

WATER RIGHTS LEASE

THIS LEASE (“Lease”) is made to be effective as of the __ day of _____, 2022 between **TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK**, a Colorado municipal corporation, acting by and through its Town of Castle Rock Water Enterprise (“Lessor”), 100 N. Wilcox Street, Castle Rock, Colorado and **RUPPLE FARMS, LLC**, a Colorado limited liability company, 29020 East 163rd Place, Brighton, Colorado 80603 (“Lessee”).

RECITALS:

A. Lessor is the owner of certain water rights described on *Exhibit A*, which exhibits includes the well permit information.

B. Lessee desires to lease from Lessor, and Lessor desires to lease to Lessee, the Water Rights and Equipment, as defined in Section 1, below, on the terms and conditions set forth herein.

For good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

AGREEMENT:

Section 1. Water Rights and Equipment Lease. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein, Lessor hereby leases to Lessee the water rights associated with the following well permits:

<u>Well Permit No.</u>	Power Consumption Coeff. [kWh/AF]	<u>Acre Feet Leased</u> (“Permitted Maximum”)
8534-FP	Not Operational	0
8533-RFP	n/a	100
8535-FP	n/a	150
31542-FP	179.250	275

The water rights associated with the above-referenced well permits shall be referred to collectively as the “Water Rights.” The Water Rights together with the wells, pumping equipment, electrical equipment and other equipment and facilities associated with the Water Rights (collectively referred to as the “Equipment”) are described on the attached *Exhibit A*. Except as otherwise limited herein, Lessee shall use the wells in accordance with each well permit and prevent degradation of the quality of the ground water. Lessee is required to use each well and neither

well is to be used in excess of its Permitted Maximum (as listed above), however, in no event shall the commingled wells be permitted to act as alternate points of diversion to one another. Lessee is prohibited by this Lease from pumping more than the Permitted Maximum from the wells associated with the above-referenced permit numbers. Lessee also agrees that use of the Water Rights in excess of the Permitted Maximum shall be a default under Section 10 of this Lease, and (i) Lessee shall be liable for any and all damages caused to Lessor as a result of Lessee exceeding the Permitted Maximum; and (ii) Lessor, in its sole and absolute discretion, shall be entitled to immediately terminate this Lease. In the event that Lessee's use of the Water Rights associated with the Well Permit exceeds those quantities listed above, then Lessee shall pay to Lessor a \$60 per acre foot penalty.

Section 2. Rental Rate. The rental rate for the Water Rights and Equipment shall be Thirty-six Dollars (\$36.50) per acre foot (AF) of water (an acre foot being equal to 325,851 U.S. gallons) pumped from the well associated with the Water Rights. As an upfront lease payment, Lessee shall pay to Lessor \$4,790.63, which represents 25% of the maximum total Rent due (\$36.50 x 525 AF) under this Water Lease Agreement ("Initial Rent Payment"). The Initial Rent Payment is due April 1, 2022. The second and final rent payment shall be due November 15, 2022 which will be calculated at \$36.50 per AF for all Water Rights pumped, less the Initial Rent Payment. In the event any payment required hereunder is not made within thirty (30) days after the payment is due, a late charge in the amount of Ten Dollars (\$10) will be paid by Lessee. All payments shall be made to the address set forth above or such other address specified by Lessor.

A. In order to calculate the total of rental payments during the term of this Lease, Lessee shall report to Lessor the flowmeter reading or electric meter readings for each meter associated with the pump for each Well Permit on the reporting form attached as ***Exhibit B***. Reporting shall occur (i) at the commencement of this Lease with the initial meter reading, (ii) on the first of each month (usage from the previous month), and (iii) upon Lease termination on November 15, 2022 Lessee shall record the meter readings for each Well Permit number and shall report the readings to Lessor by emailing the completed reporting form to Lessor within ten (10) days of the reading to the email address listed in Section 12, below. Lessee also agrees that failure to report use as outlined in this Section is a default under Section 10 of this Lease and Lessor, in its sole and absolute discretion, may immediately terminate this Lease for such Default.

B. Lease payments shall be made to Lessor at the address set forth in Section 12, below. Final payment is due no later than 30 days from termination of this Lease. In the event of termination of this Lease for any reason, any unpaid rent shall be paid no later than ten days from the date of termination. Any rent due for the volume of water used, but unpaid shall be calculated using the monthly flowmeter readings or the KWh/AF conversion in Section 1, if flowmeter readings are not available.

Section 3. Term. This Lease will be for a term commencing on _____, 2022 and terminate on November 15, 2022 ("Term"), unless terminated sooner pursuant to this Lease. The term of the Lease can only be extended or renewed in writing signed by both parties, and there can be no implied renewal of this Lease.

Section 4. Use of Water Rights. Lessee shall use the Water Rights only for the irrigation of agriculture crops as historically done by Lessee in the **SW1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 29, T1N, R63W of the 6th P.M. (a.k.a. Parcel A-2) , the SW1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 29, T1N, R63W, of the 6th P.M. (a.k.a. Parcel A-2) , and the NW1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 27, T1N, R63W of the 6th P.M. (a.k.a. Parcel L-1)** (the “Property”). Lessee shall not exceed the Permitted Maximum of water allowed under the Well Permits or use of the Water Rights to irrigate any other real property than the Property.

Section 5. United States Department of Agriculture. Lessee shall deliver to Lessor copies of the 2022 Farm Service Agency crop reports, any 2022 aerial photos on record with the Farm Service Agency and/or any other governmental farm records by August 1, 2022 by Lessee, and Lessee shall also deliver to Lessor any additional Farm Service Agency crop records received by Lessee before expiration of this Lease.

Section 6. Maintenance of Equipment. Upon the effective date of this Lease, Lessee shall be solely responsible for the costs of operation, maintenance and repair of the Equipment and all other equipment necessary for the irrigation of the Property, which shall include the costs of all maintenance and repairs to the pumps and existing wells used for the Water Rights. During the term of this Lease, only the Lessee and/or their agents shall use the Equipment and only use it on the Property. In the event crops irrigated by the Water Rights are damaged because of Lessee’s activities and/or failure to operate, maintain or repair the Equipment or any other equipment necessary for irrigation of the Property, Lessor shall have no liability for such damages to the crops or loss of crop revenue and Lessee shall have no recourse against Lessor for such damages. Upon discovery of an issue with the Equipment, Lessee shall notify Lessor immediately about the issue and what Lessee intends to do to maintain or repair the Equipment. In the event Lessee installs a part or other equipment that cost \$100 or more, Lessee may remove that part or equipment and take it with Lessee when the Lease terminates. However, before Lessee removes such part or equipment, Lessee shall provide Lessor with written notice of its intent to remove such part and/or equipment and Lessor shall have ten (10) days from the date of such notice to purchase said part or equipment at the amount Lessee paid for the part and its installation (Lessee shall provide Lessor the receipt for the part and installation cost). If the Equipment, for any reason, fails to deliver the water from the well, and Lessee does not repair it and provides Lessor notice of intent to not repair, Lessor or Lessee may terminate this Lease upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other party, and Lessor shall have no liability for damages to the crops or loss of crop revenue. In the event of termination, rent shall be paid at the time of termination, If the rent due is for acre-feet used, such amount shall be calculated using both the monthly flow meter readings and the KWh/AF conversion in Section 8, below.

Section 7. Utilities. Lessee shall pay any and all power and other utility costs associated with Lessee’s use of the Water Rights. Lessee shall be responsible for all arrangements required for billing of the utilities directly to Lessee. Electrical charges not associated with Lessee’s usage and billed for the period after the term of this Lease shall be the responsibility of Lessor.

Section 8. Power Records. Upon execution of this Lease and prior to use of the Water Rights and Equipment, Lessee shall execute the form of letter attached hereto as *Exhibit C* to request that Morgan County Rural Electric Association send a “duplicate” bill to Lessor each month during the term of the Lease. Lessee hereby grants permission to Morgan County Electric Association to release to Lessor and/or its agents power records associated with the wells located in the **SW1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 29, T1N, R63W of the 6th P.M. (a.k.a. Parcel A-2) , the SW1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 29, T1N, R63W, of the 6th P.M. (a.k.a. Parcel A-2) , and the NW1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 27, T1N, R63W of the 6th P.M. (a.k.a. Parcel L-1) .** While flowmeter readings shall be used for calculating monthly usage, the Power Consumption Coefficient shown in Section 1 shall be used to calculate water usage for each if no flowmeter readings are available. (Figures based on accepted State and USGS methods.)

Section 9. Default and Termination. In addition to the other grounds for termination herein, Lessor may, at its option, elect to terminate this Lease upon the occurrence of an event of default by Lessee in the performance of their obligations hereunder. An event of default shall be deemed to occur if:

A. Lessee fails to pay any rental payments within thirty (30) days of the due date. Lessor shall have no obligation to provide Lessee with notice of nonpayment or an opportunity to cure;

B. Lessee uses the Water Rights in a manner other than as permitted pursuant to this Lease or the well permit(s), and fails to cease such prohibited use within five (5) days of receipt of notice of such default by Lessor;

C. Lessee fails to report meter readings within 10 days from the required date for readings.

D. Lessee assigns this Lease to a third party in violation of Section 11, below; or

E. Lessee commits a material breach of any provision of this Lease.

In the event Lessee defaults or otherwise commits a breach of this Lease, or any provision of this Lease, in addition to terminating the Lease, Lessor shall have the right to pursue (i) the remedies set forth herein, and (ii) any and all other remedies and damages, permitted in law or equity, caused by or arising from Lessee’s default or breach. In the event of termination as a result of any default, rent shall be brought current by Lessee and any rent due for acre feet used but unpaid shall be paid at the time of termination, as calculated using the flow meter readings and the KWh/AF conversion in Section 8, above.

Section 10. Assignment and Assumption. Lessee may not assign its rights hereunder without the prior written consent of Lessor, which may be withheld in Lessor’s sole discretion. In the event that Lessor consents to an assignment of Lessee’s rights hereunder, the assignee shall execute an assumption agreement pursuant to which it shall assume Lessee’s obligations

hereunder. The terms of such assumption agreement must be approved by Lessor.

Section 11. Notices. All notices shall be in writing, and shall be delivered by hand deliver or U.S. mail, postage prepaid, to the parties at the addresses set forth above. Notices shall be deemed received on the date hand delivered, or if mailed, three (3) days after deposit in the U.S. mail, postage prepaid.

If to Lessor: Town of Castle Rock
 Attn: Matt Benak, Water Resources Manager
 Castle Rock Water
 175 Kellogg Court
 Castle Rock, Colorado 80109
 Phone: 720-733-6037 (direct)
 Email: mbenak@crgov.com

If to Lessee: Rupple Farms, LLC
 29020 East 163rd Place
 Brighton, CO 80643

Section 12. Termination Upon Sale, Transfer, Exchange or Export. In the event the Water Rights are sold, transferred, or exchanged or exported by Lessor or its assigns, then Lessor may terminate this Lease, in whole or in part, upon 30 days' prior written notice. In the event of such termination by Lessor, and Lessee has planted crop, Lessee shall attempt to procure substitute water supplies to avoid crop loss. If Lessee is unable to utilize a substitute water supply and the crops are damaged, wholly or in part, as a result of Lessor's termination pursuant to this Section 12, Lessor shall compensate Lessee for crop loss caused by Lessor's termination under this Section 12, if any, from crops planted on the Property and for which the water from the Water Rights had been used (the value of crop loss shall be based upon crop insurance records). This reimbursement provision applies only to actual crop loss caused by a termination of this Lease by Lessor under this Section 12. If the crops have not yet been planted (either wholly or partially) on the Property associated with the Water Rights, Lessor shall pay Lessee for expenses for work completed in preparation for planting, if any (Lessee shall provide Lessor with receipts for any such expenses). In the event of termination by Lessor under this Section 12, rent shall be brought current by Lessee and any rent due for acre fee used but unpaid shall be paid at the time of termination, as calculated using the monthly flowmeter.

Lessee shall not be entitled to compensation or reimbursement under this Section 12 or otherwise for crop damage or loss in the event of termination due to any default by Lessee or for any other reason under this Lease.

In the event of termination under this Section 12, if Lessor and Lessee are unable to agree as to the value of any such crops, tillage work, labor and material and supplies, then each parties agrees to name an arbitrator and the value arrived at by the arbitrators shall be controlling on both parties. In the event the two arbitrators cannot agree, they shall appoint a third arbitrator and the value arrived at by the majority of the arbitrators shall be controlling on both the parties. The

parties shall share equally in the cost of such arbitration.

Section 13. Binding Effect. This Lease constitutes the full agreement of the parties and may not be modified except in writing signed by both parties. This Lease shall be binding on the parties and their respective successors and assigns.

Section 14. Loss, Destruction or Damage to the Water Rights and Equipment. Lessor leases the Water Rights and Equipment to Lessee in an “as is” condition, and Lessor expressly does not agree to any modification or change of the Water Rights, other than a change of use of the Water Rights pursuant to any application filed by Lessor for the export and change or use of the Water Rights.

Section 15. Attorney’s Fees. In the event of any dispute arising under the terms of this Lease (except for the arbitration procedure described in Section 12, above), or in the event of non-payment of any sums arising under this Lease and in the event the matter is turned over to an attorney, the party prevailing in such dispute is entitled, in addition to other damages or costs, to receive reasonable attorney’s fees from the non-prevailing party.

Section 16. Complete Agreement. This Lease Agreement supersedes any and all prior agreements, written and oral, between the parties and constitutes the complete and entire agreement of the parties.

Section 17. Headings for Convenience Only. The paragraph headings are for convenience only and the substantive portions hereof control without regard to the headings.

Section 18. Modification. This Lease Agreement shall be modified in writing only, which writing must be executed by the parties in order to be effective.

Section 19. Controlling Law. This Lease Agreement shall be governed under, and construed pursuant to the laws of the State of Colorado.

LESSOR:

ATTEST:

TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK, acting by and through the Town of Castle Rock Water Enterprise

Lisa Anderson, Town Clerk

Approved as to form:

Jason Gray, Mayor

Michael J. Hyman, Town Attorney

Approved as to content:

Mark Marlowe, Director of Castle Rock Water

LESSEE:

RUPPLE FARMS, LLC, a Colorado limited liability company

By: _____

Its: Authorized Member

STATE OF COLORADO)
) *ss.*
COUNTY OF ARAPAHOE)

The foregoing instrument as acknowledged before me this ___ day of _____, 2022 by Rurple Farms, LLC.

Witness my official hand and seal.
My commission expires:

Notary Public