



FARMLAND  
INFORMATION  
CENTER

FACT  
SHEET

STATUS OF

STATE PACE

PROGRAMS



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**DESCRIPTION**

As of May 2010, 31 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 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, 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 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 disbursed under The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act

## PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

State		Year of Inception / Year of First Acquisition	Easements or Restrictions Acquired	Acres Protected	Program Funds Spent to Date
<b>Alabama</b>					
	Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	2004/2005	21	4,591	\$1,636,866
<b>California</b>					
	California Farmland Conservancy Program	1995/1997	132	43,240	\$66,974,000
<b>Colorado</b>					
	Great Outdoors Colorado $\Delta$	1992/1995	309	431,479	\$138,007,644 <sup>^</sup>
<b>Connecticut</b>					
	Connecticut Farmland Preservation Program	1978/1979	268	35,518	\$115,704,500 <sup>^</sup>
<b>Delaware</b>					
	Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Program	1991/1996	562	93,935	\$124,102,840
<b>Florida</b>					
	Rural and Family Lands Protection Program	2001/2001	1	676	\$1,374,825
<b>Kentucky</b>					
	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
<b>Maine</b>					
	Farmland Protection Program ~(2006)	1999/1990	19	5,950	\$4,109,376
<b>Maryland</b>					
	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 <sup>^</sup>
<b>Massachusetts</b>					
	Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program	1977/1980	761	64,018	\$182,107,674 <sup>^</sup>
<b>Michigan</b>					
	Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program	1974/1994	106	21,607	\$28,167,178
<b>Montana</b>					
	Montana Agricultural Heritage Program $\times$	1999/2000	8	9,923	\$888,000
<b>New Hampshire</b>					
	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 <sup>^</sup>
<b>New Jersey</b>					
	New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program	1983/1985	1,899	182,953	\$826,404,430







