



FARMLAND
INFORMATION
CENTER

FACT
SHEET

STATUS OF
STATE PACE
PROGRAMS



FARMLAND INFORMATION CENTER
(800) 370-4879
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DESCRIPTION

As of May 2010, 25 states have state-level purchase of agricultural conservation easement (PACE) programs. Five states—Arizona, Georgia, Hawaii, New Mexico and Texas—have authorized PACE but do not yet have programs. Montana had a state-level program that was discontinued in 2003 when state authorization expired. This table displays the status and summarizes important information about farm and ranch land protection programs in 26 states that have funded easement acquisitions. 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 also have the authority to acquire and co-hold easements with partners (e.g., county governments). A few programs (e.g., New York and Virginia) only provide grants to eligible entities, such as local governments and land trusts, to buy easements. In Alabama, the state's role is limited to holding and monitoring easements; other entities execute the projects.

**EXPLANATION OF
COLUMN HEADINGS**

Year of Inception / Year of First Acquisition

“Year of Inception” is the year in which the law authorizing the PACE program passed. “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 state 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 state programs do not

hold easements but instead provide funds for easement purchase to local governments or land trusts.

Acres Protected

Number of acres protected by the program to date.

Program Funds Spent to Date

Dollars spent 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 contributed by federal programs, local governments (counties and municipalities), private land trusts, foundations and/or individuals.

Additional Funds Spent to Date

Funds contributed toward state program acquisitions by federal programs, local governments, private land trusts, foundations and/or individuals (see “Funding Sources Used to Date” below).

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 2009 from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Outstanding Applications

Backlog of applications reported by program administrators.

Funding Sources Used to Date

Sources of funding for each program. “Transportation funding” refers to federal money

PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

State		Year of Inception / Year of First Acquisition	Easements or Restrictions Acquired	Acres Protected	Program Funds Spent to Date
Alabama					
	Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	2004/2005	21	4,591	\$1,636,866
California					
	California Farmland Conservancy Program	1995/1997	132	43,240	\$66,974,000
Colorado					
	Great Outdoors Colorado Δ	1992/1995	309	431,479	\$138,007,644 [^]
Connecticut					
	Connecticut Farmland Preservation Program	1978/1979	268	35,518	\$115,704,500 [^]
Delaware					
	Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Program	1991/1996	562	93,935	\$124,102,840
Florida					
	Rural and Family Lands Protection Program	2001/2001	1	676	\$1,374,825
Kentucky					
	Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Corporation ~ (figures for program funds & additional funds spent to date reported in 2009)	1994/1998	150	31,049	\$13,823,269
Maine					
	Farmland Protection Program ~ (2006)	1999/1990	19	5,950	\$4,109,376
Maryland					
	Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation	1977/1980	2,079	283,169	\$402,927,684
	Rural Legacy Program	1997/1999	440	64,468	\$196,167,372 [^]
Massachusetts					
	Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program	1977/1980	761	64,018	\$182,107,674 [^]
Michigan					
	Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program	1974/1994	106	21,607	\$28,167,178
Montana					
	Montana Agricultural Heritage Program \times	1999/2000	8	9,923	\$888,000
New Hampshire					
	Agricultural Lands Preservation Program ~ (2009)	1979/1980	31	2,864	\$5,000,000
	Land Conservation Investment Program \times	1987/1988	36	6,232	\$5,349,008
	Land & Community Heritage Investment Program	2000/2001	31	4,273	\$4,778,730 [^]
New Jersey					
	New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program	1983/1985	1,899	182,953	\$826,404,430

STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2010

Additional Funds Spent to Date	Program Funds Available	Program Funds Available Per Capita	Outstanding Applications	Funding Sources Used to Date	State
					Alabama
\$3,273,731	N/A	N/A	N/A	Appropriations, FRPP	
					California
\$45,131,000	\$7,600,000	\$0.21	N/A	Appropriations, bonds, private contributions, FRPP	
					Colorado
\$368,001,327	\$8,000,000 □	\$1.59	0	Local government contributions, portion of lottery proceeds, FRPP	
					Connecticut
\$14,263,435	\$16,075,288	\$4.57	200	Bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, recording fees, local and state land trusts, FRPP	
					Delaware
\$34,031,301	\$2,500,000	\$2.82	153	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, portion of lawsuit settlement, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, FRPP, transportation funding	
					Florida
\$1,374,825	N/A	N/A	N/A	Appropriations, water management district contributions	
					Kentucky
\$6,676,251	\$0	\$0.00	688	Appropriations, bonds, tobacco settlement funds, ACUB, FRPP	
					Maine
\$4,277,663	N/A	N/A	N/A	Appropriations, bonds, credit card royalties, local government contributions, private contributions, FRPP	
\$207,973,733	\$11,800,000	\$2.07	0		Maryland
\$198,453,822	\$0	\$0.00	0	Bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, property tax relief program withdrawal penalty, real estate transfer tax, FRPP	
\$9,519,911	\$11,800,000 □	\$2.07	0	Bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax	
					Massachusetts
\$47,794,454	\$8,500,000	\$1.29	N/A	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, FRPP, transportation funding	
					Michigan
\$7,271,504	\$0	\$0.00	0	Local government contributions, private contributions, property tax relief program, withdrawal penalty, FRPP	
					Montana
\$1,420,710	\$0	\$0.00	N/A	Appropriations, FRPP	
\$14,239,285	\$3,277,031	\$2.47	0		New Hampshire
\$140,000	\$0	\$0.00	0	Appropriations, local government contributions, FRPP	
\$0	\$0	\$0.00	0	Bonds	
\$14,099,285	\$3,277,031 □	\$2.47	N/A	Appropriations, recording fees, FRPP	
					New Jersey
\$457,214,910	\$216,988,977	\$24.92	430	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, portion of state sales and use tax, private contributions, sale of fee-simple purchased properties, FRPP	

PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

State		Year of Inception / Year of First Acquisition	Easements or Restrictions Acquired	Acres Protected	Program Funds Spent to Date
New York					
	New York State Farmland Protection Program ~ (additional funds spent to date reported 2008)	1996/1998	170	32,867	\$86,514,183 ^
North Carolina					
	Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Program ~ (2009)	1986/1999	35	4,712	\$2,504,000 ^
Ohio					
	Agricultural Easement Purchase Program	1999/1999	193	34,908	\$24,245,568
	Southern Ohio Tobacco Agricultural Easement Purchase Program x	2002/2002	14	3,000	\$0
Pennsylvania					
	Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program	1988/1989	3,928	428,708	\$710,020,217 ^
Rhode Island					
	Purchase of Farmland Development Rights Program	1981/1985	85	6,387	\$28,296,863
South Carolina					
	South Carolina Conservation Bank ~ (2009)	2002/2004	30	9,615	\$9,717,604
Utah					
	Critical Agricultural Land Conservation Fund	1999/2001	22	15,308	\$456,000
	LeRay McAllister Critical Lands Conservation Fund	1999/2000	37	63,599	\$12,477,172
Vermont					
	Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Farmland Preservation Program	1987/1987	503	130,748	\$57,000,000 ^
Virginia					
	Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation	2000/2001	16	7,287	\$3,643,694 ^
	Office of Farmland Preservation, Matching Grant Program	2001/2008	10	1,565	\$1,579,310 ^
Washington					
	Farmland Preservation Program	2007/2008	20	1,407	\$5,939,350 ^
West Virginia					
	West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority	2000/N/A	4	1,766	\$200,000
Wisconsin					
	Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements Program	2009/N/A	0	0	\$0
STATE TOTALS			11,899	2,023,230	\$3,058,480,491 ^

STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2010

Additional Funds Spent to Date	Program Funds Available	Program Funds Available Per Capita	Outstanding Applications	Funding Sources Used to Date	State
New York					
\$44,270,029	\$22,054,000	\$1.13	0	Bonds, local government contributions, real estate transfer tax, FRPP	
North Carolina					
\$18,483,100	\$3,100,000	\$0.33	67	Appropriations, FRPP	
Ohio					
\$12,365,781	\$13,189,259	\$1.14	42		
\$10,865,781	\$13,189,259	\$1.14	42	Bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, FRPP	
\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0.00	0	Tobacco settlement funds	
Pennsylvania					
\$370,282,075	\$27,800,000	\$2.21	2,000	Appropriations, bonds, cigarette tax, interest on securities, local government contributions, FRPP	
Rhode Island					
\$38,425,572	\$800,000	\$0.76	20	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, FRPP, transportation funding	
South Carolina					
\$11,924,655	\$0	\$0.00	0	Real estate transfer tax, recording fees	
Utah					
\$173,920,908	\$752,000	\$0.27	0		
\$19,242,288	\$0	\$0.00	0	Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, FRPP	
\$154,678,620	\$752,000	\$0.27	N/A	Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, FRPP	
Vermont					
\$71,165,000	\$1,900,000	\$3.06	71	Appropriations, bonds, Farms for the Future pilot program, local government contributions, mitigation fees, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, FRPP, transportation funding	
Virginia					
\$2,730,624	\$635,973	\$0.08			
\$0	\$0	\$0.00		Appropriations	
\$2,730,624	\$635,973	\$0.08	N/A	Appropriations	
Washington					
\$8,194,769	\$6,000,000	\$0.90	14	Bonds, FRPP	
West Virginia					
\$0	\$845,000	\$0.46	N/A	Appropriations, deed recording fees, technical service grants (NRCS)	
Wisconsin					
\$0	\$4,000,000	\$0.71	36	Bond	
\$1,961,432,911	\$355,817,528 □		3,721		

STATUS OF

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For additional information on farmland protection and stewardship contact the Farmland Information Center. The FIC offers a staffed answer service and online library with fact sheets, laws, sample documents and other educational materials.

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disbursed under The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005 and its predecessors for “transportation enhancements.” Easement acquisitions that protect scenic views and historic sites along transportation routes are eligible for these funds.

The Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program provides funds to establish easement-protected buffer areas around military installations.

The federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) provides matching funds to state, local and tribal governments and certain non-governmental organizations to purchase agricultural conservation easements. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized \$743 million for the FRPP through fiscal year 2012.

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

NOTES

[Δ] 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 Spent to Date” includes incidental land acquisition costs and/or personnel costs.

[~] Figure carried forward from previous PACE tables.

[X] Program has terminated or is no longer acquiring agricultural conservation easements.

[□] “Program Funds Available” includes money for other land conservation purposes.



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