

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

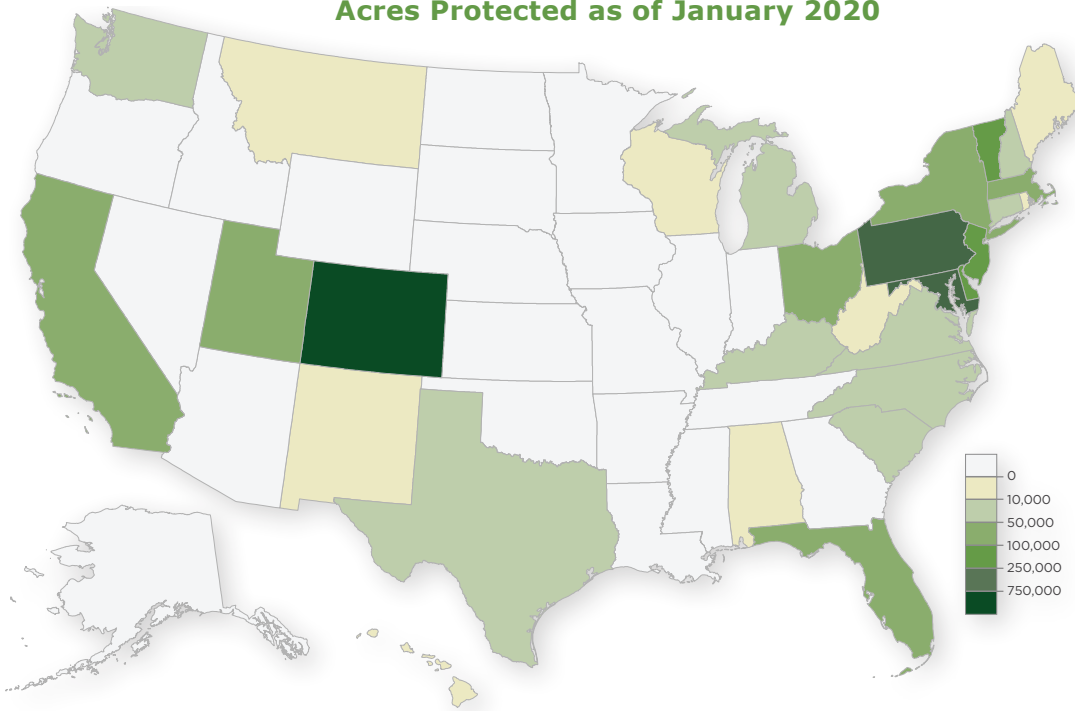
Number of acres protected by the program.

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	\$368,272,248
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		\$4,917,183,655

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

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

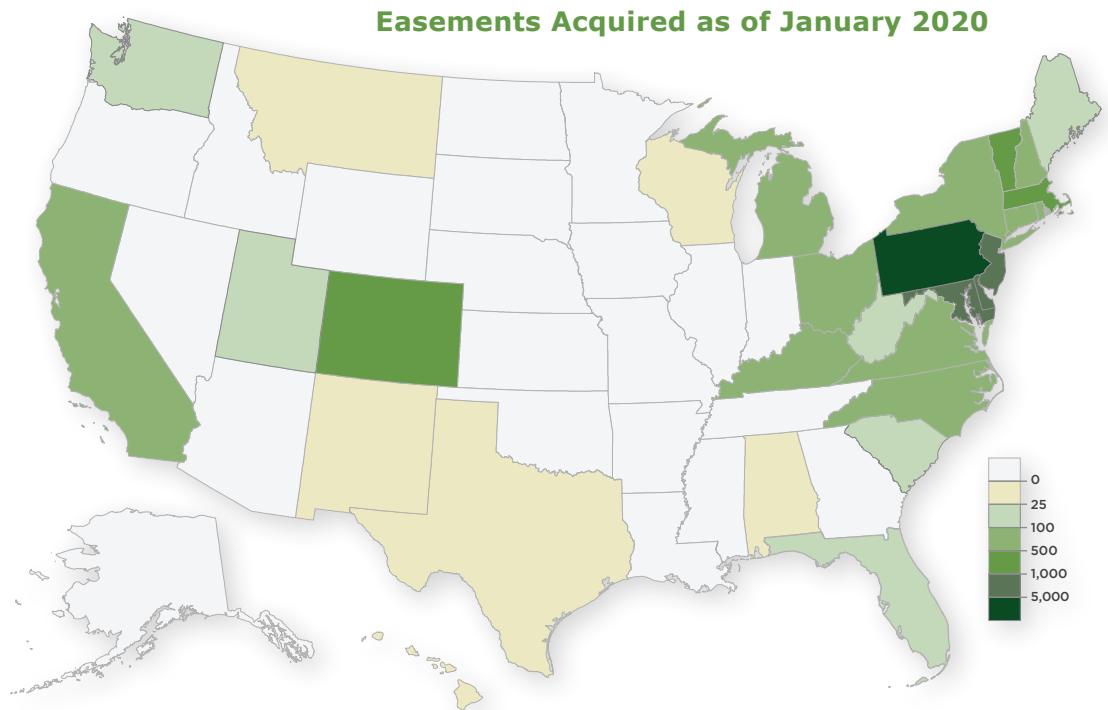
The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI) provides funds to establish easement-protected buffer areas around military installations.

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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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.