



FARMLAND
INFORMATION
CENTER

FACT
SHEET

STATUS OF

STATE PACE

PROGRAMS



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DESCRIPTION

As of May 2009, 27 states have authorized state-level purchase of agricultural conservation easement (PACE) programs. Montana's PACE statute expired in 2003. This table displays the status and summarizes important information about farm and ranch land protection programs in 23 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.

**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, private land trusts, foundations, individuals, or the value of landowner donations.

Additional Funds Spent to Date

Funds contributed toward state program acquisitions by local governments (counties and municipalities), private land trusts, foundations, individuals, and/or federal programs (see "Funding Sources Used to Date" below). The value of landowner donations is not included.

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 2008 from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

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 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.

PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

State	Year of Inception / Year of First Acquisition	Easements or Restrictions Acquired	Acres Protected	Program Funds Spent to Date
California				
California Farmland Conservancy Program ~(2008)	1995/1997	126	40,784	\$61,511,000 ^
Colorado				
Great Outdoors Colorado△	1992/1995	246	387,756	\$117,699,880 ^
Connecticut				
Connecticut Farmland Preservation Program	1978/1979	254	34,500	\$108,525,800 ^
Delaware				
Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Program	1991/1996	496	89,619	\$111,674,389 ^
Kentucky				
Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Corporation	1994/1998	135	28,062	\$13,823,269
Maine				
Farmland Protection Program ~(2006)	1999/1990	19	5,950	\$4,109,376
Maryland				
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program	1977/1980	2,005	274,950	\$376,606,133
Rural Legacy Program	1997/1999	408	61,160	\$175,881,924 ^
Massachusetts				
Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program	1977/1980	728	61,936	\$172,032,674 ^
Michigan				
Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program	1974/1994	101	20,483	\$28,167,178
Montana				
Montana Agricultural Heritage Program ×	1999/2000	8	9,923	\$888,000
New Hampshire				
Agricultural Lands Preservation Program	1979/1980	31	2,864	\$5,000,000
Land Conservation Investment Program ×	1987/1988	36	6,232	\$5,349,008
Land & Community Heritage Investment Program ~(2007)	2000/2001	23	3,013	\$4,033,800 ^
New Jersey				
New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program	1983/1985	1,776	173,346	\$757,576,867

STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2009

Additional Funds Spent to Date	Program Funds Available	Program Funds Available Per Capita	Outstanding Applications	Funding Sources Used to Date	State
					California
\$37,519,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	Appropriations, bonds, private contributions, FRPP	
					Colorado
\$204,385,466	\$7,000,000 □	\$1.42	0	Local government contributions, portion of lottery proceeds, FRPP	
					Connecticut
\$12,735,600	\$12,000,000	\$3.43	200	Bonds, local government contributions, private / foundation contributions, recording fees, local and state land trusts, FRPP	
					Delaware
\$28,467,251	\$2,600,000	\$2.98	186	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, portion of lawsuit settlement, private / foundation contributions, real estate transfer tax, transportation funding, FRPP	
					Kentucky
\$6,676,251	\$0	\$0.00	667	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	
\$188,658,076	\$37,577,000	\$6.67	250		Maryland
\$179,676,274	\$24,107,000	\$4.28	250	Bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, property tax relief program withdrawal penalty, FRPP	
\$8,981,802	\$13,470,000 □	\$2.39	0	Bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax	
					Massachusetts
\$45,139,396	\$13,300,000	\$2.05	76	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, transportation funding, FRPP	
					Michigan
\$7,271,504	\$0	\$0.00	0	Local government contributions, private / foundation contributions, property tax relief program withdrawal penalty, FRPP	
					Montana
\$1,420,710	\$0	\$0.00	N/A	Appropriations, FRPP	
\$12,298,390	\$0	\$0.00	0		New Hampshire
\$140,000	\$0	\$0.00	0	Appropriations, local government contributions, FRPP	
\$0	\$0	\$0.00	0	Bonds	
\$12,158,390	\$0	\$0.00	N/A	Appropriations, FRPP	
					New Jersey
\$410,551,286	\$223,263,327	\$25.71	367	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, portion of state sales and use tax, private / foundation 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	1996/1998	154	30,088	\$77,028,454 ^
North Carolina				
Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Program	1986/1999	35	4,712	\$2,504,000 ^
Ohio				
Agricultural Easement Purchase Program	1999/1999	160	30,250	\$19,754,679
Southern Ohio Tobacco Agricultural Easement Purchase Program x	2002/2002	14	3,000	\$0
Pennsylvania				
Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program	1988/1989	3,701	407,647	\$675,897,230 ^
Rhode Island				
Purchase of Farmland Development Rights Program	1981/1985	80	6,098	\$26,363,163
South Carolina				
South Carolina Conservation Bank	2002/2004	30	9,615	\$9,717,604
Utah				
Critical Agricultural Land Conservation Fund	1999/2001	20	13,944	\$456,000
LeRay McAllister Critical Lands Conservation Fund ~(2008)	1999/2000	34	61,072	\$12,287,172
Vermont				
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Farmland Preservation Program	1987/1987	490	126,755	\$54,212,000 ^
Virginia				
Office of Farmland Preservation, Matching Grant Program	2001/2008	3	546	\$750,927
Washington				
Farmland Preservation Program	2007/2008	4	260	\$1,697,803
West Virginia				
West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority	2000/N/A	0	0	\$0
STATE TOTALS		11,117	1,894,565	\$2,823,548,330 ^

STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2009

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	\$23,000,000	\$1.18	41	Bonds, local government contributions, real estate transfer tax, FRPP	
					North Carolina
\$18,483,100	\$3,100,000	\$0.34	67	Appropriations, FRPP	
\$11,836,700	\$6,250,000	\$0.54	31		Ohio
\$10,336,700	\$6,250,000	\$0.54	31	Bonds, local government contributions, private / foundation contributions, FRPP	
\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0.00	0	Tobacco settlement funds	
					Pennsylvania
\$330,143,014	\$33,000,000	\$2.65	2,000	Appropriations, bonds, cigarette tax, interest on securities, local government contributions, FRPP	
					Rhode Island
\$36,890,572	\$850,000	\$0.81	22	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private / foundation contributions, transportation funds, FRPP	
					South Carolina
\$11,924,655	\$0	\$0.00	0	Property transfer tax, recording fees	
\$165,011,545	\$0	\$0.00	1		Utah
\$17,162,925	\$0	\$0.00	1	Appropriations, local government contributions, private / foundation contributions, FRPP	
\$147,848,620	N/A	N/A	N/A	Appropriations, local government contributions, private / foundation contributions, FRPP	
					Vermont
\$67,005,000	\$2,100,000	\$3.38	69	Appropriations, bonds, Farms for the Future pilot program, local government contributions, mitigation fees, private / foundation contributions, real estate transfer tax, transportation funding, FRPP	
					Virginia
\$2,014,729	\$500,000	\$0.06	N/A	Appropriations	
					Washington
\$971,532	N/A	N/A	14	Bonds	
					West Virginia
\$0	\$850,000	\$0.47	N/A	Deed recording fees	
\$1,647,951,469	\$365,390,327 □		3,991		

STATUS OF STATE PACE PROGRAMS

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.

[~] 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.

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



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

www.farmlandinfo.org

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