

STATUS OF STATE PACE PROGRAMS

As of January 2017, 28 states have state-level purchase of agricultural conservation easement (PACE) programs. Three states—Arizona, Georgia and Missouri—have authorized PACE but do not yet have programs. Montana had a state-level program that was discontinued in 2003 when state authorization expired. This table displays the status and summarizes important information about farm and ranch land protection programs in 29 states that have funded easement acquisitions. 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 have the authority to acquire and co-hold easements with partners (e.g., county governments). Some programs (e.g., New York and Virginia) only provide grants to eligible entities, such as local governments and land trusts, to buy easements.

EXPLANATION OF COLUMN HEADINGS

Year of Inception/Year of First Acquisition

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

Easements or Restrictions Acquired

Number of agricultural conservation easements or conservation restrictions acquired through the 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 programs do not hold easements but instead provide funds for easement purchases to local governments or land trusts.

Acres Protected

Number of acres protected by the program.

Land in Farms

Acres of land in farms as reported in the 2012 Census of Agriculture released by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA NASS).

For the purposes of the Census of Agriculture, USDA NASS defines a "farm" as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year.

Program Funds Spent to Date

Dollars spent by each program to acquire easements on farms/ranches. This amount may include unspent funds dedicated 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

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Acres Protected by State PACE Programs



PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS

State	Year of Inception/ Year of First Acquisition	Easements or Restrictions Acquired	Acres Protected	Land in Farms (acres)	Program Funds Spent to Date
Alabama					
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	2004/2005	21	4,591	8,902,654	\$1,636,866
California					
California Farmland Conservancy Program	1995/1997	184	59,498	25,569,001	\$89,479,189 ^
Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program	2014/2015	3	1,888		\$88,485,139 ^
					\$994,050
Colorado					
Great Outdoors Colorado Δ	1992/1995	441	737,453	31,886,676	\$201,357,928 ^
Connecticut					
Connecticut Farmland Preservation Program	1978/1979	336	42,080	436,539	\$139,689,100 ^
Delaware					
Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Program, Farmland Preservation Program	1991/1996	825	118,468	508,652	\$153,351,131
Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Program, Young Farmer Program	2011/2012	28	2,268		\$146,845,838
					\$6,505,293
Florida					
Rural and Family Lands Protection Program	2001/2001	28	19,870	9,548,342	\$30,022,940 ^
Hawaii					
Legacy Land Conservation Program	2005/2007	12	1,803	1,129,317	\$10,850,000
Kentucky					
Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Corporation	1994/1998	185	35,000	13,049,347	\$13,823,269
Maine					
Maine Farmland Protection Program	1999/1990	42	9,752	1,454,104	\$12,574,122
Maryland					
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation	1977/1980	2,839	390,339	2,030,745	\$754,102,835 ^
Rural Legacy Program	1997/1999	2,232	301,929		\$477,863,899
		607	88,410		\$276,238,936 ^
Massachusetts					
Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program	1977/1980	898	72,059	523,517	\$224,342,391 ^
Michigan					
Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program	1994/1994	131	24,815	9,948,564	\$36,827,248
Montana					
Montana Agricultural Heritage Program ×	1999/2000	8	9,923	59,758,917	\$888,000
New Hampshire					
Agricultural Lands Preservation Program ~ 2015	1979/1980	119	17,694	474,065	\$19,648,720
Land Conservation Investment Program ×	1987/1988	31	2,864		\$5,000,000
Land and Community Heritage Investment Program	2000/2001	36	6,232		\$5,349,008
		52	8,598		\$9,299,712

Note: For explanation of column headings and symbols, please see fact sheet text.

STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2017

Additional Funds Spent to Date	Program Funds Available	Program Funds Available Per Capita	Outstanding Applications	Funding Sources Used to Date	State
Alabama					
\$3,273,731	\$0	\$0.00	N/A	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE	
California					
\$69,443,674	\$7,000,000				
\$67,971,224	\$0	\$0.00	0	Appropriations, bonds, mitigation fees, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
\$1,472,450	\$7,000,000	\$.18	26	California Climate Investment Funds (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds)	
Colorado					
\$465,324,335	\$18,995,000	\$3.43	29	Local government contributions, lottery proceeds, ACEP-ALE	
Connecticut					
\$31,844,410	\$9,610,637	\$2.69	71	Bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, recording fees, ACEP-ALE	
Delaware					
\$64,457,609	\$2,650,000				
\$64,457,609	\$1,900,000	\$2.00	293	Appropriations, bonds, lawsuit settlement funds, license plate revenue, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE, transportation funding	
\$0	\$750,000	\$.79	2	Appropriations, rollback taxes	
Florida					
\$7,264,834	\$41,368,085	\$2.01	117	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE, REPI	
Hawaii					
\$15,002,565	N/A	N/A	N/A	Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE	
Kentucky					
\$7,451,666	\$0	\$0.00	N/A	Appropriations, bonds, tobacco settlement funds, ACEP-ALE, REPI	
Maine					
\$17,162,782	\$500,000	\$0.38	N/A	Appropriations, bonds, credit card royalties, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
Maryland					
N/A	\$52,500,059				
\$197,944,948	\$34,836,674	\$5.79	21	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, property tax relief program withdrawal penalties, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE	
N/A	\$17,663,385	\$2.94	N/A	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE	
Massachusetts					
\$67,812,809	\$7,533,700	\$1.11	32	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, mitigation fees, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, transportation funding	
Michigan					
\$8,671,445	\$0	\$0.00	0	Local government contributions, private contributions, property tax relief program withdrawal penalties, ACEP-ALE	
Montana					
\$1,420,710	\$0	\$0.00	0	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE	
New Hampshire					
\$20,431,975	N/A				
\$140,000	\$0	\$0.00	N/A	Appropriations, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE	
\$0	\$0	\$0.00	0	Bonds	
\$20,291,975	N/A	N/A	10	Appropriations, recording fees, ACEP-ALE	

PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS

State	Year of Inception/ Year of First Acquisition	Easements or Restrictions Acquired	Acres Protected	Land in Farms (acres)	Program Funds Spent to Date
New Jersey					
New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program	1983/1985	2,464	225,999	715,057	\$1,082,256,740
New Mexico					
New Mexico Natural Heritage Conservation Program ~ 2015	2010/2010	3	5,930	43,201,023	\$850,000
New York					
New York State Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program	1996/1998	242	61,374	7,183,576	\$145,702,476 ^
North Carolina					
Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Program	1986/1999	122	16,614	8,414,756	\$17,293,118
Ohio					
Agricultural Easement Purchase Program ‡	1999/1999	389	64,439	13,960,604	\$45,087,405
Pennsylvania					
Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program	1988/1989	5,045	528,626	7,704,444	\$927,627,943 ^
Rhode Island					
Farmland Preservation Program	1981/1985	106	7,400	69,589	\$33,752,000
South Carolina					
South Carolina Conservation Bank	2002/2004	65	22,224	4,971,244	\$20,299,854
Texas					
Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program	2005/2005	9	7,167	130,153,438	\$6,000,000
Utah					
Critical Agricultural Land Conservation Fund	1999/2001	31	17,300		\$642,500
LeRay McAllister Critical Lands Conservation Fund	1999/2000	85	91,268		\$21,685,730
Vermont					
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Farmland Preservation Program	1987/1987	682	161,700	1,251,713	\$74,220,000 ^
Virginia					
Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation	2000/2001	20	7,881		\$4,290,094 ^
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Farmland Preservation Program	2001/2008	87	12,129		\$10,608,534 ^
Washington					
Farmland Preservation Program	2007/2008	58	10,431	14,748,107	\$15,528,651 ^
West Virginia					
West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority	2000/2009	26	6,436	3,606,674	\$3,818,383
Wisconsin					
Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements Program	2009/2011	17	5,120	14,568,926	\$4,824,076 ^
STATE TOTALS		15,551	2,799,539		\$4,103,081,243 ^

Note: For explanation of column headings and symbols, please see fact sheet text.

STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2017

Additional Funds Spent to Date	Program Funds Available	Program Funds Available Per Capita	Outstanding Applications	Funding Sources Used to Date	State
					New Jersey
\$610,000,000	\$100,200,000	\$11.20	200	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, sale of fee-simple purchased properties, state sales and use tax, ACEP-ALE	
					New Mexico
\$1,200,000	\$0	\$0.00	N/A	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE	
					New York
\$44,270,029	\$19,930,000	\$1.01	0	Bonds, bottle bill revenue, license plate fees, local government contributions, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE	
					North Carolina
\$63,615,569	\$3,971,297	\$.39	22	Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
					Ohio
\$19,283,200	\$8,036,764	\$.69	113	Bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
					Pennsylvania
\$502,315,837	\$72,000,000	\$5.63	1,300	Appropriations, bonds, cigarette tax, interest on securities, local government contributions, municipal landfill fees, property tax revenue, use value assessment withdrawal penalties, ACEP-ALE	
					Rhode Island
\$55,791,000	\$3,000,000	\$2.84	29	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, transportation funding	
					South Carolina
N/A	\$15,000,000 ✕	\$3.02	4	Appropriations, real estate transfer tax, recording fees	
					Texas
\$0	\$2,000,000	\$.07	7	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE, Federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program	
					Utah
\$319,964,246	\$500,000				
\$23,527,725	\$0	\$0.00	0	Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
\$296,436,521	\$500,000	\$.16	0	Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
					Vermont
\$99,651,000	\$2,600,000	\$4.16	60	Appropriations, bonds, Farms for the Future pilot program, local government contributions, mitigation fees, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE transportation funding	
					Virginia
\$18,563,667	N/A				
\$0	N/A	N/A	N/A	Appropriations	
\$18,563,667	\$1,209,518	\$.14	N/A	Appropriations	
					Washington
\$18,974,649	\$1,684,809	\$0.23	24	Bonds, development impact fees, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE	
					West Virginia
N/A	\$4,609,083	\$2.52	111	Appropriations, deed recording fees	
					Wisconsin
\$1,726,900	\$0	\$0.00	0	Bonds, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
\$2,732,863,590	\$374,898,952 ✕		2,471		STATE TOTALS

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contributed by federal programs, local governments (counties and municipalities), private land trusts, foundations and/or individuals.

Additional Funds Spent to Date

Funds contributed toward state program acquisitions by federal programs, local governments, private land trusts, foundations and/or individuals (see "Funding Sources Used to Date").

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 2015 from the U.S. Census Bureau.

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 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act and its predecessors for "transportation enhancements." Easement acquisitions that protect scenic views and historic sites along transportation routes were eligible for these funds prior to 2012.

The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI) provides funds to establish easement-protected buffer areas around military installations.

The federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program authorizes funds to be distributed to oil and gas producing states to mitigate the impacts of oil and gas extraction from the continental shelf.

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) protects agricultural land and conserves wetlands. It consolidates the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). The Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) component of ACEP provides matching funds to eligible entities to buy conservation easements on farm and ranch land. In the table, ACEP-ALE includes FRPP.

In addition to these sources of funding, several programs reported contributions from private sources.

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.
- ^ "Program Funds Spent to Date" includes incidental land acquisition costs and/or personnel costs.
- x Program has terminated or is no longer acquiring agricultural conservation easements.
- ~ Figures are carried forward from previous PACE tables. Information current as of year indicated.
- ⊠ "Program Funds Available" includes money for other land conservation purposes.
- ‡ Total includes 14 easements, 3,000 acres and \$1.5 million of additional funds spent that were credited to the Southern Ohio Tobacco Agricultural Easement Program (SOTAEP). SOTAEP was a one-time partnership between the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation and five local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Ohio Department of Agriculture currently administers these easements. In prior years SOTAEP's activity was represented separately on this table.

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For more information on PACE, see the [Purchase of Agricultural Easements](#) fact sheet and [other PACE resources](#) on the Farmland Information Center (FIC) website. The FIC is a clearinghouse for information about farmland protection and stewardship. The FIC is a public/private partnership between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and American Farmland Trust.