

STATUS OF STATE PACE PROGRAMS

OVERVIEW

As of January 2020, 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

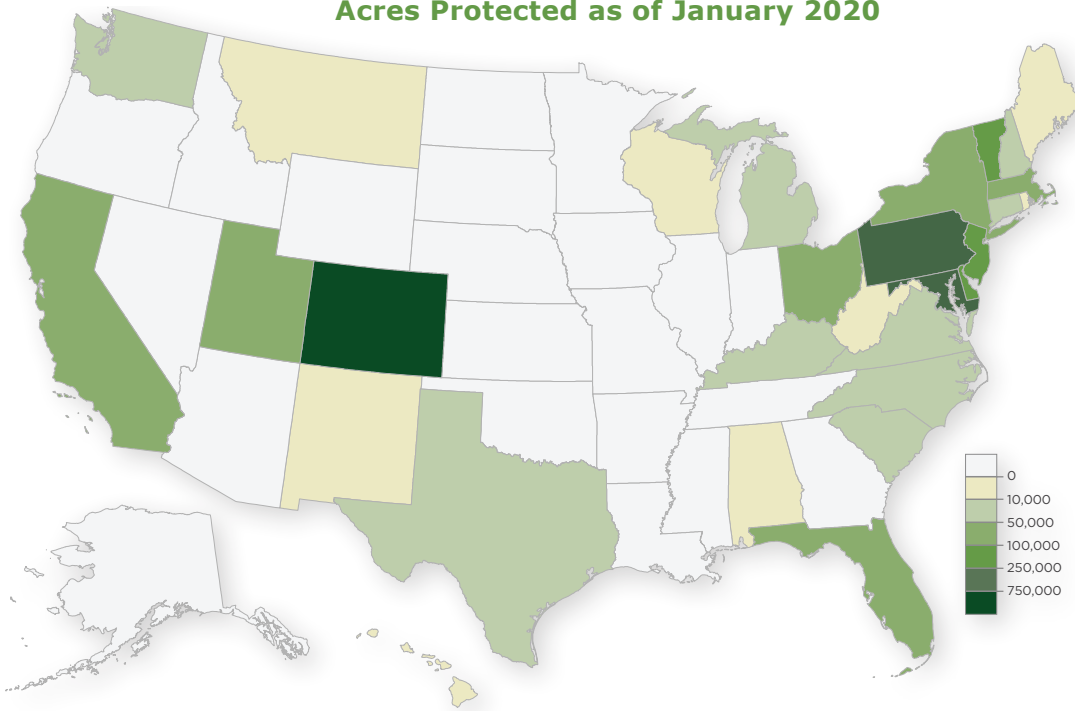
Number of acres protected by the program.

Land in Farms

Acres of land in farms as reported in the Farms and Land in Farms 2019 Summary 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.

Acres Protected as of January 2020



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 ^{v. 2009} | 2004/2005 | 21 | 4,591 | 8,300,000 | \$1,636,866 |
| California | | 223 | 96,150 | 24,300,000 | \$130,771,980 |
| Agricultural Land Mitigation Program ⁱ | 2016/2017 | 9 | 1,261 | | \$11,677,189 |
| California Farmland Conservancy Program ^{i, v. 2014} | 1995/1997 | 184 | 59,498 | | \$88,569,039 |
| Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program ⁱ | 2014/2015 | 30 | 35,391 | | \$30,525,752 |
| Colorado | | | | | |
| Great Outdoors Colorado ^{i, ii} | 1992/1995 | 502 | 872,167 | 31,800,000 | \$233,534,803 |
| Connecticut | | | | | |
| Farmland Preservation Program ⁱ | 1978/1979 | 373 | 45,127 | 380,000 | \$125,169,203 |
| Delaware | | 1,039 | 136,682 | 530,000 | \$168,428,081 |
| Agricultural Lands Preservation Program | 1991/1996 | 1,004 | 133,975 | | \$160,437,473 |
| Young Farmer Loan Program | 2011/2012 | 35 | 2,707 | | \$7,990,608 |
| Florida | | | | | |
| Rural and Family Lands Protection Program ⁱ | 2001/2001 | 47 | 54,385 | 9,700,000 | \$78,219,109 |
| Hawaii | | | | | |
| Legacy Land Conservation Program ^{v. 2017} | 2005/2007 | 4 | 772 | 1,100,000 | \$4,309,425 |
| Kentucky | | | | | |
| Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements ^{v. 2018} | 1994/1998 | 186 | 32,928 | 12,900,000 | \$11,863,284 |
| Maine | | | | | |
| Farmland Protection Program ^{v. 2015} | 1987/1990 | 42 | 9,752 | 1,300,000 | \$12,574,122 |
| Maryland | | 3,126 | 425,035 | 2,000,000 | \$877,580,772 |
| Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation | 1977/1980 | 2,378 | 322,102 | | \$555,026,665 |
| Rural Legacy Program ^{i, iii} | 1997/1999 | 748 | 102,933 | | \$322,554,107 |
| Massachusetts | | | | | |
| Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program ⁱ | 1977/1980 | 924 | 73,892 | 500,000 | \$235,493,835 |
| Michigan | | | | | |
| Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program | 1994/1994 | 146 | 26,239 | 9,800,000 | \$36,827,248 |
| Montana | | | | | |
| Montana Agricultural Heritage Program ^{iv} | 1999/2000 | 8 | 9,923 | 58,000,000 | \$888,000 |
| New Hampshire | | 128 | 16,451 | 430,000 | \$19,017,345 |
| Agricultural Lands Preservation Program ^{v. 2000} | 1979/1980 | 31 | 2,864 | | \$5,000,000 |
| Land Conservation Investment Program ^{iv} | 1987/1988 | 36 | 6,232 | | \$5,349,008 |
| Land and Community Heritage Investment Program ^{i, iii} | 2000/2001 | 61 | 7,355 | | \$8,668,337 |
| New Jersey | | | | | |
| New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program | 1983/1985 | 2,648 | 236,571 | 750,000 | \$1,137,731,430 |

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 2020

| Additional Funds Spent to Date | Program Funds Available for FY20 | Program Funds Available Per Capita | Funding Sources Primary state funding sources are in green. | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| | | | | Alabama |
| \$3,273,731 | \$0 | \$0.00 | Appropriations, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | | California |
| \$90,771,162 | \$28,000,000 | \$0.71 | | |
| \$639,353 | \$20,000,000 | \$0.51 | Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (cap and trade auction proceeds) , Mitigation Fees | |
| \$67,971,224 | \$5,000,000 | \$0.13 | Appropriations, bonds , mitigation fees, private contributions, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$22,160,585 | \$3,000,000 | \$0.08 | Bonds, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (cap and trade auction proceeds) , mitigation fees, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | | Colorado |
| \$536,187,345 | \$12,948,775 | \$2.25 | Local government contributions, lottery proceeds , ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | | Connecticut |
| \$39,586,697 | N/A | N/A | Bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, recording fees, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | | Delaware |
| \$407,759,962 | \$13,000,000 | \$13.35 | | |
| \$407,759,962 | \$10,000,000 | \$10.27 | Appropriations , 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 | |
| — | \$3,000,000 | \$3.08 | Appropriations , licence plate revenue, property tax relief program withdrawal penalties | |
| | | | | Florida |
| \$16,566,488 | \$17,100,000 | \$0.80 | Appropriations , bonds, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE, REPI | |
| | | | | Hawaii |
| \$10,609,425 | \$3,300,000 | \$2.33 | Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | | Kentucky |
| \$11,597,016 | \$0 | \$0.00 | Appropriations, bonds, tobacco settlement funds, ACEP-ALE, REPI | |
| | | | | Maine |
| \$17,162,782 | \$0 | \$0.00 | Appropriations, bonds, credit card royalties, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | | Maryland |
| \$214,003,275 | \$110,337,039 | \$18.25 | | |
| \$211,900,349 | \$80,434,884 | \$13.30 | Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, property tax relief program withdrawal penalties, real estate transfer tax , ACEP-ALE | |
| \$2,102,926 | \$29,902,155 | \$4.95 | Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax , ACEP-ALE, REPI (ACUB) | |
| | | | | Massachusetts |
| \$96,859,188 | \$3,000,000 | \$0.44 | Appropriations, bonds , local government contributions, mitigation fees, municipal land fees, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding | |
| | | | | Michigan |
| \$14,532,845 | \$1,900,000 | \$0.19 | Local government contributions, private contributions , property tax relief program withdrawal penalties, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | | Montana |
| \$1,420,710 | \$0 | \$0.00 | Appropriations, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | | New Hampshire |
| \$31,910,747 | \$3,500,000 | \$2.57 | | |
| \$140,000 | \$0 | \$0.00 | Appropriations, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE | |
| — | \$0 | \$0.00 | Bonds | |
| \$31,770,747 | \$3,500,000 | \$2.57 | Appropriations, recording fees , ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | | New Jersey |
| \$629,691,111 | \$146,046,580 | \$16.44 | Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, mitigation fees, private contributions, sales tax, condemnation proceeds, corporate business tax , sale of fee-simple purchased properties, 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 to Date |
|---|---|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| New Mexico | | | | | |
| New Mexico Natural Heritage Conservation Program ^{v.2015} | 2010/2010 | 3 | 5,930 | 40,000,000 | \$850,000 |
| New York | | | | | |
| Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program ⁱ | 1996/1998 | 307 | 79,612 | 6,900,000 | \$196,989,132 |
| North Carolina | | | | | |
| Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund ⁱ | 1986/1999 | 159 | 22,590 | 8,400,000 | \$24,000,739 |
| Ohio | | | | | |
| Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program | 1999/1999 | 496 | 79,741 | 13,600,000 | \$60,671,518 |
| Pennsylvania | | | | | |
| Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program ⁱ | 1988/1989 | 5,636 | 577,092 | 7,300,000 | \$1,032,801,415 |
| Rhode Island | | | | | |
| Farmland Preservation Program | 1981/1985 | 117 | 7,979 | 60,000 | \$36,446,450 |
| South Carolina | | | | | |
| South Carolina Conservation Bank | 2002/2004 | 79 | 21,123 | 4,800,000 | \$16,934,907 |
| Texas | | | | | |
| Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program ⁱ | 2005/2005 | 13 | 28,019 | 126,500,000 | \$1,648,864 |
| Utah | | | | | |
| LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Program (in partnership with Utah Department of Agriculture). | 1999/2000 | 45 | 55,540 | 10,700,000 | \$11,586,724 |
| Vermont | | | | | |
| Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Farmland Conservation Program ⁱ | 1987/1987 | 746 | 164,250 | 1,200,000 | \$83,800,000 |
| Virginia | | | | | |
| Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation ⁱ | 2000/2001 | 26 | 8,525 | | \$4,397,524 |
| Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund ⁱ | 2001/2008 | 105 | 12,190 | | \$12,106,611 |
| Washington | | | | | |
| Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farmland Protection Category ⁱ | 2007/2008 | 68 | 12,706 | 14,600,000 | \$19,951,193 |
| West Virginia | | | | | |
| West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority–Farmland Protection Program | 2000/2009 | 30 | 8,027 | 3,500,000 | \$4,683,999 |
| Wisconsin | | | | | |
| Farmland Preservation Program ^{i, v. 2012} | 2009/2011 | 17 | 5,124 | 14,300,000 | \$4,824,076 |
| STATE TOTALS | | 17,264 | 3,129,113 | | \$4,585,738,655 |

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 2020

| Additional Funds Spent to Date | Program Funds Available for FY20 | Program Funds Available Per Capita | Funding Sources <i>Primary state funding sources are in green.</i> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| New Mexico | | | |
| \$1,200,000 | \$0 | \$0.00 | Appropriations, ACEP-ALE |
| New York | | | |
| — | \$17,910,000 | \$0.92 | Bonds, Environmental Protection Fund (license plate fees, real estate transfer tax, unclaimed container deposits) , local government contributions, ACEP-ALE |
| North Carolina | | | |
| \$75,432,171 | \$4,782,073 | \$0.46 | Appropriations , local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, REPI (ACUB) |
| Ohio | | | |
| \$23,535,319 | \$6,850,000 | \$0.59 | Bonds , local government contributions, private contributions, Southern Ohio Tobacco Agricultural Easement Program, ACEP-ALE, NRCS-RCPP |
| Pennsylvania | | | |
| \$492,776,568 | \$83,072,670 | \$6.49 | Appropriations, bonds, cigarette tax, Environmental Stewardship Fund (municipal landfill fees, unconventional gas well impact fees), interest on securities, local government contributions, real estate transfer tax , use value assessment withdrawal penalties, ACEP-ALE |
| Rhode Island | | | |
| \$76,915,578 | \$3,000,000 | \$2.83 | Appropriations, bonds , local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding |
| South Carolina | | | |
| — | \$12,058,779 | \$2.34 | Appropriations , real estate transfer tax, recording fees |
| Texas | | | |
| \$12,365,350 | \$5,450,000 | \$0.19 | Appropriations , private contributions, ACEP-ALE, Federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program |
| Utah | | | |
| \$72,390,466 | \$2,000,000 | \$0.62 | Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, sales tax , ACEP-ALE |
| Vermont | | | |
| \$121,140,000 | \$3,200,000 | \$5.13 | Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, mitigation fees, private contributions, real estate transfer tax , ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding |
| \$22,040,822 | \$13,071,875 | \$1.53 | Virginia |
| — | \$421,875 | \$0.05 | |
| \$22,040,822 | \$12,650,000 | \$1.48 | Appropriations, local government contributions , ACEP-ALE |
| Washington | | | |
| \$43,525,742 | \$0 | \$0.00 | Appropriations , bonds, development impact fees, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE |
| West Virginia | | | |
| \$110,167,449 | \$4,796,913 | \$2.68 | Appropriations, local government contributions, real estate transfer tax, deed recording fees , ACEP-ALE |
| Wisconsin | | | |
| \$1,753,907 | \$0 | \$0.00 | Bonds, private contributions, ACEP-ALE |
| \$3,218,942,651 | \$495,324,704 | \$1.51 | |

- 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.

FARMLAND INFORMATION CENTER

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 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 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 2019 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.

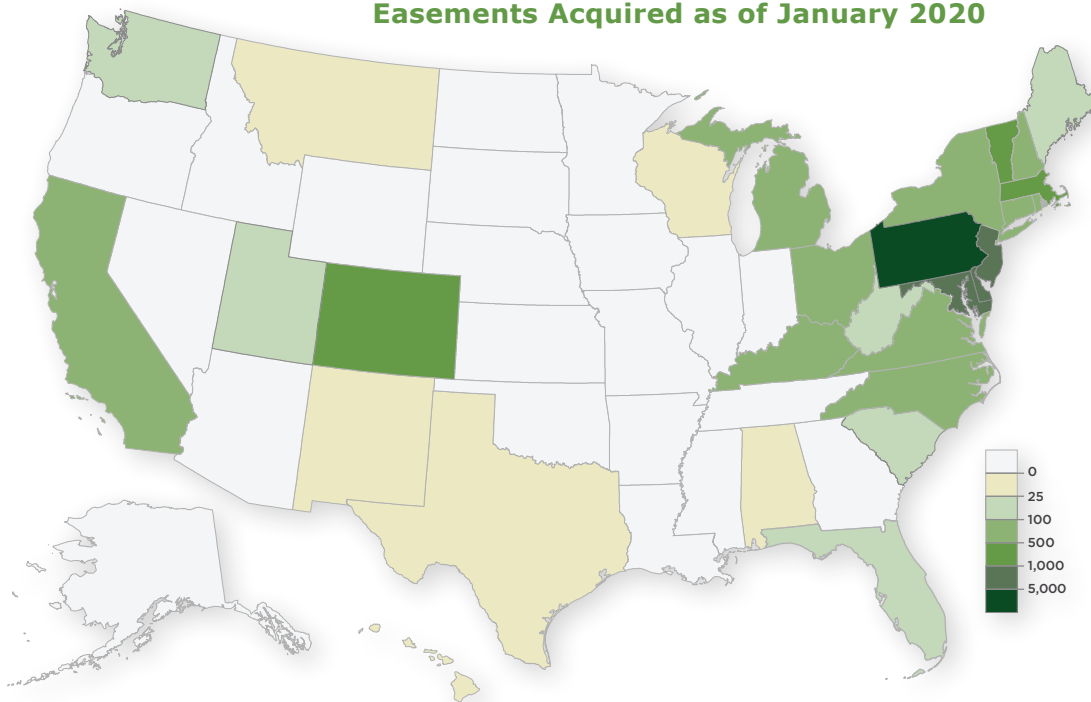
The federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program authorizes funds to be distributed to oil and gas producing states to mitigate the impacts of oil and gas extraction from the continental shelf.

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) protects agricultural land and conserves wetlands. 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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Easements Acquired as of January 2020



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.