

Nevada

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At a Glance

FARM AND RANCH LANDS PROTECTION PROGRAM

Overview

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) provides financial assistance to help eligible entities purchase development rights to keep productive farm and rangeland in agricultural uses. Working through existing programs, USDA partners with entities such as State, tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements or other interests in land from landowners. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value of the conservation easement.

Applications will be ranked as they are received and will be accepted on a continuous basis.

Depending on funding availability, applications must be submitted by the eligible entities to the appropriate NRCS State Office during the application window.

Legislative Changes

Changes made to FRPP under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) include:

- Purpose expanded to protect agricultural lands by limiting non-agricultural uses,
- Facilitates the purchase of conservation easements by qualified entities,
- Establishes a certification process for entities,
- Eligible entities must have a plan for administering easements that meets the purposes of the FRPP,

- Entity share of the cost cannot be less than 25 percent of the acquisition purchase price,
- Allows inclusion of forestlands (must not exceed two-thirds of the easement acreage) as an eligible land use; forestlands must contribute to the economic vitality of an agricultural operation or serve as a buffer to protect the agricultural operation, and,
- Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for the landowner is capped at \$1 million based on the three tax years immediately preceding the year the cooperative agreement is signed; an exemption is provided where two-thirds of the AGI is derived from farming, ranching or forestry operations.
- To qualify, the landowner of the property offered must be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions of the Farm Bill and must meet the terms of the AGI.

Entity and Land Eligibility

To qualify, the farm or ranch land:

- Must be privately-owned,
- Must contain at least 50 percent of prime farmland, or be lands of statewide importance and are irrigated, unless otherwise determined by the Nevada NRCS State Conservationist,
- May contain historical or archeological sites that are:
 - Consensus determined by the State Historical Preservation Office or the

- Tribal Preservation Office, or
- Formally nominated to the National Register, and
- Be part of a pending offer from a state, tribal, or local government, or a non-governmental organization's agricultural land protection program,
- Must have a conservation plan on acreage determined to be highly erodible, and
- Must contain sufficient acres to sustain agricultural production.

How to Apply

For application information, go to Nevada NRCS Web site at <http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp.html> or contact the Nevada NRCS State Office, (775) 857-8500, ext. 103.

More Information

For more detailed information about the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, visit the Nevada NRCS Web site at <http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp.html> or the NRCS National Web site at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp>.