

top stories



Long-delayed, \$200 million Highway 100 extension project begins



Cedar Rapids again looking to crack down on bad landlords



Judge denies acquittal in Schlitter murder trial

George C. Ford

George Ford has spent decades covering business news across Eastern Iowa. Ford is a native of Lexington, Ky., but has [...]

george.ford@gazcomm.com



Updated: 17 December 2012 | 12:25 pm in B380

Eastern Iowa Airport raises cash rent for farms on strong land demand

Demand remains strong for farmland across the state



The cash rent for farmland owned by [The Eastern Iowa Airport](#) will be \$400 an acre for leases that take effect March 1 — an increase of 7 percent over \$375 an acre this year.

Airport Finance Director Don Swanson said leases have been signed with the same five farmers who leased the airport's 2,047 acres of farmland this year. The 2013 cash rent will amount to \$818,800, up from \$767,700 this year, Swanson said.



The Eastern Iowa Airport. (Courtesy photo)

The money goes into the airport's general operating fund. The farmland surrounds the airport, which has acquired the land for potential expansion.

Iowa State University's 2012 farmland cash rent survey, released in May, found high quality farmland in Linn County fetching cash rent of \$269 per acre for corn and soybeans. The statewide average for all crop reporting districts was \$252 per acre.

Larry Greiner, senior farm manager for [Farmers National Co.](#), said there is a strong demand for Iowa farmland.

"Grain prices have been strong and income is up in the farming community," Greiner said. "Expansion of farm operations is key, so there is a lot of competition for available farmland. Some of our increases have been substantially more than what the airport commission approved, depending on the location of the leases.

"There are some farms in this area where the cash rent starts at \$500 an acre."

Greiner said he would have had no difficulty finding another renter if any of the existing

Follow us on Facebook



The Gazette



You like this.

You and 21,329 others like The Gazette. 21,329 people like The Gazette.



Get our content

TV Week Online



Call 1.800.397.8333 to subscribe today!

- ... Email newsletters
- ... Facebook
- ... Mobile apps
- ... Mobile site
- ... RSS
- ... Text alerts
- ... Twitter

Help Neighbors



United Way of East Central Iowa

With your help, United Way can build a stronger community.

Find a job



Experience a whole new way to find your next job.

Photo & Video Blog



The Gazette & KCRG photojournalists' Showcase

operators had balked at the airport's rent increase.

"I have applications on my desk," Greiner said. "I get calls every month from people looking to rent additional farmland. New tenants are certainly available."

Greiner said today's higher cash rental prices are directly related to the lack of competing investments.

"A lot of the farmland is purchased with cash because CD rates are not performing and there's volatility in the stock market, so farmers are looking for a safe haven," he said. "They could purchase hard assets like gold, silver or precious metals, but they don't produce anything on an annual basis.

"They don't gain you anything until you sell them. If you invest in farmland, at least you're getting some kind of an annual return."

ISU's farmland value survey, released last week, showed average sale prices rising above \$12,000 an acre in northwestern Iowa between Oct. 1, 2011, and Oct. 1 of this year. Farmland values are likely to continue rising as corn and soybean prices remain relatively high due to increasing global demand for food, Greiner said.

Greiner, who has been involved with farmland management, leasing and sales for more than 30 years, said farmland rental rates are exceeding what many people paid for their farms.

"My parent's farm was purchased for \$65 an acre in 1952," he said.

 3
  37
  0

FEATURED ARTICLES from TheGazette.com



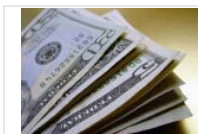
Muscatine man accused of sexually assaulting girl ...



Cedar Rapids woman wins \$1 million top prize on 'S...



Police investigate stabbing in Cedar Rapids



Iowa development director gets \$90,000 in bonuses

ENTERTAINMENT from hooplanow.com/music



The Blenders: Holiday Soul Tour
December 18,
7:30PM
@Civic Center of Greater Des Moines



Phantom Vibrations + EzEc + D-Gus
December 20,
10:00PM
@Yacht Club



Carol Montag & Friends Holiday Show
December 21,
6:00PM
@Cedar Ridge Vineyards and Distillery



Jenny Dalton
December 21,
8:00PM
@Daniel Arthur's

FEATURED JOBS from corridorcareers.com

<p>Program Director</p> <p>IA-Cedar Rapids Kirkwood Community College</p>	<p>Fixed Asset Accountant</p> <p>IA-Cedar Falls University of Northern Iowa</p>	<p>Seasonal Administrative Assistant</p> <p>IA-Cedar Rapids Honkamp Krueger & Co.</p>	<p>Tax Preparation</p> <p>IA-Cedar Rapids Honkamp Krueger & Co.</p>
--	--	--	--

TODAY'S DEALS - heresthedealia.com



El Perico
50% Off Authentic Mexican Food



Four Seasons
Half Off Women's Clothing



Video Village Etc & Pinhook Deli
Half Off Ice Cream, Videos, & Deli



Dick Swarzenburger
Half Off Massage

The Gazette	Our Content	Our Local Sites	Our Online Products	Sourcemia Group
About Us	Email Newsletters	Iowa Prep Sports	Corridor Careers	KCRG-TV9
Advertise with Us	RSS Feeds	Iowa Bridal Planner	The Gazette Classifieds	The Gazette
Subscribe	Apps	Iowa Caucus	Here's the Deal	Color Web Printers
Customer Care	Archives	Hoopla Now	Local Directory	Gazette Direct Marketing
Newsroom Staff	Green Gazette	Fusion Farm	KCRG A-list	Services
Newspapers in education	Puzzle answers		Photo Store	Penny Saver
	Policies			Digital