

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Regental Action Required Under the State of  
Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute

Action Requested: Authorization for the University to enter into an Agreement with Cornell Farms  
LLC (University of Michigan Employee Marie Cornell, Member and Owner).

Background:

The University of Michigan Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine seeks approval to enter into an agreement with Cornell Farms LLC for providing sheep to be used in research projects across the University.

The proposed agreement falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Marie Cornell is a University employee as Research Lab Specialist Intermediate with the Department of Surgery and would be a party to the contract as member and owner of Cornell Farms LLC.

However, the Statute allows the University to enter into such agreements if the following conditions are met:

- a) The public servant promptly discloses any pecuniary interest in the contract to the official body which has the power to approve the purchase, which disclosure shall be a matter of record in its official proceedings.
- b) The purchase is approved by a vote of not less than 2/3 of the full membership of the approving body in open session without the vote of the public servant making the disclosure.
- c) The official body discloses the following summary information in its official minutes:
  - i) The name of each party involved in the contract.
  - ii) The terms of the purchase, including duration, financial consideration between the parties, facilities, or services of the public entity included in the purchase, and the nature and degree of assignment of employees of the public entity for the fulfillment of the purchase.
  - iii) The nature of any pecuniary interest.

The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (c) above:

- i) The parties to the contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine and Cornell Farms LLC.
- ii) The agreement is for three years with the option of a two-year extension at a total cost not to exceed \$250,000. Cornell Farms LLC will be supplying all the necessary resources and personnel to fulfill this contract. The remaining base contract terms and conditions are typical to those used in Procurement Services standard templates for other similar contracts entered into by the Regents.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employee, Marie Cornell, is member and owner of Cornell Farms LLC.

Marie Cornell has met state law requirements with the disclosure of her pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable by the supervisor of Marie Cornell, under the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the agreement between the University of Michigan and Cornell Farms LLC subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisor of Marie Cornell or the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoffrey S. Chatas  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

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