to Bidders. The Bidder bears all risks of mail, courier, weather, security screening, incorrect delivery, and delay.

2.3 Emailed Bids. An emailed bid must be sent to clerk@fordcounty.illinois.gov as one complete, legible PDF attachment and must use the exact subject line stated in the Notice to Bidders. The Bidder bears all risks of transmission failure, filtering, delay, file corruption, password protection, incomplete attachment, excessive file size, or delivery to any other address. An attachment that cannot be opened and read at the public opening may be rejected as nonresponsive. County personnel shall not intentionally open a properly identified bid attachment before the announced public opening.

2.4 Late Bids; Modification; Withdrawal. A late bid will remain unopened and will not be considered. Before the receipt deadline, a Bidder may withdraw or replace its bid by a signed written notice actually received by the Clerk. A replacement must satisfy all submission requirements and be plainly identified as a replacement. No bid may be altered, supplemented, or withdrawn after the deadline except as allowed by law and expressly accepted by the County.

2.5 Questions and Addenda. Questions must be submitted in writing to clerk@fordcounty.illinois.gov with the subject line "QUESTION - 2026 CUSTOM GRAIN HARVESTING" and must be actually received by 4:00 p.m. CT on September 12, 2026, exactly 48 hours before the bid deadline. Oral statements are not binding. The County may issue written addenda and may distribute them by the same means used to distribute this packet. Each Bidder must acknowledge every addendum on the Bid Form.

2.6 Opening, Review, and Intended Award. Bids will be publicly opened at the Ford County Board meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. CT on September 14, 2026, in the Sheriff's Boardroom at the Ford County Jail. The meeting agenda will identify bid opening, review, and award as possible final action. The Board intends to review responsiveness, responsibility, and evaluated prices and to award at that same meeting. The Board may defer action if necessary to comply with law, investigate responsibility, resolve an irregularity, or protect the County's interests.

2.7 Bid Validity. Each bid shall remain firm and irrevocable for 45 calendar days after the bid receipt deadline unless the County releases the Bidder in writing.

SECTION 3 - SCOPE OF HARVESTING SERVICES

3.1 Complete Service. The Contractor shall furnish all combines, crop heads, grain carts, tractors, trucks, trailers, operators, labor, supervision, fuel, lubricants, maintenance, repairs, transportation, communication, safety equipment, insurance, and other items necessary to harvest and haul all crops authorized in a Notice to Proceed.

3.2 Mobilization and Continuous Performance. The Contractor shall be ready to begin at the authorized start stated in the Notice to Proceed, shall mobilize within 24 hours after that authorized start unless the County approves otherwise in writing, and shall thereafter proceed continuously and diligently, subject to County suspension, weather, safe field conditions, and elevator acceptance.

3.3 Moisture Targets and Direction. The County's target harvest ranges are 16% through 23% moisture for corn and 9% through 15% moisture for soybeans. These are operational targets, not conditions that make crop outside the range unharvestable. The County representative may direct harvest above or below a target based on maturity, weather, crop condition, field condition, elevator restrictions, or preservation of crop value. A field check or County-approved meter may guide commencement; certified elevator measurements control delivered-load moisture records.

3.4 Harvest Quality and Field Loss. The Contractor shall follow generally accepted agricultural practices; select appropriate speed and settings; monitor loss, kernel or seed damage, and contamination; and promptly adjust equipment as conditions change. The County may inspect operations and direct reasonable corrective adjustments. Excessive loss, avoidable damage, or failure to adjust constitutes deficient performance.

3.5 Property Protection and Rights-of-Way. The Contractor shall protect entrances, culverts, drainage structures, tile outlets, waterways, roads, shoulders, fences, buildings, utilities, adjacent crops, soil, and other County, township, or third-party property. Except for lawful road travel and necessary access through designated entrances, Contractor shall keep machinery, grain carts, trucks, and staged loads off township and other public rights-of-way. Contractor shall promptly report and, at the County's election, repair or pay for damage caused by Contractor or any person for whom it is responsible.

3.6 Field and Weather Conditions. The Contractor shall not operate when doing so would cause unreasonable rutting, compaction, soil damage, crop damage, unsafe travel, or other avoidable injury. The County may suspend or sequence work because of weather, moisture, field conditions, crop condition, elevator conditions, legal issues, or operational needs without paying delay, standby, demobilization, or remobilization charges.

3.7 Cleaning and Biosecurity. Before entering a County farm and when moving between County farms if directed, the Contractor shall clean equipment sufficiently to prevent transfer of weed seed, soil-borne pests, treated grain, chemicals, or crop from another property. No cleaning charge is payable.

SECTION 4 - HAULING, TWENTY-ROAD-MILE RULE, AND ELEVATOR CONDITIONS

4.1 Hauling Included. The applicable per-acre rate includes all hauling and transportation necessary to deliver every load to any elevator or receiving facility designated by the County that satisfies the 20-road-mile rule in Section 4.2. No separate charge is payable for trucking, number of loads, yield, mileage, fuel, driver time, detention, waiting, redelivery, return travel, or route conditions within that limit.

4.2 Measurement of Twenty Road Miles. For each farm and proposed elevator, road mileage shall be measured along the shortest lawful and reasonably passable public-road route between (a) the elevator's receiving-scale entrance and (b) the field entrance serving the point of that farm property that is farthest from the elevator by that route. The 20-mile limit is satisfied only if that farthest farm point is no more than 20.0 road miles from the elevator. The County's good-faith mileage determination, using a generally available digital mapping service and applicable road restrictions, controls absent manifest error.

4.3 Travel Beyond Twenty Miles. The Contractor shall not incur or expect any additional compensation for travel beyond 20.0 road miles unless, before the travel occurs, the Ford County Board expressly approves the additional compensation in writing. Approval by a County representative, elevator employee, tenant, driver, or other person is insufficient. Any travel beyond 20.0 road miles undertaken without prior written County Board approval is entirely uncompensated, and the Contractor waives any claim based on extra work, quantum meruit, implied contract, emergency, course of dealing, or unjust enrichment.

4.4 Elevator Waiting Time and Congestion. All ordinary and extraordinary elevator queues, scale lines, probe lines, receiving delays, congestion, temporary closures, shift changes, computer outages, and similar waiting time are foreseeable operating risks included in the per-acre rate. The Contractor shall provide sufficient trucks and coordinate operations to avoid unnecessary combine shutdown. No detention, hourly, standby, demurrage, lost-use, overtime, or delay compensation is payable.

4.5 Rejected or Redirected Loads. The Contractor shall immediately notify the County representative of a rejected, conditionally accepted, or redirected load and shall follow the County's written or documented direction. Return, holding, reweighing, re-probing, and redelivery to a destination within the 20-road-mile rule are included in the per-acre rate. If rejection or discount results from Contractor contamination, commingling, spillage, improper tarping, wrong destination or account, unauthorized delay, failure to follow harvest direction, or another act or omission of Contractor, Contractor shall bear all resulting charges, loss in value, cleanup, handling, transportation, and disposal costs. The Contractor is not responsible for an inherent crop condition it did not cause, but is not entitled to extra compensation for handling or delay.

4.6 Drying and Receiving Delays. Drying capacity limits, high-moisture restrictions, drying queues, and temporary inability to receive grain do not create a right to added compensation. The County may suspend harvest, change sequencing, or designate another receiving facility satisfying the 20-road-mile rule. Drying charges or quality discounts attributable solely to inherent crop condition are matters for the County's grain account; amounts attributable to Contractor's failure to follow direction or negligent handling may be charged to Contractor.

4.7 After-Hours, Weekend, and Holiday Delivery. No after-hours, night, weekend, holiday, overtime, call-out, or premium charge is payable. Before making a delivery outside the receiving facility's ordinary posted hours, the Contractor must obtain documented approval from both the County representative and the receiving facility. Contractor is responsible for all consequences and charges of an unauthorized after-hours delivery. Operational approval does not authorize extra compensation; any extra compensation requires prior written County Board approval.

4.8 Delivery Instructions. Each load shall be fully covered or tarped as required by law and good agricultural practice and delivered without unreasonable delay to the destination, account, and disposition status stated by the County. Contractor shall not change the destination or account based on instructions from anyone other than the authorized County representative.

SECTION 5 - GRAIN CONTROL, LOAD TICKETS, AND DAILY REPORTING

5.1 County Direction; No Contractor Disposition Authority. The Contractor's custody is limited to harvesting, temporary handling, transportation, and delivery. Title, pricing, sale, storage, settlement, and disposition remain subject to the rights of the County, tenant, secured parties, court, elevator, and other lawful claimants. Contractor shall not direct payment or settlement to itself or any third party.

5.2 Load Manifest. Before each truck leaves a field, Contractor shall create a sequential load record stating: farm and field; crop; date and departure time; load number; truck, trailer, and driver; destination elevator; County-designated account; and any observable contamination, spill, or abnormal condition. Contractor shall maintain an uninterrupted load-number sequence for each farm and reconcile it to elevator tickets.

5.3 Elevator Tickets. Contractor shall obtain and preserve the original or a complete legible copy of every scale, grade, settlement, rejection, redelivery, and related elevator ticket. Each ticket must show, when supplied by the elevator: farm or County identifier; date and time; gross, tare, and net weight; net bushels; moisture; test weight; foreign material; damage; grade; discounts; truck or driver identifier; destination; and account name. Contractor shall request correction of an incorrect farm or account designation before leaving the elevator when reasonably possible.

5.4 Daily Delivery to Treasurer. On every day harvesting or hauling occurs, Contractor shall transmit legible images or electronic copies of all load manifests and elevator tickets generated that day to the Ford County Treasurer's Office at the address or email designated in the Notice to Proceed no later than 8:00 p.m. CT. Contractor shall deliver the corresponding originals to the Ford County Treasurer's Office, Ford County Courthouse, 200 W. State Street, Paxton, Illinois 60957, no later than 9:00 a.m. CT on the next County business day. Daily submission is a material contract duty and a condition of invoice approval.

5.5 Daily Reconciliation and Discrepancies. Contractor shall reconcile the load-number sequence, manifests, and tickets daily and immediately report a missing ticket, duplicate number, weight discrepancy, rejected load, spill, diversion, wrong account, or other irregularity. Contractor shall provide requested supporting records within one business day.

5.6 Risk of Loss in Contractor Custody. To the fullest extent allowed by law, Contractor bears the risk of shortage, spillage, theft, diversion, contamination, commingling, unreasonable delay, misdelivery, and damage to grain while in Contractor's possession or control to the extent caused by Contractor or a person for whom Contractor is responsible. The County may deduct documented loss or expense from amounts otherwise due after notice and an opportunity to respond.

5.7 Records Retention. Contractor shall retain manifests, tickets, dispatch records, truck and driver assignments, combine data, invoices, and related records for at least five years after final payment and shall provide copies to the County upon request.

SECTION 6 - INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Certificate Required With Bid. The Bidder shall include a current Certificate of Insurance issued by an authorized insurance representative. The certificate must identify Ford County, Illinois, 200 W. State Street, Paxton, Illinois 60957, as certificate holder and must expressly state that Ford County, together with its elected and appointed officials, officers, employees, and agents, is an additional insured on the applicable liability coverage for the work. Failure to provide a satisfactory certificate may render the bid nonresponsive.

6.2 Minimum Coverage. The successful Contractor and every approved subcontractor shall maintain, at its own expense, at least the following coverage from insurers authorized to do business in Illinois and reasonably acceptable to the County:

Coverage	Minimum Limit / Requirement
Commercial General Liability	\$1,000,000 each occurrence; \$2,000,000 general aggregate; \$2,000,000 products-completed operations aggregate
Automobile Liability	\$1,000,000 combined single limit; owned, hired, and non-owned autos
Workers' Compensation	Statutory Illinois limits; evidence of lawful exemption required if not applicable
Employers' Liability	\$1,000,000 each accident; \$1,000,000 disease-policy limit; \$1,000,000 disease-each employee
Motor Truck Cargo / Cargo Legal Liability	Full replacement value of the maximum grain load in custody, but not less than \$100,000 each occurrence or conveyance

6.3 Additional-Insured Endorsements. A certificate alone does not amend a policy. Before contract execution or any Notice to Proceed, whichever occurs first, the successful Bidder shall furnish the actual policy endorsement or endorsements naming Ford County, together with its elected and appointed officials, officers, employees, and agents, as additional insureds on the Commercial General Liability policy for ongoing and completed operations and, where available and applicable, on Automobile Liability coverage. Coverage shall apply to liability arising out of or caused in whole or in part by Contractor's work.

6.4 Primary Coverage and Waiver of Subrogation. The additional-insured coverage shall be primary and noncontributory to insurance or self-insurance maintained by the County. To the extent commercially available, Contractor shall provide waivers of subrogation in favor of the County on Commercial General Liability, Automobile Liability, and Workers' Compensation coverage. Any deductible or self-insured retention is Contractor's sole responsibility.

6.5 Maintenance and Notice. Coverage must remain in force from contract execution through final payment and, for completed-operations coverage, for the period maintained in the ordinary course but not less than two years. Contractor shall promptly notify the County of cancellation, nonrenewal, material reduction, or exhaustion of coverage and shall provide replacement evidence before any lapse. Acceptance of insurance evidence does not waive or reduce any contract duty or liability.

6.6 Subcontractors. No subcontractor may begin work until the County has approved the subcontractor in writing and received evidence that the subcontractor carries equivalent coverage or is properly included under Contractor's policies. Contractor remains fully responsible for every subcontractor.

6.7 Contractor Equipment. All Contractor equipment remains at Contractor's sole risk. The County is not responsible for theft, loss, breakdown, or damage except to the extent liability may not lawfully be waived.

SECTION 7 - INDEMNIFICATION

7.1 Defense and Indemnity. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Contractor shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Ford County, the Ford County Board, and their elected and appointed officials, officers, employees, and agents from claims, demands, actions, damages, losses, liabilities, judgments, fines, penalties, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees arising from or relating to the work to the extent caused by the negligent, reckless, wrongful, or willful act or omission of Contractor, its personnel, subcontractors, or anyone for whom it is legally responsible. Contractor has no duty to indemnify the County for the County's sole negligence or for liability that Illinois law prohibits from being transferred.

SECTION 8 - PERSONNEL, SAFETY, AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

8.1 Qualified Personnel. Contractor shall provide competent, trained, sober, and properly licensed operators. Every commercial motor vehicle operator shall hold all licenses, endorsements, medical qualifications, and hours-of-service compliance required by law.

8.2 Safety and Emergency Equipment. Contractor shall use safe procedures and maintain required lighting, reflectors, slow-moving-vehicle emblems, fire extinguishers, first-aid supplies, spill-control materials, tarps, and securement devices. Accidents, injuries, fires, spills, property damage, traffic citations affecting the work, and governmental inspections shall be reported to the County representative immediately.

8.3 Weights, Routes, and Permits. Contractor is solely responsible for legal vehicle weights, dimensions, licensing, permits, route restrictions, bridge limits, and road postings. No overload fine, permit charge, towing charge, or violation is reimbursable unless the County Board expressly approves a specific cost in writing before it is incurred.

8.4 Independent Contractor. Contractor controls the manner and means of performance subject to the specifications and County's right to direct results, fields, timing, destinations, and protection of County interests. Contractor and its personnel are independent contractors and are not County employees, agents, or servants.

SECTION 9 - EQUIPMENT, AVAILABILITY, AND PERFORMANCE

9.1 Equipment Schedule. The Bidder shall identify the principal equipment it will use, including combine make, model and year; corn head and row configuration; soybean platform width; grain carts and tractors; number and capacity of trucks and trailers; and material backup equipment.

9.2 Condition and Capacity. Equipment must be in safe operating condition and of sufficient quantity and capacity to harvest and haul without unreasonable interruption. Contractor shall disclose existing material harvest commitments and shall not accept other work that prevents timely performance of this contract.

9.3 Breakdowns and Backup. A breakdown does not excuse performance. Contractor shall immediately notify the County and promptly repair or replace disabled equipment. Unless the County approves otherwise in writing, material harvesting or hauling capacity shall be restored within 24 hours. The County may secure replacement services after default and charge the reasonable excess cost to Contractor.

SECTION 10 - SCHEDULING AND COUNTY DIRECTION

10.1 County Representative. The County Board or its authorized officer will designate a County representative in the Notice to Proceed. That representative may direct day-to-day matters including moisture checks, harvest sequence, temporary suspension, elevator destination, account designation, field access, and operational coordination. The representative may not amend price, authorize compensation, waive a material contract requirement, or issue authority to proceed beyond the written Notice to Proceed.

10.2 Communication. Contractor shall maintain reliable telephone and text or email contact throughout operations and shall promptly report anticipated start and completion, material breakdown, weather or field delay, elevator restriction, rejected load, accident, damage, dispute, or other circumstance affecting performance or County interests.

10.3 County Priority. The County may establish and change the sequence of farms and fields and may suspend or resume operations. Contractor shall comply promptly and shall coordinate equipment and hauling capacity accordingly without added compensation.

SECTION 11 - BID PRICE, EVALUATION, INVOICING, AND PAYMENT

11.1 All-Inclusive Per-Acre Rates. Each mandatory farm-specific rate is firm and includes every cost of complete harvesting and hauling under this packet, including labor, equipment, heads, carts, tractors, trucks, trailers, number of loads, operators, fuel, maintenance, repair, ordinary mobilization and demobilization, insurance, overhead, profit, elevator waiting, redelivery within the mileage limit, and compliance costs. No fuel surcharge, yield adjustment, hourly charge, or other add-on is allowed.

11.2 Evaluated Price. For each farm, the County will multiply the stated per-acre rate by the estimated acres in Section 1.2. The Base Aggregate Evaluated Total is the sum of the three farm totals. If the Bidder offers an optional uniform all-farms percentage discount, the County will multiply the Base Aggregate Evaluated Total by one minus that percentage to determine the All-Farms Evaluated Total. The same discount percentage will reduce each farm's actual per-acre payment rate only if all three farms are awarded to that Bidder. Unit per-acre rates control over an inconsistent extended amount, and the County may correct arithmetic.

11.3 Actual Acres. Payment shall be based on actual acres harvested and accepted, determined by County-approved digital combine data, boundary mapping, or other reliable acreage information. Contractor shall submit complete georeferenced combine or mapping data with its invoice. Planting-record acreage and evaluated totals do not determine payment.

11.4 Proper Invoice. After completing the authorized work for a farm, Contractor shall submit an itemized invoice stating the contract number; farm and crop; harvest dates; County-approved actual acres; base per-acre rate; any applicable all-farms discount; net per-acre rate; and total. The invoice must include or identify the submitted combine data, complete load-and-ticket reconciliation, and documentation required by the County. An incomplete or inaccurate invoice may be disapproved.

11.5 Local Government Prompt Payment Act. Payment shall be administered under the Local Government Prompt Payment Act, 50 ILCS 505/1 et seq., and 55 ILCS 5/5-1021. The appropriate County official or agency will approve or disapprove a proper bill within 30 days after receipt of the bill or within 30 days after the services are received, whichever is later. An approved bill shall be paid within 30 days after approval. Any required late-payment interest will be governed exclusively by applicable law. Written notice of disapproval will be provided as required by law.

11.6 Disputed Amounts and Setoff. The County may disapprove an unsupported, inaccurate, premature, or disputed charge and may set off documented amounts owed by Contractor for loss, damage, replacement service, or other contract liability, subject to applicable law. Payment of an invoice does not waive a latent defect, missing ticket, false record, or later-discovered loss.

SECTION 12 - PROCUREMENT, EVALUATION, AND AWARD

12.1 Lowest Responsible Bidder. Subject to the County's right to reject any and all bids, the contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder under the evaluation method stated in this packet, consistent with 55 ILCS 5/5-1022. Responsibility includes conformity with the specifications; suitability and capacity of equipment and hauling resources; availability and delivery capability; experience; references and prior performance; insurance; legal compliance; completeness and responsiveness of the bid; and ability to perform timely and safely.

12.2 Award Configuration. The County may award all three farms to one Bidder or award farms separately. For a separate-farm award, the County will compare the evaluated farm totals of responsible bidders. For an all-farms award, the County will compare each responsible Bidder's All-Farms Evaluated Total, including any properly stated uniform discount. The County may select the lawful configuration producing the lowest evaluated total cost among responsible bidders. No Bidder is entitled to a particular configuration.

12.3 Same-Meeting Review and Conditional Award. The Board intends to open, review, and award at the September 14, 2026 meeting. An award may be expressly conditioned on verification of references, equipment, legal eligibility, and insurance and on timely delivery of endorsements. Failure to satisfy a condition by the deadline stated by the County permits withdrawal of the award and award to the next lowest responsible bidder or rejection of all bids.

12.4 Reservation of Rights. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids; determine responsiveness and responsibility; waive a minor informality that does not affect price, quantity, quality, delivery, competition, or an advantage over other bidders; correct arithmetic; seek clarification that does not permit a material bid change; verify information; contact references and insurers; cancel or reissue the solicitation; and take other action permitted by law. The County will not waive a defect when waiver would prejudice another bidder or undermine fair competition.

12.5 No Contract Until Written Acceptance. Bid submission creates no contract, property interest, or right to work. A contract arises only when the County Board approves an award and the County's written acceptance is signed as stated in Section 20. Even then, field entry and work remain prohibited until a written Notice to Proceed is issued.

SECTION 13 - CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION AND COUNTY REMEDIES

13.1 Termination for Convenience. Before or after a Notice to Proceed, the County may terminate all or part of the contract for convenience by written notice. Contractor's sole compensation is for conforming work actually completed and accepted before the effective termination, calculated at the contract rate. Contractor is not entitled to anticipated profit, lost opportunity, standby, unabsorbed overhead, cancellation, demobilization, or consequential damages.

13.2 Default and Cure. Material default includes unauthorized entry or harvest; untimely mobilization or performance; inadequate equipment or hauling; failure to follow delivery or ticket instructions; diversion or mishandling of grain; deficient harvest quality; unsafe or unlawful operation; lapse of insurance; false certification; unauthorized subcontracting; or other material breach. When circumstances permit, the County may provide a short written opportunity to cure. No cure period is required for an emergency, threat to crop or property, grain diversion, lapse of required insurance, unlawful conduct, abandonment, or a breach that cannot timely be cured.

13.3 Replacement Services and Damages. Upon default, the County may suspend Contractor, take reasonable protective action, hire a replacement contractor, complete delivery, and recover or set off the reasonable excess cost and other recoverable loss. These remedies are cumulative.

13.4 Adverse Claim or Dispute. If Contractor receives notice or observes evidence that a tenant, secured party, insurer, law-enforcement officer, court, or other person contests entry, harvest, possession, delivery, or disposition, Contractor shall stop safely, preserve the crop and grain, avoid confrontation, and immediately notify the County. Contractor shall resume only upon written County direction.

13.5 Delay and Force Majeure. Contractor shall not be liable for a delay caused solely by extraordinary weather, natural disaster, governmental closure, or another event beyond its reasonable control that it could not avoid or mitigate, provided it gives prompt notice and resumes diligently. Equipment breakdown, labor shortage, conflicting private commitments, ordinary weather, ordinary elevator delay, fuel price, and foreseeable road conditions are not force majeure. Force majeure extends time only and creates no right to added compensation.

13.6 Assignment and Subcontracting. Contractor shall not assign the contract, payment rights, or material work without prior written County Board approval. Approved subcontracting does not relieve Contractor of any duty or liability.

13.7 Public Records and Confidentiality. Records relating to the bid and contract may be subject to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Contractor shall cooperate with lawful County record requests and shall clearly identify any claimed confidential trade-secret material at submission, with the legal basis. The County does not guarantee that any record will be withheld.

13.8 Governing Law and Venue. Illinois law governs. Exclusive venue for any action relating to this solicitation or contract lies in the Circuit Court of Ford County, Illinois, unless controlling law requires otherwise.

13.9 Order of Precedence and Amendment. The controlling order is: written County Board-approved amendment or change order; written County acceptance and award; County addenda; this Invitation to Bid and incorporated exhibits; Notice to Proceed for operational details; and successful Bid Form. Bidder terms, quotations, or exceptions do not apply unless expressly accepted in writing by the County Board. A material amendment or added compensation must be approved in writing by the County Board.

13.10 Entire Agreement; Severability; No Waiver. The controlling documents constitute the entire agreement. An unenforceable provision shall be severed or enforced to the maximum lawful extent without invalidating the remainder. Delay or failure to enforce a right is not a waiver.

SECTION 14 - BIDDER CERTIFICATIONS

By signing and submitting the Bid Form, the Bidder certifies that it:

- ☐ has read and accepts the packet and acknowledged addenda, except only for written exceptions expressly identified in the bid;
- ☐ has inspected or had a fair opportunity to inspect the farms, access points, routes, and local conditions;
- ☐ has included all costs in the stated rates and understands the County-favorable allocation of elevator and delivery risks;
- ☐ has sufficient equipment, personnel, trucking, insurance, experience, and availability to perform;
- ☐ has supplied true, complete, and nonmisleading information and authorizes verification;
- ☐ has not colluded, restrained competition, or disclosed its price to another bidder;
- ☐ is not barred from bidding for or entering into a County contract under 55 ILCS 5/5-1022 or other applicable law, and acknowledges the County may declare the contract void if this certification is false;
- ☐ understands that award does not authorize entry or harvest and that no work may begin without a written Notice to Proceed; and
- ☐ will comply with all applicable federal, Illinois, and local law and the complete contract requirements.

SECTION 15 - BID FORM

Bidder / Business Name	
Owner / Authorized Representative	
Business Address	
City, State, ZIP	
Telephone	
Email	

Mandatory Base Bid. Enter one all-inclusive per-acre rate for every farm and calculate the evaluated amount using the stated estimated acres. A blank mandatory rate may render the bid nonresponsive.

Farm / Crop	Estimated Acres	Firm Rate Per Acre	Evaluated Farm Total	For County Arithmetic Check
Farm 1 - Nursing Home / Corn	103.5	\$ _____	\$ _____	103.5 × rate
Farm 2 - Bowen/Grider / Soybeans	142.6	\$ _____	\$ _____	142.6 × rate
Farm 3 - Hatfield/Bowen / Corn	118.5	\$ _____	\$ _____	118.5 × rate
BASE AGGREGATE EVALUATED TOTAL	364.6		\$ _____	Sum of 3 totals

Optional All-Farms Discount. If all three farms are awarded to this Bidder, apply _____% (maximum two decimal places) to each stated farm per-acre rate. If left blank, the discount is zero. The County will calculate:

Calculation	Amount
Base Aggregate Evaluated Total	\$ _____
Less uniform all-farms discount	\$ _____
ALL-FARMS EVALUATED TOTAL	\$ _____

Unit rates control. The County may correct arithmetic. The all-farms discount applies to actual per-acre payment rates only if all three farms are awarded to the Bidder; it does not apply to a split or partial award.

Earliest Date Available After Notice to Proceed	
Existing Material Harvest Commitments (identify farms/acres/time windows)	
Maximum Acres Per Day - Corn	
Maximum Acres Per Day - Soybeans	
Maximum Loads / Hauling Capacity Per Day	

SECTION 16 - ANTICIPATED EQUIPMENT SCHEDULE

Combine No. 1 - Make / Model / Year	
Combine No. 2 - Make / Model / Year	
Corn Head - Make / Model / Rows / Spacing	
Soybean Platform - Make / Model / Width	
Grain Cart(s) - Make / Model / Capacity	
Tractor(s) - Make / Model	
Trucks / Semi-Tractors - Number / Description	
Grain Trailers - Number / Capacity	
Backup Equipment / Replacement Plan	
Other Relevant Equipment	

SECTION 17 - CUSTOM HARVESTING REFERENCES - PREVIOUS THREE YEARS

Reference No. 1

Customer / Farm	
Contact Person	
Telephone / Email	
Location	
Year(s) Work Performed	
Approximate Acres	
Crop(s)	
Description of Services	

Reference No. 2

Customer / Farm	
Contact Person	
Telephone / Email	
Location	
Year(s) Work Performed	
Approximate Acres	
Crop(s)	
Description of Services	

Reference No. 3

Customer / Farm	
Contact Person	
Telephone / Email	
Location	
Year(s) Work Performed	
Approximate Acres	
Crop(s)	
Description of Services	

SECTION 18 - REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS, ADDENDA, AND EXCEPTIONS

- ☐ Fully completed and signed Bid Form, including mandatory rates for all three farms.
- ☐ Anticipated Equipment Schedule and backup plan.
- ☐ Three years of custom-harvesting references, when available.
- ☐ Current Certificate of Insurance naming Ford County as certificate holder and expressly identifying Ford County and the stated County parties as additional insureds.
- ☐ Evidence of Motor Truck Cargo or Cargo Legal Liability coverage.
- ☐ Identification of every proposed subcontractor and the work each will perform.
- ☐ Written identification of every exception or qualification; write 'NONE' if there are none.
- ☐ Acknowledgment of every County addendum.

Addendum No(s). Acknowledged	
Proposed Subcontractor(s) and Work	
Exceptions / Qualifications (attach pages if needed)	

A Bidder-proposed exception is not accepted merely because it is submitted. It applies only if the County Board expressly accepts it in writing as part of the award.

SECTION 19 - BIDDER SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The undersigned is authorized to bind the Bidder and offers to perform the work at the stated prices in strict accordance with the complete bid packet. The undersigned understands that the County may accept this bid by formal Board action and written County acceptance, but that no entry or work is authorized until a written Notice to Proceed is issued.

Bidder / Business Name	
Authorized Representative	
Title	
Signature	
Date	
Telephone	
Email	

SECTION 20 - COUNTY OPENING RECORD AND CONTRACT ACCEPTANCE

Bid Receipt and Opening Record

Date Bid Actually Received	
Time Bid Actually Received (CT)	
Method: Sealed Physical / Email	
Received By	
Date and Time Publicly Opened	
Rates Read Aloud / Evaluated Total	
Responsiveness Determination	
Responsibility Determination	

County Board Action and Written Acceptance

County Board Action / Motion	
Farm(s) Awarded	
Accepted Base Rate(s)	
Accepted All-Farms Discount, if applicable	
Conditions of Award	
Date of Award	

By the signatures below, Ford County accepts the Bidder's offer only as approved by the Ford County Board and subject to every term of the controlling bid documents. This acceptance forms the contract but is not a Notice to Proceed.

Chairman, Ford County Board - Signature	
Date	
Ford County Clerk & Recorder - Attest	
Date	
Contractor - Acknowledged	
Date	

EXHIBIT A - FORM OF WRITTEN NOTICE TO PROCEED

This form is effective only when completed and signed as authorized by the Ford County Board. A separate Notice to Proceed may be issued for each farm or field.

Contractor	
Contract / Award Date	
Authorized Farm / Field	
Crop	
Authorized Start Date and Time (CT)	
Required Mobilization Deadline (CT)	
Elevator / Receiving Facility	
County-Designated Elevator Account	
Approved Delivery Route / 20-Mile Determination	
County Representative - Name / Phone / Email	
Treasurer Ticket Email / Delivery Instructions	
Special Operational Directions	

COUNTY DETERMINATION AND LIMITED AUTHORIZATION

Ford County has determined that it may lawfully proceed with the limited work identified above. Contractor is authorized only to harvest, haul, and deliver as stated. This Notice does not transfer crop ownership, permit sale or pricing, authorize a different field or destination, waive a contract term, or approve additional compensation. Contractor shall stop safely and notify the County immediately upon any adverse claim or conflicting direction.

Authorized County Signature	
Title / Authority	
Date and Time Issued (CT)	
Ford County Clerk & Recorder - Attest	
Contractor Receipt - Name / Signature	
Date and Time Received (CT)	

EXHIBIT B - 2026 PLANTING RECORD

Farm No. 1 - Nursing Home Farm / FSA No. 933 / Corn | 103.5 estimated planted acres

2026 Seeding: Corn



Field: Farm 1

Purcell farms | Ford county farm 1

Start: Apr 22, 2026 3:52 PM

End: Apr 22, 2026 9:25 PM

Work Totals

Area Seeded: 103.5 ac

Applied Total: 3,480,167 seeds

Target Total: 3,487,319 seeds

Applied Rate: 33,600 seeds/ac

Target Rate: 33,700 seeds/ac

Performance

Seeding Time: 5 hr 44 min

Productivity: 18.1 ac/hr

Fuel Rate (Area): 0.6 gal/ac

Singulation: 98.6 %

Multiples: 0.5 %

Ride Quality: 92 %

Gauge Wheel Margin: 265 lbf

Speed: 5.1 mi/hr

Total Fuel: 60.7 gal

Fuel Rate (Time): 10.6 gal/hr

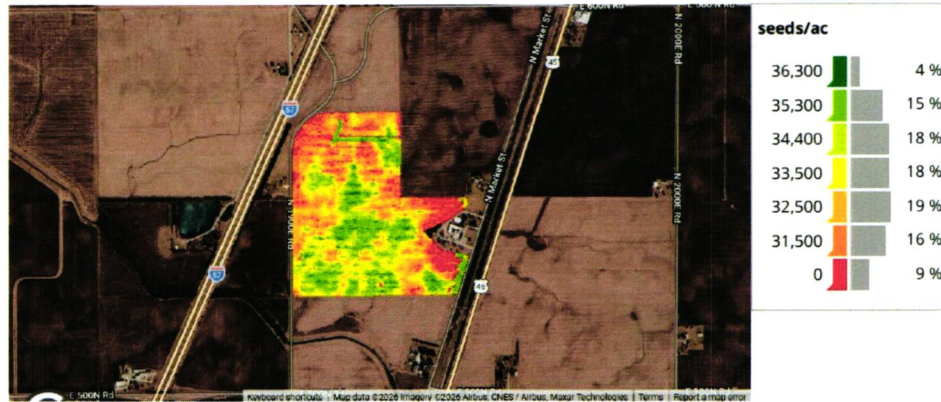
Skips: 0.9 %

Seed Spacing CV: 0.13

Applied Downforce: 254 lbf

Ground Contact: 100 %

Map: Applied Rate



Equipment

Fendt 943:

Varieties

B12M18AM

B13C49PCE

For bid evaluation and field orientation only. This planting record is not a survey, legal boundary determination, guarantee of harvestable acreage, or evidence of crop ownership.

EXHIBIT C - 2026 PLANTING RECORD

Farm No. 2 - Bowen/Grider Farm / FSA No. 180 / Soybeans | 142.6 estimated planted acres

2026 Seeding: Soybeans



Field: 2

Purcell farms | Ford County farm 2

Start: Apr 23, 2026 3:54 PM

End: Apr 23, 2026 10:05 PM

Work Totals

Area Seeded: 142.6 ac
Applied Total: 20,354,175 seeds
Target Total: 20,529,017 seeds

Applied Rate: 143,000 seeds/ac
Target Rate: 144,000 seeds/ac

Performance

Seeding Time: 7 hr 28 min
Productivity: 19.1 ac/hr
Fuel Rate (Area): 0.6 gal/ac
Singulation: 87.7 %
Multiples: 4 %
Ride Quality: 87 %
Gauge Wheel Margin: 202 lbf

Speed: 5.5 mi/hr
Total Fuel: 85.2 gal
Fuel Rate (Time): 11.4 gal/hr
Skips: 8.3 %
Seed Spacing CV: 0.39
Applied Downforce: 142 lbf
Ground Contact: 98 %

Map: Applied Rate



Equipment

Fendt 943:

Varieties

B294EE

S29E545

For bid evaluation and field orientation only. This planting record is not a survey, legal boundary determination, guarantee of harvestable acreage, or evidence of crop ownership.

EXHIBIT D - 2026 PLANTING RECORD

Farm No. 3 - Hatfield/Bowen Farm / FSA No. 2944 / Corn | 118.5 estimated planted acres

2026 Seeding: Corn



Field: Farm 3

Purcell farms | Ford County Farm 3

Start: Apr 22, 2026 9:53 PM

End: Apr 23, 2026 3:36 AM

Work Totals

Area Seeded: 118.5 ac

Applied Total: 3,933,962 seeds

Target Total: 3,947,203 seeds

Applied Rate: 33,200 seeds/ac

Target Rate: 33,300 seeds/ac

Performance

Seeding Time: 6 hr 19 min

Productivity: 18.7 ac/hr

Fuel Rate (Area): 0.6 gal/ac

Singulation: 98.3 %

Multiples: 0.5 %

Ride Quality: 86 %

Gauge Wheel Margin: 280 lbf

Speed: 5.4 mi/hr

Total Fuel: 68.4 gal

Fuel Rate (Time): 10.8 gal/hr

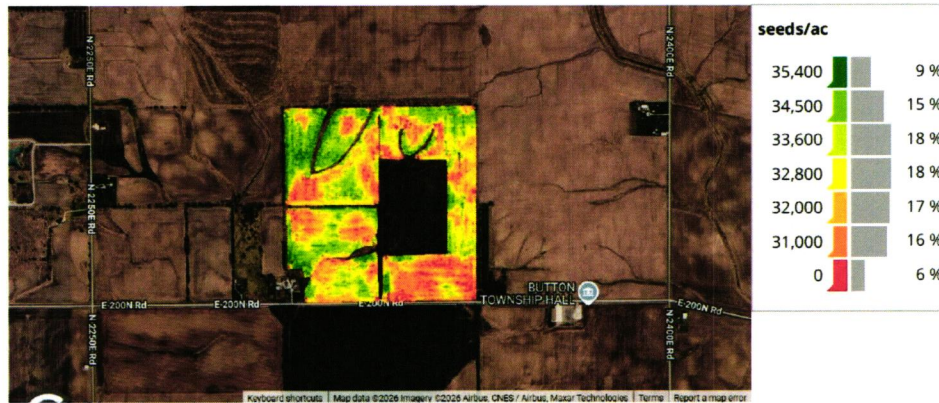
Skips: 1.2 %

Seed Spacing CV: 0.14

Applied Downforce: 291 lbf

Ground Contact: 100 %

Map: Applied Rate



Equipment

Fendt 943:

Varieties

B12M18AM

B13C49PCE

For bid evaluation and field orientation only. This planting record is not a survey, legal boundary determination, guarantee of harvestable acreage, or evidence of crop ownership.