

# STATUS OF STATE PACE PROGRAMS

As of January 2019, 28 states had active state-level purchase of agricultural conservation easement (PACE) programs. The interior table displays the status and summarizes important information about farm and ranch land protection programs in 29 states that have funded easement acquisitions. Montana's program expired in 2003 and is not an active program, but it is included in the table because it funded easement acquisitions. Three other states are not included: In 2017, Oregon authorized a program but has not yet funded any acquisitions. Georgia and Missouri have authorized PACE but do not yet have programs. 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 2017 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

Dollars spent to date 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

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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
<b>Alabama</b>					
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	2004/2005	21	4,591	8,580,940	\$1,636,866
<b>California</b>					
Agricultural Land Mitigation Program <sup>i.</sup>	2016/2017	5	512		\$4,211,259
California Farmland Conservancy Program <sup>i.</sup>	1995/1997	184	59,498		\$88,485,139
Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program <sup>i.</sup>	2014/2015	21	23,135		\$19,544,479
<b>Colorado</b>					
Great Outdoors Colorado <sup>i., ii.</sup>	1992/1995	493	858,504	31,820,957	\$239,241,986
<b>Connecticut</b>					
Farmland Preservation Program <sup>i.</sup>	1978/1979	366	45,125	381,539	\$122,909,863
<b>Delaware</b>					
		932	127,414	525,324	\$159,768,032
Agricultural Lands Preservation Program	1991/1996	898	124,784		\$152,068,313
Young Farmer Loan Program	2011/2012	34	2,630		\$7,699,719
<b>Florida</b>					
Rural and Family Lands Protection Program <sup>i.</sup>	2001/2001	44	50,028	9,731,731	\$77,374,631
<b>Hawaii</b>					
Legacy Land Conservation Program <sup>v.2017</sup>	2005/2007	12	1,803	1,135,352	\$10,850,000
<b>Kentucky</b>					
Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements	1994/1998	186	32,928	12,961,784	\$13,823,269
<b>Maine</b>					
Farmland Protection Program	1987/1990	42	9,752	1,307,613	\$12,574,122
<b>Maryland</b>					
		3,030	413,556	1,990,122	\$839,950,401
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation	1977/1980	2,329	315,496		\$534,549,145
Rural Legacy Program <sup>i., iii.</sup>	1997/1999	701	98,060		\$305,401,256
<b>Massachusetts</b>					
Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program <sup>i.</sup>	1977/1980	921	73,626	491,653	\$233,532,380
<b>Michigan</b>					
Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program	1994/1994	141	25,571	9,764,090	\$36,827,248
<b>Montana</b>					
Montana Agricultural Heritage Program <sup>iv.</sup>	1999/2000	8	9,923	58,122,878	\$888,000
<b>New Hampshire</b>					
		121	16,002	425,393	\$19,017,345
Agricultural Lands Preservation Program	1979/1980	31	2,864		\$5,000,000
Land Conservation Investment Program <sup>iv.</sup>	1987/1988	36	6,232		\$5,349,008
Land and Community Heritage Investment Program <sup>i., iii.</sup>	2000/2001	54	6,906		\$8,668,337

**Notes:** For explanation of column headings, please see factsheet text.

i. "Program Funds Spent to Date" includes incidental land acquisition costs and/or personnel costs.

ii. 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.

# STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2019

Additional Funds Spent	Program Funds Available	Program Funds Available Per Capita	Funding Sources Primary state funding sources are in blue	State
<b>Alabama</b>				
\$3,273,731	\$0	\$0.00	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE	
<b>California</b>				
\$74,258,447	\$47,000,000	\$1.07		
\$465,073	\$2,000,000	\$0.03	<b>Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (cap and trade auction proceeds)</b>	
\$67,971,224	\$0	\$0.00	Appropriations, bonds, mitigation fees, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
\$5,822,150	\$45,000,000	\$1.04	Bonds, <b>Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (cap and trade auction proceeds)</b> , mitigation fees, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE	
<b>Colorado</b>				
\$505,894,820	\$1,300,000	\$0.23	Local government contributions, <b>lottery proceeds</b> , ACEP-ALE	
<b>Connecticut</b>				
\$37,172,235	\$8,753,860	\$2.45	Bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, recording fees, ACEP-ALE	
<b>Delaware</b>				
\$67,464,099	\$13,000,000	\$13.44		
\$67,464,099	\$10,000,000	\$10.34	<b>Appropriations</b> , bonds, lawsuit settlement funds, license plate revenue, local government contributions, private contributions, property tax relief program withdrawal penalties, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding, REPI	
\$0	\$3,000,000	\$3.10	<b>Appropriations</b> , license plate revenue, property tax relief program withdrawal penalties	
<b>Florida</b>				
\$21,564,863	\$11,000,000	\$0.52	<b>Appropriations</b> , bonds, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE, REPI	
<b>Hawaii</b>				
\$15,002,565	N/A	N/A	Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE	
<b>Kentucky</b>				
\$7,898,757	\$0	\$0.00	Appropriations, bonds, tobacco settlement funds, ACEP-ALE, REPI	
<b>Maine</b>				
\$17,162,782	\$0	\$0.00	Appropriations, bonds, credit card royalties, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
<b>Maryland</b>				
\$222,329,745	\$80,760,672	\$13.36		
\$208,329,745	\$55,742,968	\$9.22	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, property tax relief program withdrawal penalties, <b>real estate transfer tax</b> , ACEP-ALE	
\$14,000,000	\$25,017,704	\$4.14	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, <b>real estate transfer tax</b> , ACEP-ALE	
<b>Massachusetts</b>				
\$73,215,326	\$2,670,000	\$0.39	Appropriations, <b>bonds</b> , local government contributions, mitigation fees, municipal land fees, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding	
<b>Michigan</b>				
\$9,321,445	\$0	\$0.00	Local government contributions, private contributions, property tax relief program withdrawal penalties, ACEP-ALE	
<b>Montana</b>				
\$1,420,710	\$0	\$0.00	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE	
<b>New Hampshire</b>				
\$27,534,880	\$3,500,000	\$2.58		
\$140,000	\$0	\$0.00	Appropriations, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE	
\$0	\$0	\$0.00	Bonds	
\$27,394,880	3,500,000	2.58	Appropriations, recording fees, ACEP-ALE	

- iii. "Program Funds Available" includes money for other land conservation purposes.
- iv. Program has terminated or is no longer acquiring agricultural conservation easements.
- v. Figures are carried forward from previous PACE tables. Information current as of year indicated.

# 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
<b>New Jersey</b>					
New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program	1983/1985	2,611	233,526	734,084	\$1,121,310,648
<b>New Mexico</b>					
New Mexico Natural Heritage Conservation Program <sup>v. 2015</sup>	2010/2010	3	5,930	40,659,836	\$850,000
<b>New York</b>					
Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program <sup>i.</sup>	1996/1998	291	73,811	6,866,171	\$175,025,114
<b>North Carolina</b>					
Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund <sup>i.</sup>	1986/1999	141	19,659	8,430,522	\$21,165,308
<b>Ohio</b>					
Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program	1999/1999	457	74,605	13,965,295	\$55,290,319
<b>Pennsylvania</b>					
Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program <sup>i.</sup>	1988/1989	5,441	559,587	7,278,668	\$995,562,654
<b>Rhode Island</b>					
Farmland Preservation Program	1981/1985	112	7,900	56,864	\$35,800,200
<b>South Carolina</b>					
South Carolina Conservation Bank	2002/2004	72	19,845	4,744,913	\$16,422,972
<b>Texas</b>					
Texas Farm and Ranch Land Conservation Program <sup>i.</sup>	2005/2005	7	12,313	127,036,184	\$1,648,864
<b>Utah</b>					
LeRay McAllister Critical Lands Conservation Fund (in partnership with Utah Department of Agriculture)	1999/2000	42	54,647	10,974,396	\$11,347,424
<b>Vermont</b>					
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Farmland Preservation Program <sup>i.</sup>	1987/1987	727	168,313	1,193,437	\$80,844,307
<b>Virginia</b>					
Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation <sup>i.</sup>	2000/2001	25	8,445		\$4,251,319
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Virginia Farmland Preservation Program <sup>i.</sup>	2001/2008	95	13,300		\$11,377,113
<b>Washington</b>					
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farmland Protection Category <sup>i.</sup>	2007/2008	62	11,031	14,679,857	\$16,654,963
<b>West Virginia</b>					
West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority-Farmland Protection Program	2000/2009	28	7,061	3,662,178	\$4,683,999
<b>Wisconsin</b>					
Farmland Preservation Program <sup>i.</sup>	2009/2011	17	5,124	14,318,630	\$4,824,076

## STATE TOTALS

16,658 3,027,064

\$4,437,694,300

**Notes:** For explanation of column headings, please see factsheet text.

i. "Program Funds Spent to Date" includes incidental land acquisition costs and/or personnel costs.

ii. 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.

# STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2019

Additional Funds Spent	Program Funds Available	Program Funds Available Per Capita	Funding Sources Primary state funding sources are in blue	State
				<b>New Jersey</b>
\$628,698,897	\$127,212,000	\$14.28	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, mitigation fees, private contributions, sales tax, condemnation proceeds, <b>corporate business tax</b> , sale of fee-simple purchased properties, ACEP-ALE	
				<b>New Mexico</b>
\$1,200,000	N/A	N/A	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE	
				<b>New York</b>
N/A	\$17,910,000	\$0.92	Bonds, <b>Environmental Protection Fund (license plate fees, real estate transfer tax, unclaimed container deposits)</b> , local government contributions, ACEP-ALE	
				<b>North Carolina</b>
\$67,559,435	\$17,612,011	\$1.70	<b>Appropriations</b> , local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, REPI	
				<b>Ohio</b>
\$22,771,508	\$6,859,202	\$0.59	<b>Bonds</b> , local government contributions, private contributions, Southern Ohio Tobacco Agricultural Easement Program, ACEP-ALE	
				<b>Pennsylvania</b>
\$475,436,376	\$69,000,000	\$5.39	Appropriations, bonds, <b>cigarette tax</b> , Environmental Stewardship Fund (municipal landfill fees, unconventional gas well impact fees), interest on securities, local government contributions, use value assessment withdrawal penalties, ACEP-ALE	
				<b>Rhode Island</b>
\$76,207,453	\$1,750,000	\$1.66	Appropriations, <b>bonds</b> , local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding	
				<b>South Carolina</b>
\$0	\$8,164,311	\$1.61	<b>Appropriations</b> , real estate transfer tax, recording fees	
				<b>Texas</b>
\$11,208,500	\$1,743,700	\$0.06	<b>Appropriations</b> , private contributions, ACEP-ALE, Federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program	
				<b>Utah</b>
\$71,628,787	\$400,000	\$0.13	Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
				<b>Vermont</b>
\$108,684,500	\$2,750,000	\$4.39	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, mitigation fees, private contributions, cap and trade proceeds, <b>real estate transfer tax</b> , ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding	
\$19,798,025	\$633,831	\$0.07		<b>Virginia</b>
\$0	N/A	\$0.00	Appropriations	
\$19,798,025	\$633,831	\$0.07	Appropriations	
				<b>Washington</b>
\$36,755,924	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Appropriations</b> , bonds, development impact fees, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE	
				<b>West Virginia</b>
\$59,993,190	N/A	N/A	Appropriations, deed recording fees	
				<b>Wisconsin</b>
\$1,753,907	\$0	\$0.00	Bonds, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
<b>\$2,665,210,907</b>	<b>\$422,019,587</b>			<b>STATE TOTALS</b>

- iii. "Program Funds Available" includes money for other land conservation purposes.
- iv. Program has terminated or is no longer acquiring agricultural conservation easements.
- v. Figures are carried forward from previous PACE tables. Information current as of year indicated.

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and recording fees, or the administrative costs of running the program. These figures do not include additional funds, recording fees, or the administrative costs of running the program. These figures do not include additional funds contributed by federal programs, local governments (counties and municipalities), private land trusts, foundations, and/or individuals.

## Additional Funds Spent

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

## 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 2018 from the U.S. Census Bureau.

## Funding Sources Used

Sources of funding to date for each program. Funding sources in blue indicate primary funding source for 2018. "Federal transportation funding" refers to money disbursed by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration to support transportation alternatives and enhancements.

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.

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**For more information on Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE), see the PACE 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 and is a public/private partnership between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and American Farmland Trust.**