

STATUS OF STATE PACE PROGRAMS

OVERVIEW

As of January 2026, 30 states had 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 32 states. Montana and Alabama no longer have active programs but are included in the table because they have funded easement purchases in the past. Missouri has authorized PACE but does not yet have a program. For a program to be included, it must have state authorization and funding, and a stated purpose of the program must be to protect agricultural land for agriculture by funding easement acquisitions.

EXPLANATION OF COLUMN HEADINGS

Year of Inception/Year of First Acquisition

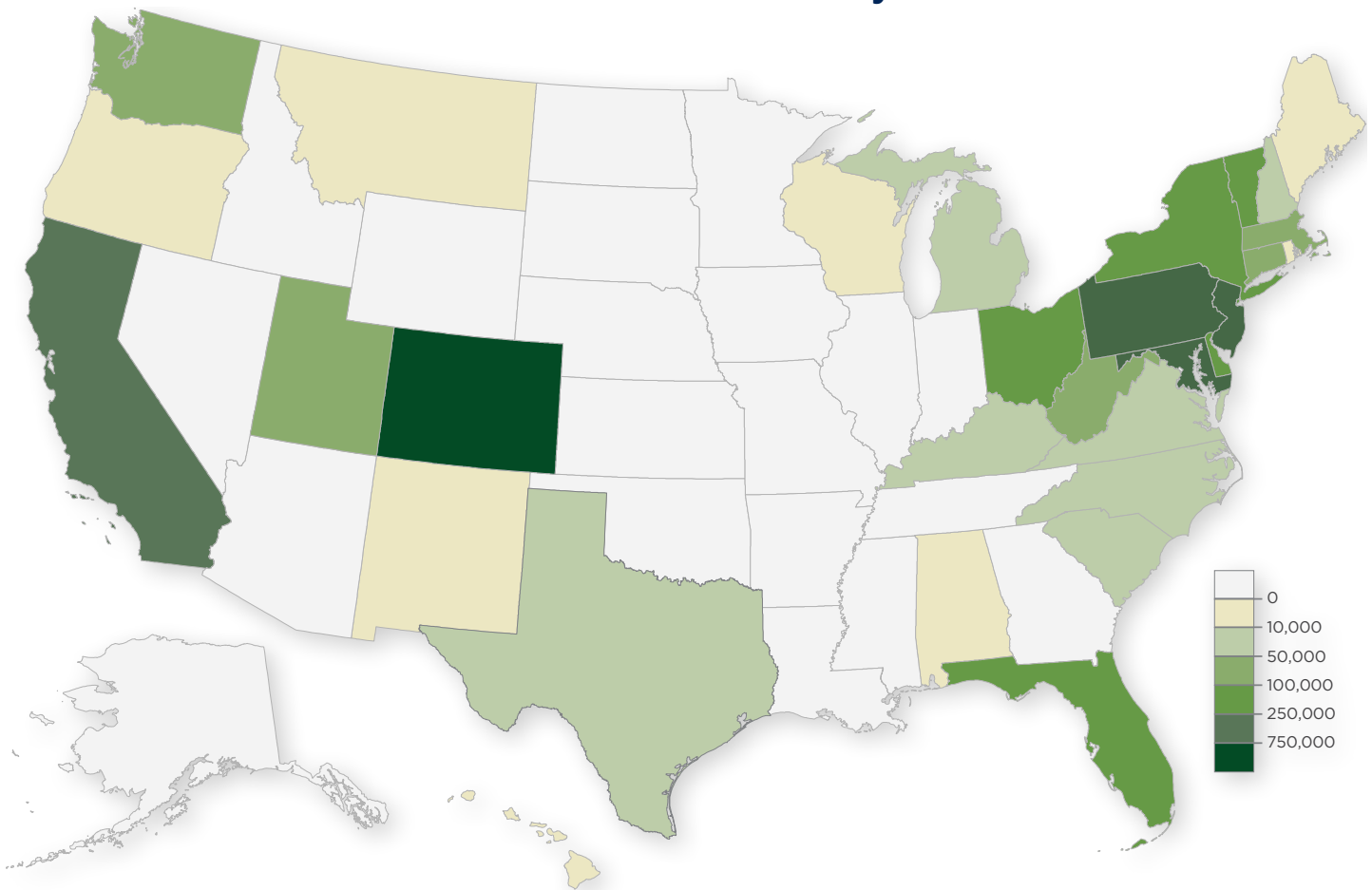
Year in which the PACE program was authorized and year in which the program acquired its first easement.

Acquisition Method

Methods the program is authorized to use 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 2026



Interests Held

Legal interests the program is authorized to hold or retain 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, third party right of enforcement, executory interest, land in fee, 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 property. 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").

PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS

State	Year of Inception/ Year of First Acquisition	Acquisition Method	Interests Held	Easements Acquired
Alabama				
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries ¹	2004/2005	N/A	N/A	21
California				360
Agricultural Land Mitigation Program ²	2016/2017	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	Right of enforcement, intervenor & mediator	16
California Farmland Conservancy Program ²	1995/1997	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	Right of enforcement, intervenor & mediator	188
Rangeland, Grazing Land, and Grassland Program	2002/2004	Provide funds to public entities, Provide funds to private entities, Acquire land in fee	ACE as sole grantee, ACE as co-holder, land in fee	27
Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program ²	2014/2015	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	Right of enforcement, intervenor & mediator	129
Colorado				
Great Outdoors Colorado ^{2,3}	1992/1995	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	571
Connecticut				
Farmland Preservation Program ²	1978/1979	Direct acquisition	ACE as co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	455
Delaware				1,270
Agricultural Lands Preservation Program ²	1991/1996	Direct acquisition	ACE as sole grantee	1,230
Young Farmer Loan Program ²	2011/2012	Direct acquisition	ACE as sole grantee	40
Florida				
Rural and Family Lands Protection Program ²	2001/2001	Direct acquisition	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	127
Georgia				
Georgia Farmland Conservation Fund Program	2023/ N/A	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	N/A	0

Notes:

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

² "Program Funds Spent to Date" includes incidental land acquisition costs, personnel costs, and/or funds for monitoring and stewardship.

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”).

Program Funds Available

Program funds available for the current fiscal year to acquire easements on agricultural land.

Current Funding Sources

Funding sources currently used by each program. Blue text indicates the primary funding source, meaning the one that generates the most money for the program during the reporting period.

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

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.

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.

“N/A” indicates a given piece of information is not applicable, sometime because a program no longer exists or is inactive. “NR” indicates no survey response was given for a specific piece of information.

STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2026

Acres Protected	Program Funds Spent to Date	Additional Funds Spent to Date	Program Funds Available	Current Funding Sources Primary sources are in blue	State
					Alabama
4,591	\$1,636,866	\$3,273,731	N/A	N/A	
301,126	\$367,800,697	\$221,441,968	\$87,216,642		California
3,473	\$29,805,630	\$632,853	\$3,380,642	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (cap and trade auction proceeds)	
61,036	\$93,399,266	\$89,277,069	\$1,500,000	Bonds	
70,385	\$35,688,779	\$24,807,682	\$0	Appropriations	
166,232	\$208,907,022	\$106,724,364	\$82,336,000	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (cap and trade auction proceeds), local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, CalFIRE	
					Colorado
886,498	\$267,634,838	\$822,843,181	NR	Lottery proceeds, local government contributions, private contributions	
					Connecticut
51,203	\$145,159,313	\$57,724,307	\$11,400,000	Bonds, real estate transfer tax, recording fees, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE	
155,236	\$214,102,934	\$380,358,982	\$13,000,000		Delaware
151,864	\$204,323,730	\$380,358,982	\$10,000,000	Appropriations, real estate transfer tax, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE	
3,372	\$9,779,204	\$0	\$3,000,000	Appropriations, real estate transfer tax	
					Florida
213,104	\$539,797,737	\$54,427,634	NR	Gaming revenue, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE	
					Georgia
0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000	Appropriations	

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. Figures may also include conservation easements that protect outcomes beyond agricultural use.

PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS

State	Year of Inception/ Year of First Acquisition	Method of Protection	Interests Held	Easements Acquired	
Hawaii					
Legacy Land Conservation Program ²	2005/2007	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, land in fee	4	
Kentucky					
Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements	1994/1998	Direct acquisition	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	220	
Maine					
Farmland Protection Program ^{2,4}	1987/1990	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as co-holder, right of enforcement	43	
Maryland				3,853	
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation	1977/1980	Direct acquisition	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	2,847	
Rural Legacy Program ²	1997/1999	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, land in fee, right of enforcement	1,006	
Massachusetts					
Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program ²	1977/1980	Direct acquisition	ACE as sole grantee, ACE as a co-holder (only municipalities can co-hold), land in fee	977	
Michigan					
Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program	1994/1994	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	184	
Montana					
Montana Agricultural Heritage Program ¹	1999/2000	N/A	N/A	8	
New Hampshire				146	
Agricultural Lands Preservation Program	1979/1980	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	N/A	31	
Land and Community Heritage Investment Program ^{2,3}	2000/2001	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, executory interest, land in fee, right of enforcement	115	
New Jersey					
New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program	1983/1985	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities, Buy-Protect-Sell, acquire land in fee for lease	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, land in fee	2,912	
New Mexico					
New Mexico Natural Heritage Conservation Program	2010/2010	N/A	N/A	3	
New York					
Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program ²	1996/1998	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	Intervenor and mediator, right of enforcement	462	
North Carolina					
Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund ²	1986/2005	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, right of enforcement	271	
Ohio					
Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program ²	1999/1999	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities, acquire land in fee for lease	ACE as co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, land in fee	768	

Notes:

- 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.

STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2026

Acres Protected	Program Funds Spent to Date	Additional Funds Spent to Date	Program Funds Available	Current Funding Sources Primary sources are in blue	State
					Hawaii
2,646	\$4,309,425	\$10,609,425	NR	Appropriations, Real Estate Transfer Tax	
					Kentucky
34,651	\$11,863,284	\$11,597,016	NR	REPI	
					Maine
9,895	\$12,839,122	\$17,295,282	NR	Bonds, cap and invest proceeds	
515,167	\$1,217,558,635	\$274,448,548	\$68,276,796		Maryland
380,859	\$765,127,476	\$258,799,546	\$55,719,398	Real estate transfer tax , agricultural transfer tax, local government contributions	
134,308	\$452,431,159	\$15,649,002	\$12,557,398	Real estate transfer tax , local government contributions, REPI, U.S. Fish & Wildlife (NAWCA)	
					Massachusetts
76,669	\$256,436,818	\$87,649,369	\$4,795,833	Bonds , mitigation fees, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, ARPA	
					Michigan
30,654	\$43,429,420	\$15,974,782	\$1,900,000	Appropriations , ACEP-ALE	
					Montana
9,923	\$888,000	\$1,420,710	N/A	N/A	
18,660	\$23,375,708	\$43,497,769	\$0		New Hampshire
2,864	\$5,000,000	\$140,000	NR	Appropriations	
15,796	\$18,375,708	\$43,357,769	\$0	Recording fees , local government contributions, private contributions	
					New Jersey
254,278	\$1,259,807,821	\$659,354,212	\$201,738,386	Bonds, corporate business tax , local government contributions	
					New Mexico
5,930	\$850,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,410,000	Appropriations	
					New York
138,535	\$347,399,286	\$0	\$22,000,000	Environmental Protection Fund (license plate fees, real estate transfer tax, unclaimed container deposits)	
					North Carolina
42,159	\$57,043,842	\$91,190,427	\$5,520,091	Appropriations , local government contributions, REPI	
					Ohio
111,763	\$94,371,218	\$37,049,395	\$6,500,000	Bonds , ACEP-ALE	

4 The Working Farmland Access and Protection Program, established in 2021, is currently funded through Land for Maine's Future.

PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS

State	Year of Inception/ Year of First Acquisition	Method of Protection	Interests Held	Easements Acquired
Oregon				
Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program ²	2017/2025	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	Right of enforcement	2
Pennsylvania				
Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program ²	1988/1989	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	6,649
Rhode Island				
Farmland Preservation Program	1981/1985	Direct acquisition, provide funds to private entities, Buy-Protect-Sell, acquire land in fee for lease	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	137
South Carolina				
South Carolina Conservation Bank	2002/2004	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	Right of enforcement	134
Tennessee				
Preserving Land for Agriculture Now	2025/ N/A	Provide funds to private entities		0
Texas				
Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program ²	2005/2005	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	Right of enforcement	45
Utah				
LeRay McAllister Working Farm and Ranch Fund	1999/2000	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee	53
Vermont				
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Farmland Conservation Program ²	1987/1987	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities, Buy-Protect-Sell	ACE as co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, executory interest, land in fee, right of enforcement	860
Virginia				
Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation ²	2000/2001	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	NR	47
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund ²	2001/2008	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities	ACE as co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, executory interest, land in fee, right of enforcement	117
Washington				
Farmland Protection and Land Access ²	2022/ N/A	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, right of enforcement	5
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farmland Protection Category ²	2005/2007	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	Right of enforcement	123
West Virginia				
West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority - Farmland Protection Program (State)	2000/2009	Direct acquisition, provide funds to public entities, Buy-Protect-Sell	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, land in fee	52
West Virginia Farmland Protection Boards (County) ⁵	2000/2003	Direct acquisition, Buy-Protect-Sell	ACE as a co-holder, ACE as sole grantee, land in fee	316
Wisconsin				
Farmland Preservation Program ²	2009/2011	Provide funds to public entities, provide funds to private entities	ACE as a co-holder	17
STATE TOTALS				21,212

Notes:

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

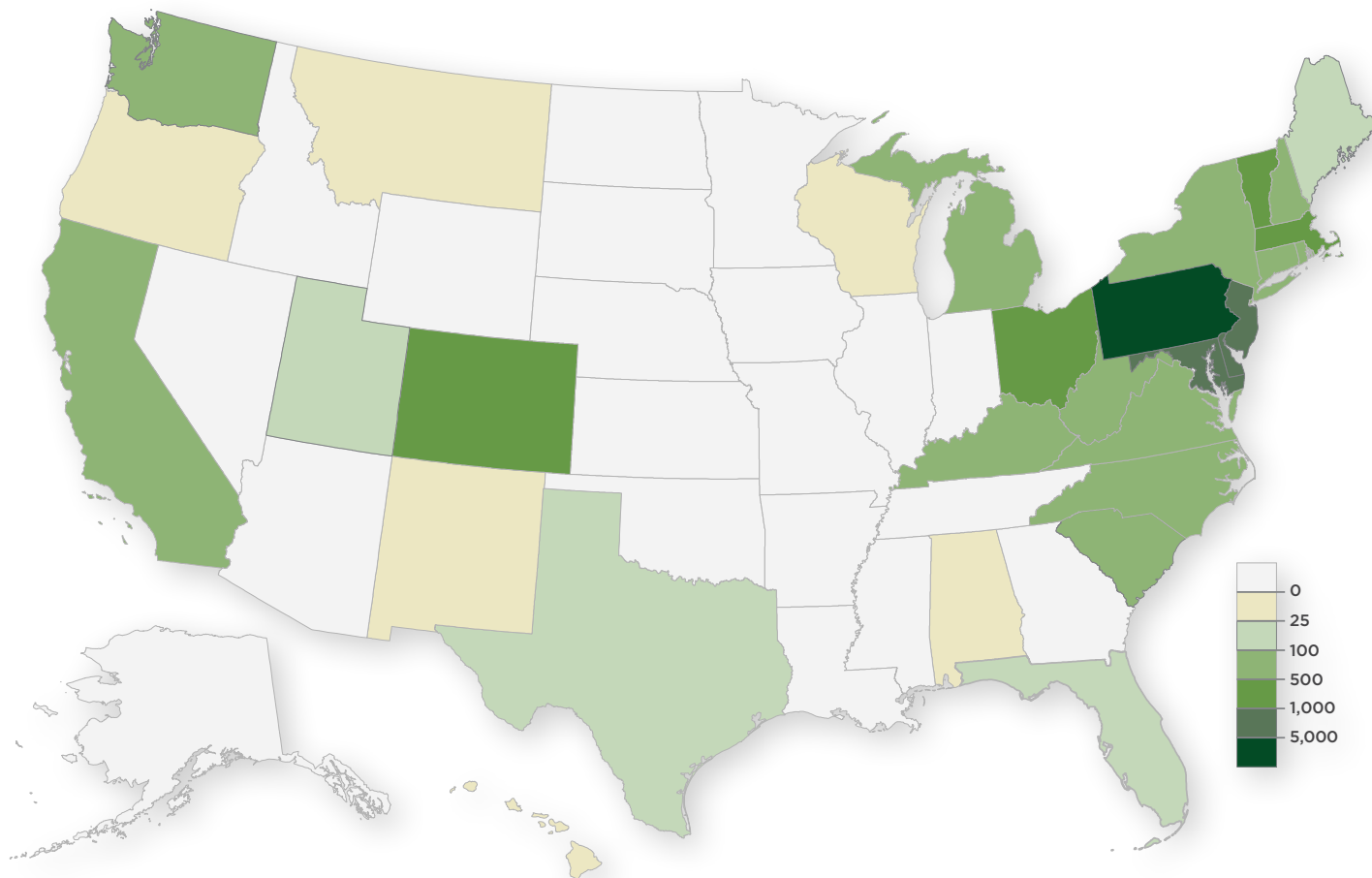
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Acres Protected	Program Funds Spent to Date	Additional Funds Spent to Date	Program Funds Available	Current Funding Sources Primary sources are in blue	State
					Oregon
931	\$4,748,217	\$4,356,000	\$1,610,216	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE, U.S. Fish & Wildlife (NAWCA)	
					Pennsylvania
660,942	\$1,289,000,238	\$78,920,000	\$48,213,221	Cigarette tax, Environmental Stewardship Fund (municipal landfill fees, drilling fees), use value assessment withdrawal penalties, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE, RCPP	
					Rhode Island
8,491	\$42,308,130	\$88,619,015	\$4,000,000	Bonds	
					South Carolina
44,169	\$41,740,165	\$2,627,711	\$52,000,000	Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, REPI	
					Tennessee
0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000,000	Appropriations	
					Texas
41,557	\$7,570,498	\$34,562,438	\$2,000,000	Appropriations, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
					Utah
62,289	\$18,472,424	\$100,393,093	\$1,400,000	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE	
					Vermont
179,546	\$102,903,644	\$144,847,888	\$7,525,574	Appropriations, bonds, mitigation fees, real estate transfer tax, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
					Virginia
35,604	\$27,252,302	\$63,143,599	\$3,987,735		
20,525	\$13,792,750	\$17,244,700	\$2,550,000	Appropriations, local government contributions, REPI	
15,079	\$13,459,552	\$45,898,899	\$1,437,735	Appropriations, local government contributions	
					Washington
50,778	\$43,310,253	\$57,741,806	\$4,000,000		
665	\$2,841,779	\$0	\$4,000,000	Appropriations, bonds	
50,113	\$40,468,474	\$57,741,806	\$0	Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, State Department of Ecology, Floodplains by Design, ACEP-ALE	
					West Virginia
52,009	\$72,483,147	\$37,855,785	\$43,882,182		
12,438	\$10,403,578	\$9,300,259	\$3,698,263	Recording fees, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE	
39,571	\$62,079,569	\$28,555,526	\$40,183,919	Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE, RCPP	
					Wisconsin
5,124	\$4,824,076	\$1,753,907	\$0	N/A	
4,004,136	\$6,520,918,058	\$3,405,800,320	\$619,376,676		STATE TOTALS

5 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 2026



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For more information on PACE programs, see the [PACE Data Dashboard](#) and [PACE fact sheet](#) on AFT's Farmland Information Center. The FIC is a clearinghouse for resources about farmland protection and stewardship. AFT is a national organization working to protect agricultural land, promote sound farming practices, and help farm families stay on the land. Learn how to become a member at farmland.org/membership.