

# STATUS OF STATE PACE PROGRAMS

## OVERVIEW

As of January 2023, 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 added to the table, it must have state authorization, must protect agricultural land, fund easement acquisitions, and have received funding.

## EXPLANATION OF COLUMN HEADINGS

### Year of Inception/Year of First Acquisition

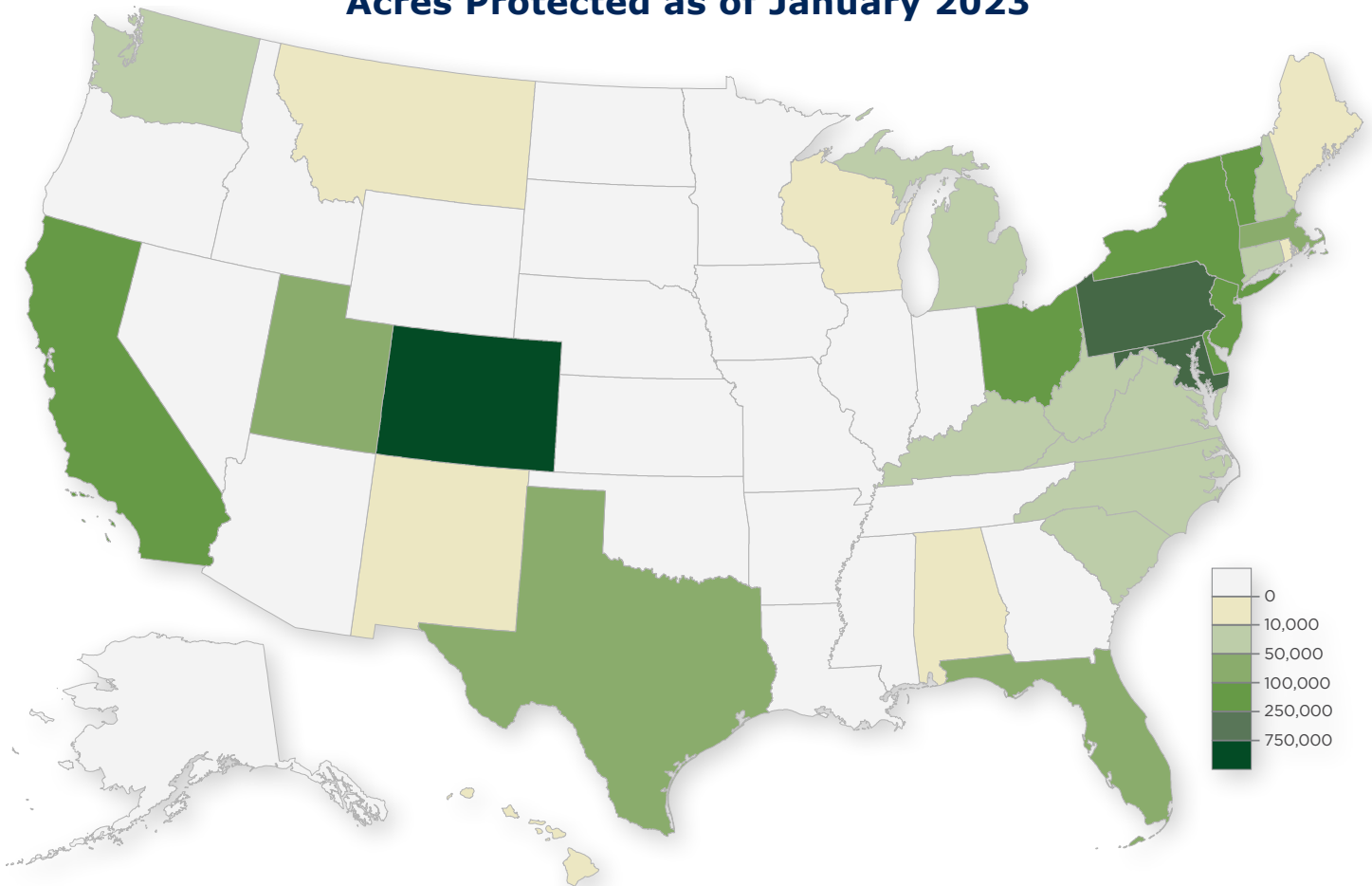
Year in which the PACE program was authorized and year in which the program acquired its first easement.

### Method of Protection

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 2023



## Interests Held

Legal interests held or retained by the program once the land protection transaction has been 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, only third party right of enforcement, executory interest, and intervener 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 agricultural 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").

## Additional Funds Spent to Date

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

# 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>1</sup>	2004/2005	N/A	N/A	21	
<b>California</b>				299	
Agricultural Land Mitigation Program <sup>2</sup>	2016/2017	Provide funds to private entities	Right of enforcement, intervenor & mediator	15	
California Farmland Conservancy Program <sup>2</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	73	
<b>Colorado</b>					
Great Outdoors Colorado <sup>2,3</sup>	1992/1995	Provide funds to private entities, provide funds to public entities	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	546	
<b>Connecticut</b>					
Farmland Preservation Program <sup>2</sup>	1978/1979	Direct acquisition	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	408	
<b>Delaware</b>				1,132	
Agricultural Lands Preservation Program	1991/1996	Direct acquisition	ACE as sole grantee	1,095	
Young Farmer Loan Program	2011/2012	Direct acquisition	ACE as sole grantee	37	

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

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

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

3 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 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.

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is another source of federal funding for some programs.

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

## STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2023

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>
211,702	\$235,092,636	\$169,208,994	\$75,278,642		
3,189	\$25,857,237	\$632,853	\$3,380,642	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (cap and trade auction proceeds)	
59,460	\$88,569,039	\$89,277,069	\$4,898,000	Appropriations, bonds, mitigation fees, private contributions	
70,385	\$35,688,779	\$24,807,682	\$0	Bonds	
78,668	\$84,977,581	\$54,491,390	\$67,000,000	Bonds, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (cap and trade auction proceeds), mitigation fees, real estate transfer tax, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, REPI, RCPP	
					<b>Colorado</b>
875,727	\$263,210,838	\$822,843,181	\$9,502,148	Lottery proceeds, private contributions, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE, RCPP	
					<b>Connecticut</b>
47,998	\$133,429,955	\$48,522,940	\$7,300,000	Bonds, real estate transfer tax, recording fees, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>Delaware</b>
144,584	\$179,374,149	\$374,096,523	\$23,000,000		
141,615	\$170,957,778	\$374,096,523	\$20,000,000	Appropriations, bonds, lawsuit settlement funds, license plate revenue, property tax relief program withdrawal penalties, real estate transfer tax, local government contributions, private contributions, 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	

4 “Program Funds Available” includes money for other land conservation purposes.

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>Florida</b>					
Rural and Family Lands Protection Program <sup>2</sup>	2001/2001	Direct acquisition	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	56	
<b>Hawaii</b>					
Legacy Land Conservation Program	2005/2007	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, intervenor and mediator, right of enforcement	4	
<b>Kentucky</b>					
Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements	1994/1998	Direct acquisition	ACE as sole grantee	218	
<b>Maine</b>					
Farmland Protection Program <sup>5 2019</sup>	1987/1990	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	Right of enforcement	42	
<b>Maryland</b>				3,458	
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation	1977/1980	Direct acquisition	ACE as sole grantee	2,589	
Rural Legacy Program <sup>2,4</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	869	
<b>Massachusetts</b>					
Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program <sup>2</sup>	1977/1980	Direct acquisition	ACE as sole grantee, ACE as a co-holder (only municipalities can co-hold)	951	
<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	159	
<b>Montana</b>					
Montana Agricultural Heritage Program <sup>1</sup>	1999/2000	N/A	N/A	8	
<b>New Hampshire</b>				138	
Agricultural Lands Preservation Program <sup>5 2019</sup>	1979/1980	N/A	N/A	31	
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	107	
<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 a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	2,813	
<b>New Mexico</b>					
New Mexico Natural Heritage Conservation Program <sup>5 2015</sup>	2010/2010	N/A	N/A	3	
<b>New York</b>					
Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program <sup>2</sup>	1996/1998	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	Intervenor and mediator	363	
<b>North Carolina</b>					
Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund <sup>2</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	212	

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

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## STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2023

Acres Protected	Program Funds Spent to Date	Additional Funds Spent to Date	Program Funds Available	Funding Sources Primary sources are in blue	State
					<b>Florida</b>
65,758	\$89,672,574	\$27,270,215	\$308,657,250	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE, REPI	
					<b>Hawaii</b>
2,646	\$4,309,425	\$10,609,425	\$6,350,000	Interest distributed from State Investment Pool, Real Estate Transfer Tax, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>Kentucky</b>
34,521	\$11,863,284	\$11,597,016	\$0	Appropriations, bonds, tobacco settlement funds, ACEP-ALE, REPI	
					<b>Maine</b>
9,752	\$12,574,122	\$17,162,782	\$5,000,000	Appropriations, bonds, credit card royalties, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
466,334	\$1,029,681,027	\$243,395,425	\$159,908,189		<b>Maryland</b>
348,201	\$640,361,748	\$236,828,004	\$115,647,201	Appropriations, bonds, property tax relief program withdrawal penalties, real estate transfer tax, agricultural transfer tax, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
118,133	\$389,319,279	\$6,567,421	\$44,260,988	Appropriations, bonds, real estate transfer tax, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, REPI (ACUB)	
					<b>Massachusetts</b>
75,037	\$245,290,621	\$76,777,851	\$3,700,000	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, mitigation fees, municipal land fees, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding	
					<b>Michigan</b>
27,610	\$38,735,903	\$13,075,841	\$2,000,000	Property tax relief program withdrawal penalties, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>Montana</b>
9,923	\$888,000	\$1,420,710	N/A	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE	
17,382	\$20,563,845	\$36,189,889	\$5,000,000		<b>New Hampshire</b>
2,864	\$5,000,000	\$140,000	\$0	Appropriations, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE	
14,518	\$15,563,845	\$36,049,889	\$5,000,000	Appropriations, bonds, recording fees, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>New Jersey</b>
247,953	\$1,189,300,146	\$650,626,045	\$153,245,000	Appropriations, bonds, mitigation fees, sales tax, condemnation proceeds, corporate business tax, sale of fee-simple purchased properties, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>New Mexico</b>
5,930	\$850,000	\$1,200,000	N/A	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>New York</b>
104,039	\$248,415,270	N/A	\$19,904,000	Bonds, Environmental Protection Fund (license plate fees, real estate transfer tax, unclaimed container deposits), local government contributions, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>North Carolina</b>
31,979	\$36,667,645	\$83,034,723	\$14,000,000	Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, REPI (ACUB), RCPP	

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

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# PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS

State	Year of Inception/ Year of First Acquisition	Method of Protection	Interests Held	Easements Acquired	
<b>Ohio</b>					
Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program <sup>2</sup>	1999/1999	Direct acquisition	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	681	
<b>Oregon</b>					
Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program	2017/ N/A	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	Right of enforcement	0	
<b>Pennsylvania</b>					
Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program <sup>2</sup>	1988/1989	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	6,149	
<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	128	
<b>South Carolina</b>					
South Carolina Conservation Bank	2002/2004	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	No response	80	
<b>Texas</b>					
Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program <sup>2</sup>	2005/2005	Provide funds to private entities	Right of enforcement	29	
<b>Utah</b>					
LeRay McAllister Working Farm and Ranch Fund	1999/2000	Provide funds to public entities	ACE as a co-holder	48	
<b>Vermont</b>					
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Farmland Conservation Program <sup>2</sup>	1987/1987	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder	810	
<b>Virginia</b>				143	
Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation	2000/2001	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder	29	
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund <sup>2</sup>	2001/2008	Provide funds to public entities	Right of enforcement	114	
<b>Washington</b>				107	
Farmland Protection and Land Access	2022/ N/A	Provide funds to private entities	Right of enforcement	0	
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farmland Protection Category <sup>2</sup>	2005/2007	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	Right of enforcement	107	
<b>West Virginia</b>				302	
West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority-Farmland Protection Program (State)	2000/2009	Direct acquisition	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	41	
West Virginia Farmland Protection Boards (County) <sup>6</sup>	2000/2003	Direct acquisition	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	261	
<b>Wisconsin</b>					
Farmland Preservation Program <sup>2</sup>	2009/2011	Provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder	17	
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>				<b>19,325</b>	

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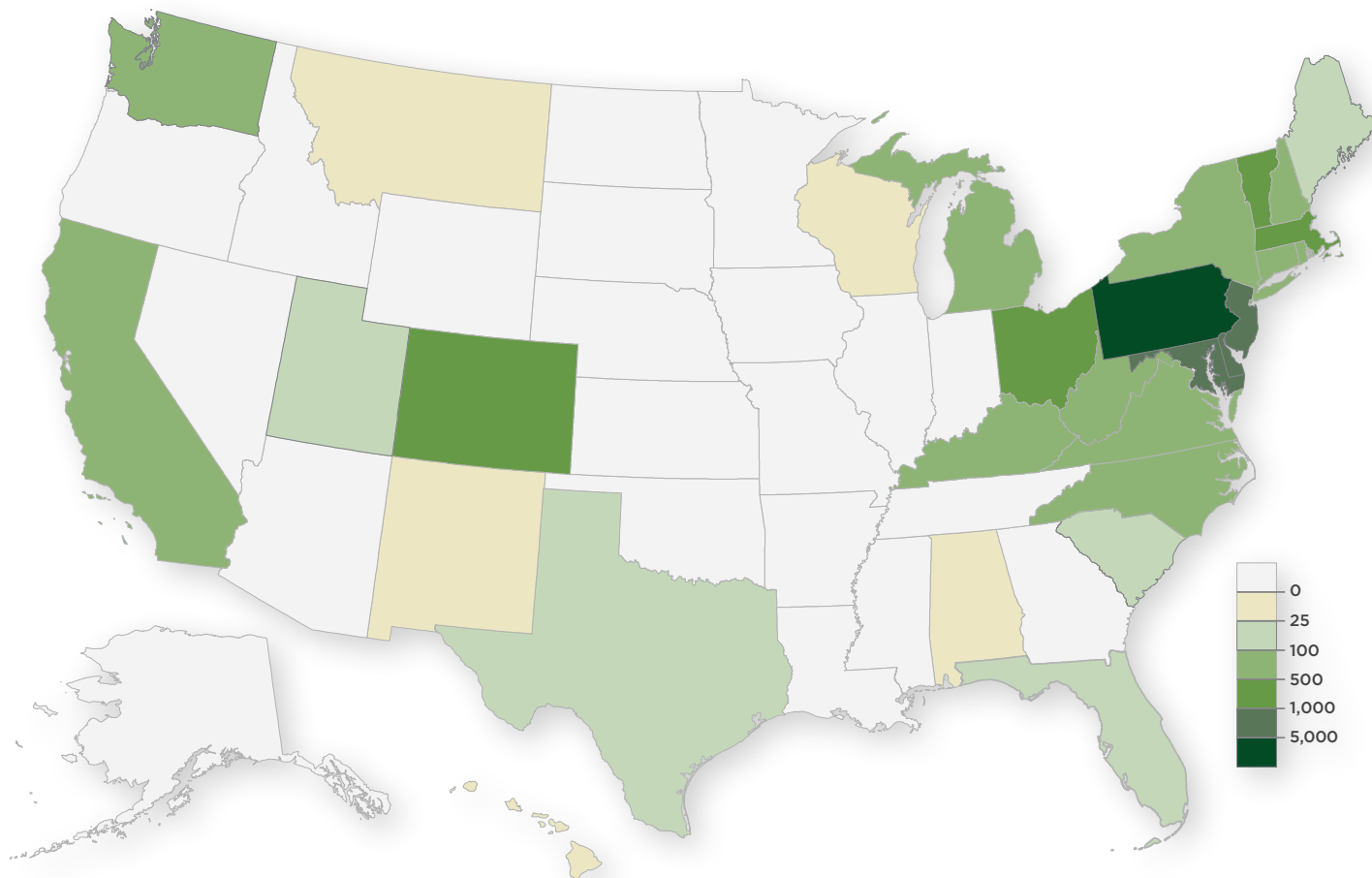
Acres Protected	Program Funds Spent to Date	Additional Funds Spent to Date	Program Funds Available	Funding Sources Primary sources are in blue	State
					<b>Ohio</b>
103,408	\$81,234,216	\$35,584,842	\$6,500,000	Bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, Southern Ohio Tobacco Agricultural Easement Program, ACEP-ALE, RCPP	
					<b>Oregon</b>
0	\$40,000	\$0	\$5,000,000	Appropriations	
					<b>Pennsylvania</b>
619,285	\$1,146,793,353	\$53,929,200	\$95,406,876	Appropriations, bonds, cigarette tax, Environmental Stewardship Fund (municipal landfill fees, unconventional gas well impact fees), interest on securities, real estate transfer tax, use value assessment withdrawal penalties, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, RCPP	
					<b>Rhode Island</b>
8,241	\$38,209,630	\$82,025,015	No response	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding	
					<b>South Carolina</b>
28,119	\$23,224,700	\$0	\$32,967,587	Appropriations, real estate transfer tax, recording fees	
					<b>Texas</b>
52,867	\$5,705,878	\$25,609,907	No response	Appropriations, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, Federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program	
					<b>Utah</b>
55,688	\$12,991,224	\$80,988,482	\$3,000,000	Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, sales tax, ACEP-ALE	
					<b>Vermont</b>
170,830	\$91,249,621	\$131,204,055	\$7,312,261	Appropriations, bonds, mitigation fees, real estate transfer tax, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding	
24,188	\$18,939,892	\$22,593,063	\$19,802,440		<b>Virginia</b>
9,699	\$5,707,094	\$94,125	\$18,927,440	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE	
14,891	\$13,232,798	\$22,498,938	\$875,000	Appropriations, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE	
39,407	\$34,072,460	\$52,183,169	\$20,359,360		<b>Washington</b>
0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000	Appropriations	
39,407	\$34,072,460	\$52,183,169	\$18,359,360	Appropriations, bonds, development impact fees, real estate transfer tax, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
43,521	\$56,219,559	\$35,410,211	\$24,859,000		<b>West Virginia</b>
10,054	\$7,589,063	\$7,473,098	\$4,159,000	Appropriations, real estate transfer tax, recording fees, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE, RCPP	
33,467	\$48,630,496	\$27,937,113	\$20,700,000	Real estate transfer tax, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE, RCPP	
					<b>Wisconsin</b>
5,124	\$4,824,076	\$1,753,907	N/A	Bonds, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
<b>3,534,546</b>	<b>\$5,255,060,914</b>	<b>\$3,111,587,142</b>	<b>\$1,008,052,753</b>		<b>STATE TOALS</b>

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

6 The West Virginia legislature explicitly authorized county farmland protection boards and gave counties the authority to impose a real estate transfer tax to generate revenue for farmland protection. For this entity, "Year of Inception/First Acquisition" is the year the first county farmland protection program formed and acquired easements. All other figures represent cumulative activity of the state-authorized county programs. "Program Funds Spent" includes dollars invested by the county boards.

## FARMLAND INFORMATION CENTER

### Easements Acquired as of January 2023



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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.