

Fall 2023

NEWS

from

AMERICAN TRUST & SAVINGS BANK



NEW! Bill Pay



The Bill Pay feature can now be added to your Online Banking account. With Bill Pay you can:

- Pay bills anytime, from any computer.
- Pay anyone you can write a check to.
- Specify the payment date of your choice.
- Schedule monthly bills to pay automatically, like your mortgage, utility bill, car payment and more.
- View your transaction history.
- Eliminate checks and stamps, which saves money.

Bill Pay sign-up is easy. Log into your Online Banking account at www.atsb-lowden.com and follow the instructions for adding Bill Pay to your account.

Our debit card is going real time



To better serve our customers, your American Trust debit card is going “real time” on November 1, 2023. This means that deposits made to an account are immediately available for use through the card. Likewise, charges against the balance are posted to your account immediately. However, sometimes charges using a debit card are processed as if the card were a credit card, so the charge is not immediately posted to the account balance.

In preparation for the conversion to real time, our debit card system will be out of service from 9 to 10 AM on Wednesday, November 1, 2023.

Attention online account users with multiple accounts

You now have the option to combine all of your accounts under one login. Please call American Trust and Savings Bank to initiate this option.



Can you guess where in Lowden this photo was taken? If so, submit your entry, including your name, address, phone and email address. Drop it by or send it to the bank at:

309 McKinley Avenue
PO Box 129
Lowden, IA 52255

Employees, directors and their immediate families are not eligible.

Guess the photo and you could win!

Correct entries will be entered in a drawing for four (4) \$25 gift certificates to local merchants. Entries must be received by November 30, 2023.

This is be a quarterly contest, so watch our next newsletter for a new photo!

We have winners!

Warren Chapman, Judie Carson, and Sandra Horman

correctly guessed that the photo in our Summer newsletter was taken at the old AMVETS building at 512 Main Street in Lowden. They will each receive a \$25 gift certificate for Lowden merchants.



Remember your 2023 IRA Contribution



Individual retirement accounts, or IRAs, are personal savings plans that offer tax advantages as you save for retirement. The amounts in these accounts generally are not taxed until you take a distribution starting as early as age 59½ but not later than age 72.

IRA SAVINGS

3.04% APY*

Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of September 20, 2023. Requires a minimum deposit of \$100. Rates may change after account opening.

For 2023, you generally can contribute up to \$6,500 to a traditional IRA. This limit can be split between a traditional and a Roth IRA but the combined limit is \$6,500. If you are 50 years of age or older before the end of 2023, the maximum contribution that can be made to a traditional or Roth IRA is \$7,500.

An IRA at American Trust is a safe and secure way to save for retirement while reducing your tax bill at the same time. If you're changing jobs or about to retire, rolling over your retirement account to a secure investment is also very important.

American Trust also offers SEP accounts. A SEP (simplified employee pension) plan provides employers with a simplified method to make contributions toward their employees' retirement and, if self-employed, their own retirement.

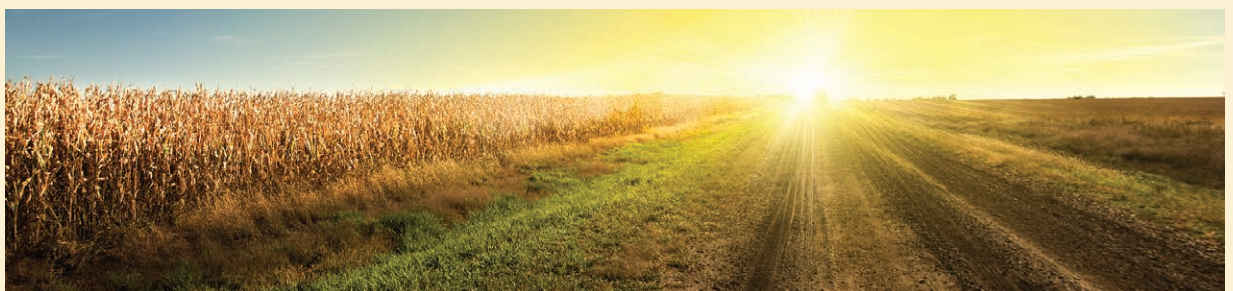
Survey of Iowa Leasing Practices, 2022

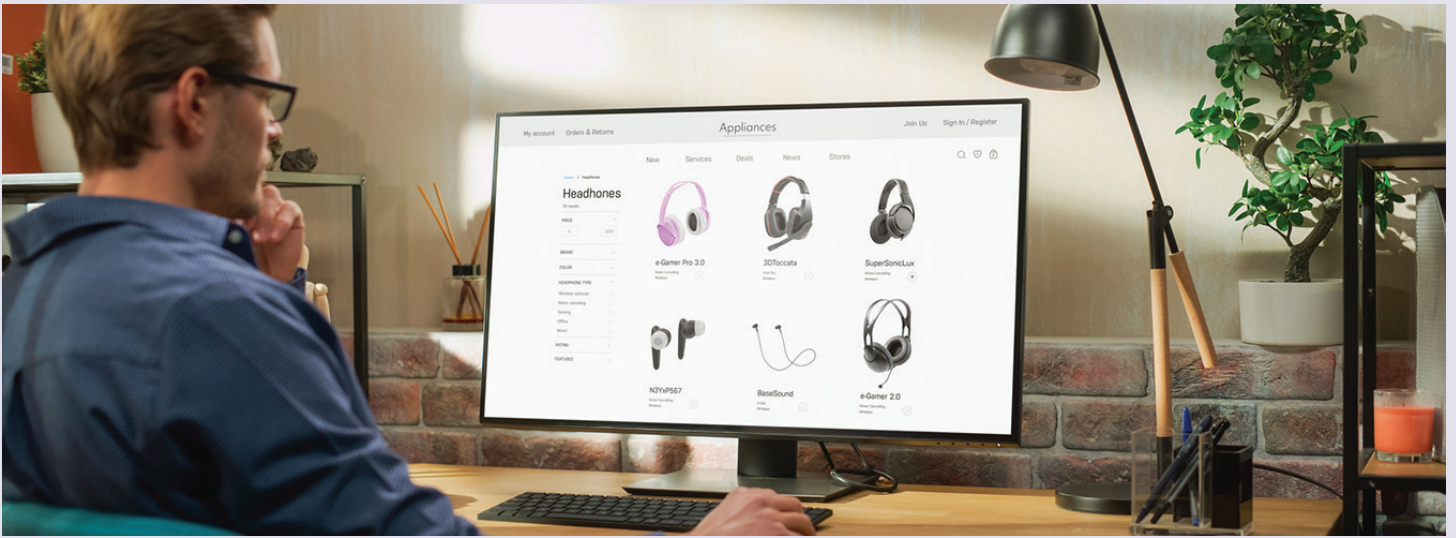


Although a farm tenant and landowner are free to include whatever provisions they wish in a lease contract, many people want to know what practices are customary or common in their region. Practices that are widely followed are usually considered to treat landowner and tenant fairly. However, individual circumstances may justify arrangements that are different from the majority of cases. Any lease must be evaluated as a whole, not by its individual parts.

Results of the survey may be found at:

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/pdf/c2-15.pdf>





Avoid Scams While Shopping Online for Bargains

Protect yourself and know the signs

With the holiday season on the horizon, we tend to make a lot more purchases online for travel and gifts, so it's especially important to be vigilant about protecting your money. Here are some of the most common scams to watch for:

Fake websites and apps

Scammers often create fake websites that are so similar to the sites of popular retailers, it easily tricks consumers into providing payment information. The scammers take your information and your money, but you never receive the products. Scammers have also developed fake apps that contain malware. When you download the app, the malware steals personal information from your device or locks it, holding it for ransom until you pay the scammers. Other types of fraudulent apps ask you to login using your social media or email accounts that could expose your personal information for the scammers to steal.

Be careful of apps or websites that ask for suspicious permissions, such as granting access to your contacts, text messages, stored passwords, or credit card information. Also, poor grammar or misspelled words in an apps' description or on a website is a red flag that it is not legitimate.

Email links

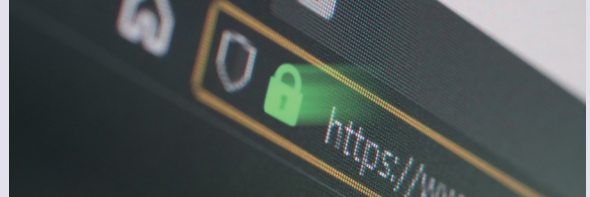
Avoid clicking on links in unsolicited emails or emails from unfamiliar sources. The links may lead to an illegitimate website attempting to get you to enter your credit card or other personal information. Some links may download malware (malicious software, such as computer viruses) to your computer when you click on them that can steal your banking information, including login identification, passwords, and credit or debit card numbers. These emails typically look very similar to ones sent by well-known retailers, banks, and other entities.

Be on the lookout for emails that have typos or other obvious mistakes. In addition, be skeptical of email attachments described

as coupons, rebates, or payment forms – they could include malware. And avoid email offers that seem “too good to be true.” If an email promises popular items for free or a surprisingly low price, it is probably a scam.

Making payments on unsecure sites

Before paying for a purchase online, make sure the website you're on has “https” at the beginning of its URL with a lock symbol:



This means the site has a protected network connection. Websites with “http” at the beginning of the URL with no “s” are more vulnerable to attacks by scammers who steal credit card information by monitoring network traffic. Also be aware of pop-up windows that appear while you are on a website asking for your credit card information to receive coupons or to win free items. Legitimate companies do not ask for your personal information for those purposes.

Using public wi-fi to shop or access sensitive information

Wireless connectivity, also known as wi-fi, allows your laptop, PC, or mobile device to connect to the internet without a physical wire connection. Many restaurants, hotels, libraries, and other places offer free public wi-fi, which is convenient when you're on the go. However, these networks may not be secure (since they either do not require a password or provide the same generic password to all customers for access) and may expose your personal and banking information to scammers looking to steal names, social security numbers, and bank account numbers.

Mark Your Calendar



All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry – Lowden American Legion



- Friday, October 6
- Friday, November 3

Serving from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Only \$18 for adults and \$5.00 for children 5 to 12. Carry outs are available.

Craft and Vendor Show

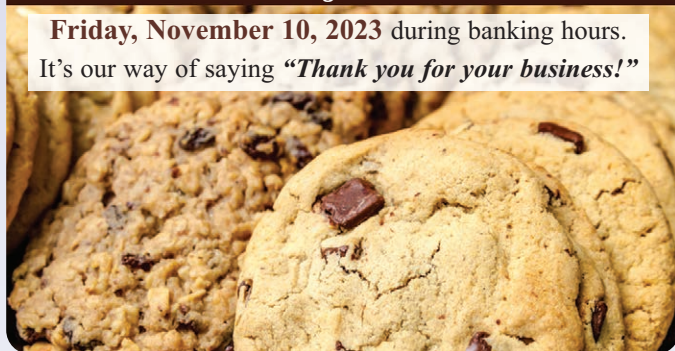
Saturday, October 21, 2023 • 9 AM – 2 PM
North Cedar Elementary

Lowden Fall Festival

Sunday, October 29, 2023 • 11 AM – 4 PM
Lowden Legion

Cookie Day at American Trust

Friday, November 10, 2023 during banking hours.
It's our way of saying *"Thank you for your business!"*



Trinity Lutheran Church Turkey Dinner
Sunday, November 12, 2023 • 11AM – 12:30 PM

Lowden Holiday Festivities
Saturday, December 2, 2023

Community Christmas Concert @ Trinity
Time and date to be determined.



Holiday Open House

Friday, December 15 during banking hours

Stop in for your customer Christmas gift and enjoy holiday refreshments. It's our way of saying *"Thanks for your business and Merry Christmas!"*

Christmas and New Year's

Friday, December 22

The lobby and drive-up bank will close at 3 PM.

Christmas – Observed on Monday, December 25
No business will be transacted.

Friday, December 29

All 2023 business must be at the bank by 12 noon when the lobby and drive-up bank will close for the day.

New Year's – Observed on Monday, January 1, 2024
No business will be transacted.

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season!

Other Bank Holidays

- Monday, October 9 in observance of Columbus Day.
- Thursday, November 23 in observance of Thanksgiving.
- On Friday, November 24, the lobby and drive-up closes at 3 p.m.
- Monday, January 15, 2024 in observance of Martin Luther King Day



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