



FARMLAND
INFORMATION
CENTER

FACT
SHEET

STATUS OF
STATE PACE
PROGRAMS



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DESCRIPTION

As of May 2008, 27 states have authorized state-level purchase of agricultural conservation easement (PACE) programs. Montana's PACE statute expired in 2003. This table displays the status and summarizes important information about farm and ranch land protection programs in 21 states that have funded easement acquisition. For a program to be included, the protection of agricultural lands must be one of its core purposes, accomplished primarily by compensating landowners for the value of the easement.

Some programs (e.g., Delaware and Massachusetts) purchase and hold easements directly. Others also have the authority to acquire and co-hold easements with partners (e.g., county governments). A few programs (e.g., New York and Virginia) only provide grants to eligible entities to buy easements.

**EXPLANATION OF
COLUMN HEADINGS**

Year of Inception / Year of First Acquisition

"Year of Inception" is the year in which the law authorizing the PACE program was passed. "Year of First Acquisition" is the year in which the program acquired its first easement.

Easements / Restrictions Acquired

Number of agricultural conservation easements or conservation restrictions acquired through the state program. This number does not necessarily reflect the total number of farms/ranches protected because some programs acquire a property in stages and/or may hold multiple easements on the same farm/ranch. Some state programs do not hold easements but instead provide funds for easement purchase to local governments or land trusts.

Acres Protected

Number of acres protected by the program to date.

Program Funds Spent to Date

Dollars spent by each program to acquire easements on farms/ranches. Amount may include unspent funds that are encumbered for installment payments on completed projects. Unless otherwise noted, these figures do not reflect incidental land acquisition costs, such as appraisals, insurance and recording fees, or the administrative costs of running the program. These figures do not include additional funds contributed by federal programs, local governments, private land trusts, foundations, individuals, or the value of landowner donations.

Additional Funds Spent to Date

Funds contributed toward state program acquisitions by local governments (counties and municipalities), private land trusts, foundations, individuals, and/or federal programs (see "Funding Sources Used to Date" below). The value of landowner donations is not included.

Program Funds Available

Program funds available for the current fiscal year to acquire easements on agricultural land.

Program Funds Available Per Capita

Program funds available per capita are based on state population estimates for 2007 from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Outstanding Applications

Backlog of applications reported by program administrators.

Funding Sources Used to Date

Sources of funding for each program. "Transportation funding" refers to federal money disbursed under The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005 and its predecessors for "transportation enhancements." Easement acquisitions that protect scenic views and historic sites along transportation routes are eligible for these funds.

PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

State	Year of Inception/ Year of First Acquisition	Easements / Restrictions Acquired	Acres Protected	Program Funds Spent to Date
California				
California Farmland Conservancy Program	1995/1997	126	40,784	\$61,511,000 ^
Colorado				
Great Outdoors Colorado Δ	1992/1995	223	334,826	\$107,533,255 ^
Connecticut				
Connecticut Farmland Preservation Program	1978/1979	234	32,300	\$94,010,529 ^
Delaware				
Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation *	1991/1996	484	85,045	\$111,628,717 ^
Georgia				
Georgia Land Conservation Program ~(2007)	2005/2006	2	290	\$533,000
Kentucky				
Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Corporation	1994/1998	135	28,173	\$13,823,269
Maine				
Farmland Protection Program ~(2006)	1999/1990	19	5,950	\$4,109,376
Maryland				
<i>Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation</i>	1977/1980	1,933	265,691	\$292,372,736
<i>Rural Legacy Program</i>	1997/1999	377	57,399	\$135,835,769 ^
Massachusetts				
Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program	1977/1980	697	59,972	\$162,032,674 ^
Michigan				
Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program *	1974/1994	87	19,065	\$26,547,672 ^
Montana				
Montana Agricultural Heritage Program ×	1999/2000	8	9,923	\$888,000
New Hampshire				
<i>Agricultural Lands Preservation Program</i> ×	1979/1980	31	2,864	\$5,000,000
<i>Land Conservation Investment Program</i> ×	1987/1988	36	6,232	\$5,349,008
<i>Land & Community Heritage Investment Program</i> ~(2007)	2000/2001	23	3,013	\$4,033,800 ^
New Jersey				
New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program	1983/1985	1,635	161,281	\$647,902,318
New York				
New York State Farmland Protection Program *	1996/1998	141	28,138	\$70,721,783 ^
North Carolina ~(2007)				
Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Program	1986/1999	35	4,712	\$2,504,000 ^
Ohio				
<i>Ohio Agricultural Easement Program</i> *	1999/1999	149	28,898	\$19,179,518
<i>Southern Ohio Tobacco Agricultural Easement Purchase Program</i> ×	2002/2002	14	3,000	\$0
Pennsylvania				
Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program *	1988/1989	3,450	382,845	\$630,540,464 ^
Rhode Island				
Purchase of Farmland Development Rights Program	1981/1985	75	5,366	\$22,489,848
South Carolina				
South Carolina Conservation Bank	2002/2004	28	8,650	\$4,702,500
Utah				
<i>Critical Agricultural Land Conservation Fund</i>	1999/2001	17	13,646	\$456,000
<i>LeRay McAllister Critical Lands Conservation Fund</i> *	1999/2000	34	61,072	\$12,287,172
Vermont				
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Farmland Preservation Program	1987/1987	454	124,057	\$51,450,502 ^
STATE TOTALS		10,447	1,773,192	\$2,487,442,910

STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2008

Additional Funds Spent to Date	Program Funds Available	Program Funds Available Per Capita	Outstanding Applications	Funding Sources Used to Date
\$44,503,000	\$8,330,000	\$0.23	18	Appropriations, bonds, private contributions, FPP
\$170,880,218	\$4,000,000 □	\$0.82	15	Local government contributions, portion of lottery proceeds, FPP
\$6,782,914	\$16,000,000	\$4.57	210	Bonds, local government contributions, private/foundation contributions, recording fees, FPP
\$25,858,763	\$11,699,411	\$13.53	147	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, portion of lawsuit settlement, private/foundation contributions, real estate transfer tax, transportation funding, FPP
\$891,800	\$60,000,000	\$6.29	0	Appropriations, clean water state revolving funds, private/foundation contributions
\$6,676,251	\$181,977	\$0.04	670	Appropriations, bonds, tobacco settlement funds, DOD ACUB, FPP
\$4,277,663	\$4,641,012	\$3.52	35	Appropriations, bonds, credit card royalties, local government contributions, private contributions, FPP
\$148,346,022	\$76,978,100	\$13.70	489	
\$139,343,599	\$56,058,100	\$9.98	462	<i>Agricultural transfer tax, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, FPP</i>
\$9,002,423	\$20,920,000 □	\$3.72	27	<i>Bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax</i>
\$42,611,791	\$12,000,000	\$1.86	83	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, transportation funding, FPP
\$4,496,540	\$0	\$0.00	0	Local government contributions, private/foundation contributions, repayment of tax credits by landowners withdrawing from the state's circuit breaker program, FPP
\$1,420,710	\$0	\$0.00	N/A	Appropriations, FPP
\$12,298,390	\$0	\$0.00	2	
\$140,000	\$0	\$0.00	0	<i>Appropriations, local government contributions, FPP</i>
\$0	\$0	\$0.00	0	<i>Bonds</i>
\$12,158,390	\$0	\$0.00	2	<i>Appropriations, FPP</i>
\$358,058,146	\$100,341,580	\$11.55	383	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, portion of state sales and use tax, private/foundation contributions, sale of fee-simple purchased properties, FPP
\$44,270,029	\$28,000,000	\$1.45	32	Bonds, local government contributions, real estate transfer tax, FPP
\$26,000,000	\$5,600,000	\$0.62	18	Appropriations, FPP
\$11,746,409	\$5,820,482	\$0.51	400	
\$10,246,409	\$5,820,482	\$0.51	400	<i>Bonds, FPP</i>
\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0.00	0	<i>Tobacco settlement funds</i>
\$295,367,177	\$33,000,000	\$2.65	2,000	Appropriations, bonds, cigarette tax, interest on securities, local government contributions, FPP
\$28,581,312	\$2,882,575	\$2.72	20	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private/foundation contributions, FPP
\$11,924,655	Not yet allocated □	N/A	0	Property transfer tax, recording fees
\$162,119,380	\$2,400,000	\$0.91	3	
\$14,270,760	\$0	\$0.00	3	<i>Appropriations, local government contributions, private/foundation contributions, FPP</i>
\$147,848,620	\$2,400,000 □	\$0.91	0	<i>Appropriations, local government contributions, private/foundation contributions, FPP</i>
\$60,649,965	\$2,200,000	\$3.54	50	Appropriations, bonds, Farms for the Future pilot program, local government contributions, private/foundation contributions, real estate transfer tax, transportation funding, FPP
\$1,467,761,135	\$374,075,137 □		4,575	

STATUS OF STATE PACE PROGRAMS

The Army Compatible Use Buffers (ACUB) Program provides funds to establish easement-protected buffer areas around army installations.

The federal Farmland Protection Program (FPP), established in the 1996 Farm Bill, provides matching funds to state, local and tribal agricultural easement acquisition programs. The 2002 Farm Bill expanded the program to include certain non-governmental organizations. In addition to these sources of funding, several programs reported contributions from private sources. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized \$743 million for the FPP through fiscal year 2012.

For additional information on farmland protection and stewardship contact the Farmland Information Center. The FIC offers a staffed answer service, online library, program monitoring, fact sheets and other educational materials.

www.farmlandinfo.org

(800) 370-4879

NOTES

[Δ] Program activity includes fee simple acquisitions of agricultural land. Great Outdoors Colorado grant recipients are required to resell land acquired in fee subject to a conservation easement.

[~] Figure carried forward from previous PACE tables.

[*] Program figures are more current than January 2008.

[X] Program has terminated or is no longer acquiring agricultural conservation easements.

[□] “Program Funds Available” includes money for other land conservation purposes.

[^] “Program Funds Spent to Date” includes incidental land acquisition costs and/or personnel costs.