

# STATUS OF STATE PACE PROGRAMS

## OVERVIEW

As of January 2022, 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 30 states. Montana and Alabama no longer have active programs but are included in the table because they have funded easement purchases in the past. Two additional states—Georgia and Missouri—have authorized PACE but have not yet allocated funds or acquired easements. 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.

## EXPLANATION OF COLUMN HEADINGS

### Year of Inception/Year of First Acquisition

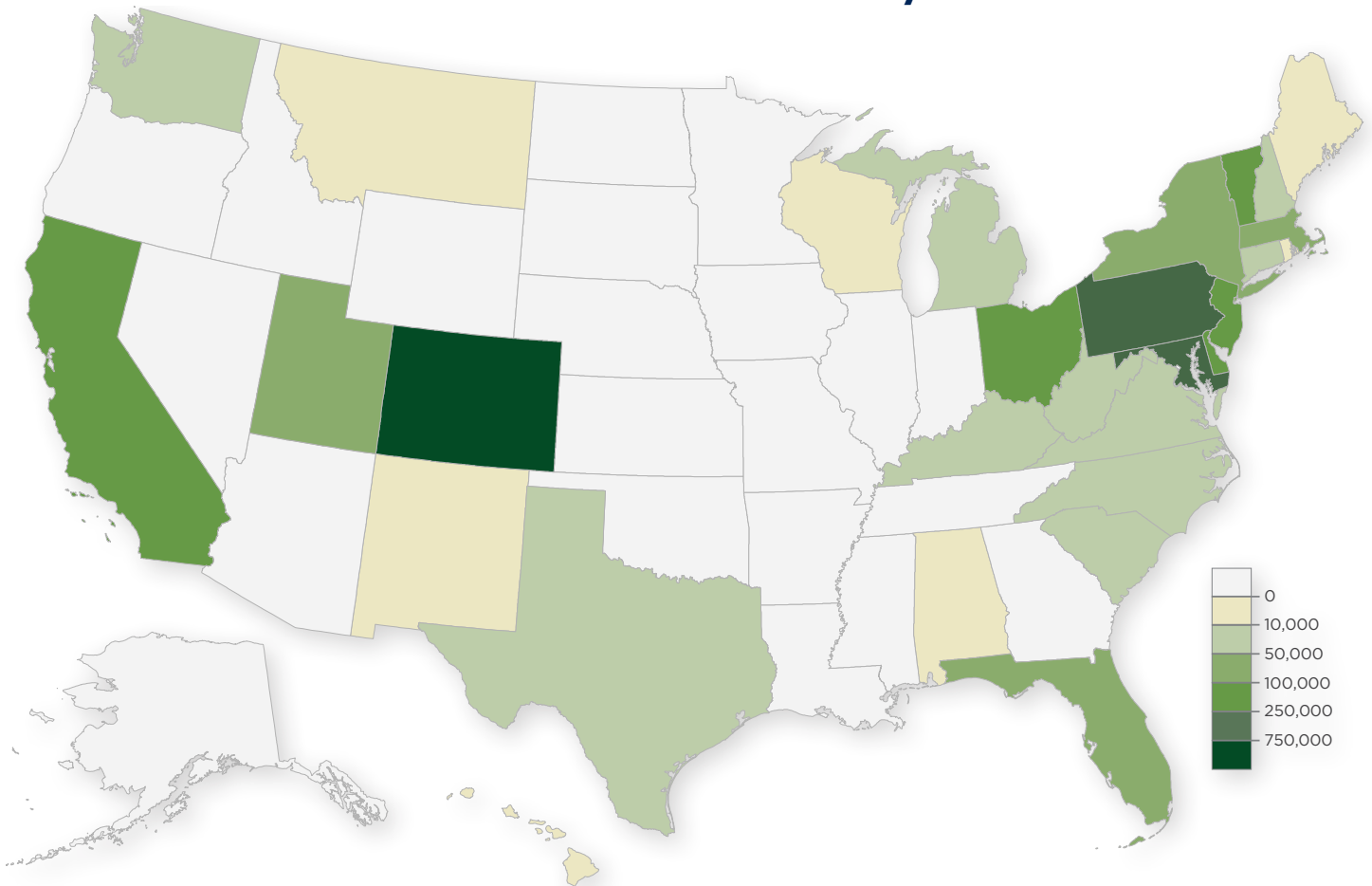
“Year of Inception” is the year in which the PACE program was authorized. “Year of First Acquisition” is the year in which the program acquired its first easement.

### Method of Protection

Describes the methods used to permanently protect land. Options include: directly acquiring easements, providing funds to public entities, like local governments or soil conservation districts, or providing funds to private entities, like land trusts. Some programs use multiple approaches.

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## Acres Protected as of January 2022



## Interests Held

Lists the legal interests held or retained by the program once the land protection transaction is completed. Options include agricultural conservation easement (ACE) as sole grantee, ACE as co-holder where the program and a partner both hold the easement and have equal interests, executory interest, third party right of enforcement, and intervenor and mediator. Some programs reported more than one type of interest held.

## Easements Acquired

Number of agricultural conservation easements 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. As noted above, some programs do not hold easements but instead

provide funds for easement purchases to local governments or land trusts and retain a lesser legal interest in the easement.

## Acres Protected

Number of acres protected by the program.

## Program Funds Spent to Date

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, nor the administrative costs of running the program. Also not included are additional funds contributed by federal programs, local governments, private land trusts, foundations, nor individuals (see "Additional Funds Spent").

# PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS

State	Year of Inception/ Year of First Acquisition	Method of Protection	Interests Held	Easements Acquired
<b>Alabama</b>				
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries <sup>4</sup>	2004/2005	N/A	N/A	21
<b>California</b>				284
Agricultural Land Mitigation Program <sup>1</sup>	2016/2017	Provide funds to private entities	Right of enforcement, intervenor & mediator	11
California Farmland Conservancy Program <sup>1</sup>	1995/1997	Provide funds to private entities	Executory interest, right of enforcement, intervenor & mediator	184
Rangeland, Grazing Land, and Grassland Program	2002/2004	N/A	N/A	27
Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program <sup>1</sup>	2014/2015	Provide funds to private entities	Executory interest, right of enforcement, intervenor & mediator	62
<b>Colorado</b>				
Great Outdoors Colorado <sup>1,2</sup>	1992/1995	Provide funds to private entities, provide funds to public entities	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, right of enforcement	542
<b>Connecticut</b>				
Connecticut Farmland Preservation Program <sup>1</sup>	1978/1979	Direct acquisition	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	399
<b>Delaware</b>				1,104
Agricultural Lands Preservation Program	1991/1996	Direct acquisition	ACE as sole grantee, right of enforcement	1,044
Young Farmer Loan Program	2011/2012	Direct acquisition	ACE as sole grantee	37
<b>Florida</b>				
Rural and Family Lands Protection Program <sup>1</sup>	2001/2001	Direct acquisition	ACE as sole grantee	54
<b>Hawaii</b>				
Legacy Land Conservation Program	2005/2007	N/A	N/A	4

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

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

2 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.

## Additional Funds Spent to Date

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.

## Funding Sources Used

Sources of funding to date for each program. Funding sources in blue indicate the primary funding source.

"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 funding is inclusive of FRPP.

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

## STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2022

Acres Protected	Program Funds Spent to Date	Additional Funds Spent to Date	Program Funds Available	Funding Sources Primary sources are in blue.	State
					<b>Alabama</b>
4,591	\$1,636,866	\$3,273,731	N/A	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>California</b>
203,771	\$206,983,825	\$171,937,764	\$74,344,340	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (cap and trade auction proceeds), Mitigation Fees, ACEP-ALE, RCPP	
1,485	\$14,684,219	\$654,696	\$2,000,000		
59,460	\$88,569,039	\$89,277,069	\$2,344,340	Appropriations, bonds, mitigation fees, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
70,385	\$35,688,779	\$24,807,682	\$0	Bonds	
72,441	\$75,897,764	\$57,198,317	\$70,000,000	Bonds, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (cap and trade auction proceeds), mitigation fees, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>Colorado</b>
872,863	\$262,189,957	\$841,474,142	\$10,079,347	Local government contributions, lottery proceeds, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, RCPP	
					<b>Connecticut</b>
47,346	\$131,842,666	\$47,372,583	\$7,965,300	Bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, recording fees, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>Delaware</b>
140,512	\$174,138,036	\$379,682,197	\$13,000,000		
137,005	\$163,883,634	\$401,174,985	\$10,000,000	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	
2,969	\$8,416,371	\$0	\$3,000,000	Appropriations, licence plate revenue, property tax relief program withdrawal penalties, real estate transfer tax	
					<b>Florida</b>
59,665	\$85,708,654	\$21,622,574	\$8,561,429	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE, REPI	
					<b>Hawaii</b>
772	\$4,309,425	\$10,609,425	N/A	Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE	

3 "Program Funds Available" includes money for other land conservation purposes.

4 Program has terminated or is no longer acquiring agricultural conservation easements.

5 Figures are carried forward from previous PACE tables. Information current as of year indicated in parentheses.

## PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS

State	Year of Inception/ Year of First Acquisition	Method of Protection	Interests Held	Easements Acquired
<b>Kentucky</b>				
Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements	1994/1998	Direct acquisition	ACE as sole grantee	186
<b>Maine</b>				
Farmland Protection Program <sup>5</sup> (2019)	1987/1990	N/A	N/A	42
<b>Maryland</b>				
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation	1977/1980	Direct acquisition	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, right of enforcement	3,341
Rural Legacy Program <sup>1,3</sup>	1997/1999	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, right of enforcement	2,516
<b>Massachusetts</b>				
Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program <sup>1</sup>	1977/1980	Direct acquisition	ACE as sole grantee, ACE as a co-holder (only municipalities can co-hold)	825
<b>Michigan</b>				
Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program	1994/1994	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	942
<b>Montana</b>				
Montana Agricultural Heritage Program <sup>4</sup>	1999/2000	N/A	N/A	154
<b>New Hampshire</b>				
Agricultural Lands Preservation Program <sup>5</sup> (2019)	1979/1980	N/A	N/A	8
Land and Community Heritage Investment Program <sup>1,3</sup>	2000/2001	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	Executory interest, right of enforcement	104
<b>New Jersey</b>				
New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program	1983/1985	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as sole grantee, right of enforcement	2,749
<b>New Mexico</b>				
New Mexico Natural Heritage Conservation Program <sup>5</sup> (2015)	2010/2010	N/A	N/A	3
<b>New York</b>				
New York State Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program <sup>1</sup>	1996/1998	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	Intervenor & mediator	344
<b>North Carolina</b>				
Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund <sup>1</sup>	1986/2005	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, right of enforcement	188
<b>Ohio</b>				
Agricultural Easement Purchase Program <sup>1</sup>	1999/1999	Direct acquisition	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	652
<b>Oregon</b>				
Local Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program		Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	Right of enforcement	0

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

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Acres Protected	Program Funds Spent to Date	Additional Funds Spent to Date	Program Funds Available	Funding Sources Primary sources are in blue.	State
					<b>Kentucky</b>
32,928	\$11,863,284	\$11,597,016	N/A	Appropriations, bonds, tobacco settlement funds, ACEP-ALE, REPI	
					<b>Maine</b>
9,752	\$12,574,122	\$17,162,782	N/A	Appropriations, bonds, credit card royalties, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>Maryland</b>
457,355	\$986,023,683	\$32,110,790	\$155,782,968		
338,926	\$609,575,786	\$25,778,368	\$97,309,707	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, property tax relief program withdrawal penalties, <a href="#">real estate transfer tax</a> , ACEP-ALE	
112,906	\$367,437,423	\$6,332,422	\$58,473,261	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, <a href="#">real estate transfer tax</a> , ACEP-ALE, REPI (ACUB)	
					<b>Massachusetts</b>
74,775	\$243,135,421	\$76,488,563	\$3,500,000	Appropriations, <a href="#">bonds</a> , local government contributions, mitigation fees, municipal land fees, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding	
					<b>Michigan</b>
27,079	\$37,928,978	\$16,759,095	\$2,000,000	Local government contributions, private contributions, <a href="#">property tax relief program withdrawal penalties</a> , ACEP-ALE	
					<b>Montana</b>
9,923	\$888,000	\$1,420,710	N/A	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE	
16,647	\$19,797,345	\$36,203,389	\$5,000,000		<b>New Hampshire</b>
2,864	\$5,000,000	\$140,000	\$0	Appropriations, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE	
14,106	\$15,008,345	\$36,063,389	\$5,000,000	Appropriations, bonds, <a href="#">recording fees</a> , ACEP-ALE	
					<b>New Jersey</b>
243,056	\$1,172,140,351	\$644,174,226	\$208,672,528	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, mitigation fees, private contributions, sales tax, condemnation proceeds, <a href="#">corporate business tax</a> , sale of fee-simple purchased properties, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>New Mexico</b>
5,930	\$850,000	\$1,200,000	N/A	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>New York</b>
95,738	\$230,145,489	\$0	\$19,904,000	Bonds, <a href="#">Environmental Protection Fund (license plate fees, real estate transfer tax, unclaimed container deposits)</a> , local government contributions, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>North Carolina</b>
27,774	\$31,183,190	\$88,366,629	\$17,548,922	<a href="#">Appropriations</a> , local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, REPI (ACUB), RCPP	
					<b>Ohio</b>
100,352	\$82,315,153	\$30,604,498	\$6,500,000	<a href="#">Bonds</a> , local government contributions, private contributions, Southern Ohio Tobacco Agricultural Easement Program, ACEP-ALE, NRCS-RCPP	
					<b>Oregon</b>
0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000	Appropriations	

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<b>Pennsylvania</b>				
Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program <sup>1</sup>	1988/1989	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	5,979
<b>Rhode Island</b>				
Farmland Preservation Program	1981/1985	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, right of enforcement	122
<b>South Carolina</b>				
South Carolina Conservation Bank	2002/2004	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	N/A	86
<b>Texas</b>				
Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program <sup>1</sup>	2005/2005	Provide funds to private entities	Right of enforcement	28
<b>Utah</b>				
LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Program (in partnership with Utah Department of Agriculture)	1999/2000	Provide funds to public entities	ACE as a co-holder	46
<b>Vermont</b>				
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Farmland Conservation Program <sup>1</sup>	1987/1987	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder	796
<b>Virginia</b>				
Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation <sup>1</sup>	2000/2001	N/A	N/A	27
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund <sup>1</sup>	2001/2008	Provide funds to public entities	Right of enforcement	109
<b>Washington</b>				
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farmland Protection Category <sup>1</sup>	2005/2007	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder, right of enforcement	89
<b>West Virginia</b>				
West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority—Farmland Protection Program	2000/2009	Direct acquisition	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	36
<b>Wisconsin</b>				
Farmland Preservation Program <sup>1</sup>	2009/2011	Provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder	17
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>				<b>18,464</b>

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					<b>Pennsylvania</b>
606,216	\$1,105,213,366	\$51,320,955	\$38,000,000	Appropriations, bonds, <a href="#">cigarette tax</a> , 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	
					<b>Rhode Island</b>
8,131	\$37,143,700	\$80,405,327	\$3,900,000	Appropriations, <a href="#">bonds</a> , local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding	
					<b>South Carolina</b>
22,751	\$17,814,159	\$0	\$15,905,426	<a href="#">Appropriations</a> , real estate transfer tax, recording fees	
					<b>Texas</b>
52,295	\$5,645,878	\$25,999,936	\$4,000,000	Appropriations, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, Federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program	
					<b>Utah</b>
55,648	\$12,322,724	\$82,371,982	\$300,000	Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, sales tax, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>Vermont</b>
168,407	\$88,794,121	\$126,584,804	\$3,571,343	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, mitigation fees, private contributions, <a href="#">real estate transfer tax</a> , ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding	
23,433	\$17,610,239	\$22,233,223	\$1,600,000		<b>Virginia</b>
8,600	\$4,585,219	\$200,000	\$1,500,000	<a href="#">Appropriations</a> , ACEP-ALE	
14,489	\$12,512,686	\$21,623,444	\$100,000	<a href="#">Appropriations</a> , local government contributions, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>Washington</b>
26,210	\$27,119,610	\$50,254,479	\$8,000,000	<a href="#">Appropriations</a> , bonds, development impact fees, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>West Virginia</b>
10,148	\$7,299,068	\$127,711,728	\$3,877,541	Appropriations, local government contributions, real estate transfer tax, <a href="#">recording fees</a> , ACEP-ALE, RCPP	
					<b>Wisconsin</b>
5,124	\$4,824,076	\$1,753,907	\$0	Bonds, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
<b>3,403,110</b>	<b>\$5,016,147,523</b>	<b>\$3,021,779,464</b>	<b>\$652,886,211</b>		<b>STATE TOTALS</b>

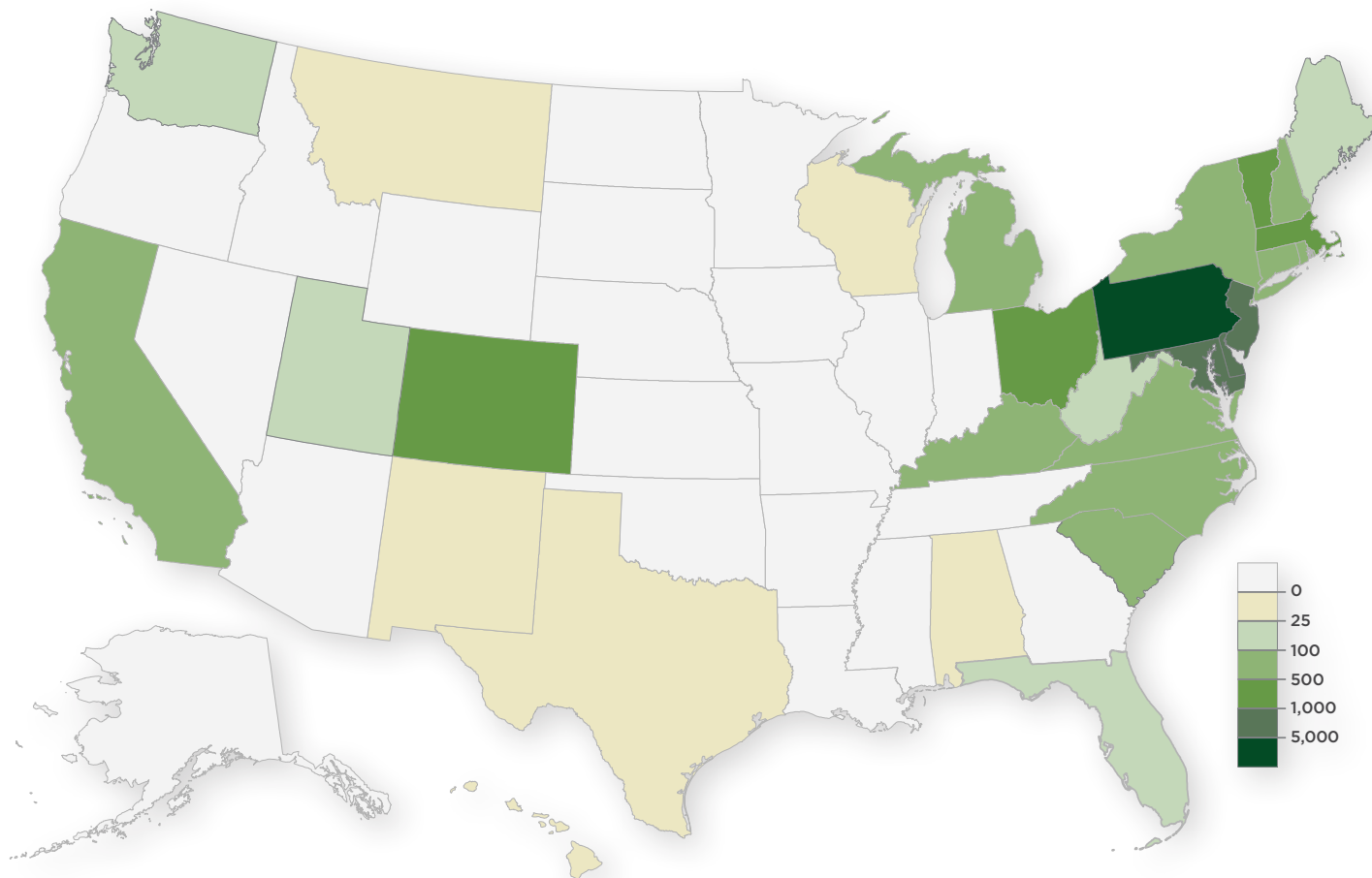
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## FARMLAND INFORMATION CENTER

### Easements Acquired as of January 2022



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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.