

STATUS OF LOCAL PACE PROGRAMS

As of January 2016, at least 95 independently funded, local purchase of agricultural conservation easement (PACE) programs in 20 states had acquired funding and/or easements. This table displays the status and summarizes important information about these local farm and ranch land protection programs. 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.

EXPLANATION OF COLUMN HEADINGS

Locality

Name of the locality the program serves. When a land trust or soil and water conservation district administers the program, it is listed next to the locality.

Year of Inception/Year of First Acquisition

Year of Inception is the year in which the ordinance creating the PACE program was passed. Year of First Acquisition is the year in which the program acquired its first easement.

Total Easements/Restrictions Acquired

Number of agricultural conservation easements or conservation restrictions acquired to date. This number includes joint projects with state and/or county programs and independent projects completed by the local program. This number does not necessarily reflect the total number of farms/ranches protected.

Total Acres Protected

Number of acres protected by the program through independent and joint projects to date.

Independent Easements/Restrictions Acquired

Number of agricultural conservation easements or conservation restrictions acquired through independent projects to date. This number excludes easements/restrictions acquired through joint projects with county and/or state programs, which may represent the majority of local activity, to avoid double counting easements acquired. This number does not necessarily reflect the total number of farms/ranches protected.

Independent Acres Protected

Number of acres protected through independent projects. This number excludes acres protected through joint projects with county and/or state programs, which may represent the majority of local activity, to avoid double counting protected acres.

Independent Program Funds Spent to Date

Dollars spent by each program to acquire easements/restrictions on farms/ranches through independent projects. This number excludes dollars spent on joint projects with

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Acres Protected by Local PACE Programs



PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS

| Locality | Year of Inception/ Year of First Acquisition | Total Easements/ Restrictions Acquired | Total Acres Protected | Independent Easements/ Restrictions Acquired | Independent Acres Protected |
|--|---|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| California | | | | | |
| Davis, City of ~ | 1988/1988 | 16 | 3,449 | 8 | 983 |
| Sonoma Co. ~ | 1990/1992 | 78 | 34,746 | 78 | 34,746 |
| Colorado | | | | | |
| Boulder, City of ~ | 1967/1984 | 17 | 2,438 | 17 | 2,438 |
| Douglas Co. ~ | 1994/1995 | 32 | 40,232 | 23 | 10,018 |
| Routt Co. | 1996/2000 | 54 | 40,598 | 19 | 8,722 |
| Connecticut | | | | | |
| Shelton, Town of | 1996/1998 | 8 | 395 | 2 | 5 |
| Tolland, Town of | 2006/2006 | 1 | 155 | 1 | 155 |
| Florida | | | | | |
| Broward Co. X | 2000/2000 | 5 | 64 | 5 | 64 |
| Indian River Co. X | 2004/2007 | 3 | 2,047 | 3 | 2,047 |
| Pasco Co. ~ | 2005/2009 | 1 | 384 | 1 | 384 |
| Sarasota Co. ~ | 1999/2002 | 5 | 17,321 | 2 | 2,287 |
| Volusia Co. | 2000/2003 | 6 | 3,905 | 1 | 163 |
| Illinois | | | | | |
| Kane Co. ~ | 2001/2002 | 34 | 4,655 | 34 | 4,655 |
| Kentucky | | | | | |
| Lexington-Fayette Co. | 2000/2002 | 261 | 29,165 | 261 | 29,165 |
| Maryland | | | | | |
| Anne Arundel Co. ♦ | 1991/1992 | 140 | 12,896 | 74 | 6,118 |
| Baltimore Co. | 1979/1981 | 430 | 63,555 | 100 | 8,214 |
| Calvert Co. ♦ | 1992/1993 | 386 | 29,903 | 335 | 22,877 |
| Carroll Co. ♦ ‡ | 1979/1980 | 624 | 67,900 | 247 | 26,682 |
| Frederick Co. ♦ ‡ | 1991/1993 | 434 | 59,105 | 26 | 18,928 |
| Harford Co. ♦ ~ | 1977/1977 | 373 | 42,758 | 224 | 27,257 |
| Howard Co. ♦ | 1978/1984 | 271 | 22,290 | 232 | 18,249 |
| Montgomery Co. | 1986/1989 | 138 | 21,738 | 84 | 9,758 |
| Prince George's Soil Conservation District | 2007/2008 | 51 | 5,054 | 31 | 2,973 |
| Washington Co. ♦ | 1980/1981 | 221 | 28,500 | 22 | 1,785 |
| Wicomico Co. ♦ ~ | 1986/2004 | 63 | 7,717 | 7 | 780 |
| Michigan | | | | | |
| Acme Township | 2004/2009 | 5 | 840 | 5 | 840 |
| Ann Arbor Charter Township | 2003/2006 | 9 | 927 | 9 | 927 |
| Kent Co.~ | 2002/2005 | 16 | 1,987 | 14 | 1,691 |
| Scio Township | 2004/2008 | 9 | 686 | 9 | 686 |
| Peninsula Township ♦ ~ | 1994/1996 | 75 | 4,779 | 55 | 3,061 |
| Webster Township | 2005/2009 | 8 | 571 | 8 | 571 |

Note: For explanation of column headings and symbols, please see fact sheet text.

STATUS OF LOCAL PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2016

| Independent Program Funds Spent to Date | Program Funds Available | Funding Sources Used to Date | Locality |
|---|-------------------------|--|--------------------|
| | | | California |
| \$3,819,000 ^ | N/A | Appropriations, mitigation fees, local government contributions, property tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$81,668,250 | N/A | Bonds, local government contributions, sales tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | Colorado |
| \$21,399,732 ^ | N/A | Bonds, private contributions, sales tax | |
| \$21,718,827 ^ | \$5,000,000 | Bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, sales and use tax | |
| \$5,997,923 ^ | \$1,923,097 | Property tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | Connecticut |
| \$2 | N/A | Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$365,000 | \$1,334,918 | Bonds, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | Florida |
| \$7,853,997 | \$0 | Bonds | |
| \$23,256,728 | \$0 | Bonds, property tax revenue | |
| \$1,800,800 | N/A | Sales tax | |
| \$7,330,271 ^ | N/A | Bonds, local government contributions, property tax revenue | |
| \$1,165,173 ^ | N/A | Property tax revenue | |
| | | | Illinois |
| \$18,053,800 | N/A | Gaming revenue, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | Kentucky |
| \$37,000,000 | \$3,500,000 | Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, state tobacco settlement funding, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | Maryland |
| \$30,000,000 | \$2,000,000 | Agricultural transfer tax, appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$22,294,107 | \$4,900,000 | Agricultural transfer tax, appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, transportation funding, ACEP-ALE | |
| N/A | \$2,194,763 | Agricultural transfer tax, appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, property tax revenue, real estate transfer tax, recording fees, transportation funding, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$86,602,704 | \$17,354,068 | Agricultural transfer tax, appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, property tax revenue, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$55,000,000 | \$9,400,000 | Agricultural transfer tax, appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, property tax revenue, real estate transfer tax, recording fees, federal transportation funding, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$99,305,910 | N/A | Agricultural transfer tax, local government contributions, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$264,650,000 | \$50,000,000 | Agricultural transfer tax, bonds, real estate transfer tax, use value assessment withdrawal penalties, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$52,727,000 | \$1,100,000 | Agricultural transfer tax, appropriations, bonds, investment income, local government contributions, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$24,192,979 ^ | \$8,100,000 | Local government contributions, real estate transfer tax, appropriations | |
| \$8,457,850 | \$2,597,978 | Agricultural transfer tax, appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, recording fees, transportation funding, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$1,619,027 | \$0 | Local government contributions, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | Michigan |
| \$2,800,000 ^ | \$600,000 | Private contributions, property tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$3,216,904 | \$334,000 | Local government contributions, private contributions, property tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$467,800 ^ | N/A | Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$3,232,552 | \$1,800,000 | Local government contributions, private contributions, property tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$15,173,800 | N/A | Appropriations, bonds, private contributions, property tax revenue, transportation funding, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$1,127,575 | \$240,000 | Local government contributions, private contributions, property tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |

PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS

| Locality | Year of Inception/ Year of First Acquisition | Total Easements/ Restrictions Acquired | Total Acres Protected | Independent Easements/ Restrictions Acquired | Independent Acres Protected |
|--|---|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Minnesota | | | | | |
| Dakota Co. ♦ | 2003/2005 | 68 | 7,772 | 68 | 7,772 |
| Montana | | | | | |
| Gallatin Co. ~ | 2000/2000 | 22 | 29,694 | 21 | 29,107 |
| New Hampshire | | | | | |
| Londonderry, Town of ~ | 1996/1996 | 40 | 786 | 20 | 372 |
| New Jersey | | | | | |
| Burlington Co. ♦ Δ | 1985/1985 | 230 | 28,357 | 39 | 4,811 |
| Cape May Co. ♦ | 1989/1991 | 63 | 3,243 | 16 | 651 |
| Gloucester Co. | 2000/1989 | 291 | 17,477 | 84 | 3,720 |
| Mercer Co. | 1983/1988 | 87 | 5,335 | 1 | 100 |
| Monmouth Co. ♦ | 1981/1987 | 204 | 14,891 | 6 | 170 |
| Morris Co. | 1983/1996 | 127 | 7,778 | 19 | 612 |
| Sussex Co. ~ | 1985/1990 | 163 | 16,765 | 38 | 2,492 |
| New York | | | | | |
| East Hampton, Town of | 1982/1982 | 21 | 382 | 18 | 233 |
| Pittsford, Town of X | 1995/1996 | 9 | 1,060 | 7 | 653 |
| Southampton, Town of | 1998/1999 | 53 | 1,289 | 53 | 1,289 |
| Southold, Town of | 1984/1986 | 118 | 2,478 | 101 | 2,005 |
| Suffolk Co. + ~ | 1974/1976 | 338 | 9,895 | 311 | 8,934 |
| Warwick, Town of ♦ | 2001/1997 | 27 | 3,272 | 18 | 1,646 |
| Watershed Agricultural Council | 1998/2001 | 142 | 25,847 | 142 | 25,847 |
| North Carolina | | | | | |
| Buncombe Co. | 2001/2005 | 45 | 5,935 | 36 | 4,561 |
| Forsyth Co. Soil and Water Conservation District | 1984/1987 | 25 | 1,255 | 19 | 911 |
| Orange Co. | 2000/2001 | 17 | 1,742 | 13 | 1,364 |
| Oregon | | | | | |
| Yamhill Co. - Soil and Water Conservation District ~ | 2003/2003 | 4 | 1,242 | 4 | 1,242 |
| Pennsylvania | | | | | |
| Buckingham Township ~ | 1991/1991 | 50 | 2,484 | 40 | 1,626 |
| Bucks Co. ♦ | 1989/1990 | 188 | 15,600 | 30 | 5,000 |
| Chester Co. ♦ | 1989/1990 | 438 | 36,139 | 269 | 19,626 |
| Lancaster Co. ♦ | 1980/1984 | 913 | 76,617 | 132 | 10,450 |
| Plumstead Township | 1996/1997 | 57 | 2,156 | 46 | 1,479 |
| Solebury Township ~ | 1996/1998 | 34 | 1,941 | 28 | 1,298 |

Note: For explanation of column headings and symbols, please see fact sheet text.

STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2016

| Independent Program Funds Spent to Date | Program Funds Available | Funding Sources Used to Date | Locality |
|---|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| | | | Minnesota |
| \$27,813,561 | \$0 | Bonds, landfill fees, local government contributions, property tax revenue, state grants, tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | Montana |
| \$9,300,000 ^ | N/A | Appropriations, bonds, private contributions, property tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | New Hampshire |
| \$13,029,600 ^ | N/A | Appropriations, bonds, use value withdrawal penalties, property tax revenue | |
| | | | New Jersey |
| \$29,793,256 | \$7,000,000 | Bonds, property tax revenue, local government contributions, ACUB | |
| \$26,032,267 | \$19,570,622 | Property tax revenue, transient lodging tax | |
| \$46,140,000 | \$10,500,000 | Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, property tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$1,014,000 | N/A | Appropriations, local government contributions | |
| \$2,000,000 | \$9,000,000 | Appropriations, local government contributions, property tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$8,283,904 | \$0 | Appropriations, bonds, property tax revenue | |
| \$16,870,767 | N/A | Property tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | New York |
| N/A | | Bonds, real estate transfer tax | |
| \$6,259,248 ^ | \$0 | Appropriations, bonds, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$204,740,000 ^ | \$0 | Bonds, real estate transfer tax, property tax revenue | |
| \$48,546,572 | \$9,868,495 | Bonds, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$211,600,000 | N/A | Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, sales tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$14,382,781 ^ | \$3,570,000 | Bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$52,648,497 ^ | \$13,287,958 | Local government contributions | |
| | | | North Carolina |
| \$4,747,053 ^ | \$317,500 | Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$1,831,203 | \$0 | Appropriations, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$2,831,734 ^ | \$1,750,000 | Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, property tax revenue, real estate transfer tax, sales tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | Oregon |
| \$0 | N/A | District funds, private contributions | |
| | | | Pennsylvania |
| N/A | N/A | Bonds, private contributions, property tax revenue, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$28,532,716 | \$5,000,000 | Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$24,561,352 | N/A | Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, use value assessment withdrawal penalties, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$17,092,660 | | Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, use value assessment withdrawal penalties, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$9,466,707 | \$3,419,300 | Bonds, property tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$17,400,000 ^ | N/A | Appropriations, bonds, private contributions, property tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |

PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS

| Locality | Year of Inception/ Year of First Acquisition | Total Easements/ Restrictions Acquired | Total Acres Protected | Independent Easements/ Restrictions Acquired | Independent Acres Protected |
|--|---|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Virginia | | | | | |
| Albemarle Co. | 2000/2002 | 45 | 8,832 | 38 | 7,561 |
| Chesapeake, City of ♦ | 2003/2006 | 5 | 1,736 | 4 | 1,672 |
| Clarke Co. | 2002/2003 | 107 | 5,182 | 73 | 3,358 |
| Fauquier Co. | 2002/2004 | 98 | 15,520 | 86 | 13,193 |
| Franklin Co. | 2007/2008 | 1 | 160 | 0 | 0 |
| Goochland Co. ~ | 2007/2007 | 6 | 935 | 5 | 435 |
| Isle of Wight Co. | 2005/2010 | 8 | 930 | 0 | 0 |
| James City Co. ~ | 2001/2003 | 7 | 543 | 6 | 440 |
| Loudoun Co. X | 2000/2002 | 5 | 1,007 | 5 | 1,007 |
| New Kent Co. X | 2006/2009 | 1 | 96 | 1 | 96 |
| Northampton Co. ~ | 2006/2009 | 2 | 440 | 0 | 0 |
| Rappahannock Co. | 2004/2006 | 2 | 450 | 0 | 0 |
| Spotsylvania Co. | 2005/N/A | 2 | 115 | 0 | 0 |
| Stafford Co. | 2007/2009 | 4 | 303 | 0 | 0 |
| Virginia Beach, City of ♦ + | 1995/1997 | 172 | 9,316 | 165 | 9,007 |
| Washington | | | | | |
| King Co. ~ | 1979/1984 | 207 | 13,371 | 206 | 13,230 |
| San Juan Co. Δ ~ | 1990/1994 | 14 | 1,276 | 14 | 1,276 |
| Skagit Co. ~ | 1996/1998 | 133 | 10,164 | 107 | 7,563 |
| Thurston Co. X | 1996/1998 | 18 | 942 | 18 | 942 |
| Whatcom Co. | 2001/2002 | 16 | 865 | 15 | 834 |
| West Virginia | | | | | |
| Berkeley Co. | 2000/2004 | 45 | 4,776 | 43 | 4,405 |
| Fayette Co. | 2005/2007 | 7 | 467 | 7 | 467 |
| Grant Co. | 2003/2007 | 4 | 596 | 2 | 158 |
| Greenbrier Co. | 2004/2007 | 7 | 2,098 | 7 | 2,098 |
| Hampshire Co. | 2004/2006 | 17 | 2,990 | 12 | 2,061 |
| Hardy Co. | 2003/2003 | 9 | 1,611 | 3 | 442 |
| Jefferson Co. | 2000/2003 | 40 | 3,873 | 40 | 3,873 |
| Mineral Co. | 2010/2011 | 7 | 854 | 6 | 743 |
| Monroe Co. | 2002/2005 | 12 | 2,254 | 10 | 1,795 |
| Morgan Co. | 2000/2005 | 16 | 1,167 | 16 | 1,167 |
| Nicholas Co. | 2004/2007 | 2 | 360 | 2 | 360 |
| Pocahontas Co. | 2004/2008 | 11 | 1,931 | 9 | 629 |
| Preston Co. | 2004/2007 | 3 | 457 | 2 | 289 |
| Summers Co. | 2004/2007 | 2 | 547 | 2 | 547 |
| Wisconsin | | | | | |
| Bayfield, Town of - Bayfield Regional Conservancy | 2002/2003 | 4 | 193 | 4 | 193 |
| Dane Co. | 1996/1997 | 17 | 1,693 | 17 | 1,693 |
| Dunn, Town of | 1996/1997 | 28 | 3,005 | 28 | 3,005 |
| LOCAL TOTALS | | 8,632 | 973,247 | 4,469 | 469,739 |

Note: For explanation of column headings and symbols, please see fact sheet text.

STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2016

| Independent Program Funds Spent to Date | Program Funds Available | Funding Sources Used to Date | Locality |
|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------|
| | | | Virginia |
| \$12,990,140 ^ | \$1,064,199 | Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, transient lodging tax, ACEP-ALE, | |
| \$1,342,284 ^ | \$1,476,216 | Appropriations, farm lease revenue, local government contributions, street closure revenue, use value assessment withdrawal penalties | |
| \$25,000 | \$266,752 | Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, property tax revenue, use value withdrawal penalties, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$12,365,550 ^ | \$1,868,000 | Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, property tax revenue, use value withdrawal penalties, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$0 | N/A | Local government contributions, property tax revenue | |
| \$0 | N/A | Local government contributions | |
| \$0 | N/A | Local government contributions | |
| \$1,687,000 | N/A | Bonds, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$2,670,000 | \$0 | Appropriations, transient lodging tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$0 | N/A | Local government contributions, private contributions | |
| \$0 | N/A | Local government contributions, transient lodging tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$0 | N/A | Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, use value withdrawal penalties, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$0 | \$0 | Mitigation fees, local government contributions, private contributions | |
| \$0 | \$1,074,000 | Appropriations, sale of surplus property, use value assessment withdrawal penalties, private contributions | |
| \$38,859,375 ^ | \$13,195,542 | Appropriations, property tax revenue | |
| | | | Washington |
| \$60,728,211 ^ | N/A | Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, property tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$2,219,752 | N/A | Bonds, property tax revenue, real estate transfer tax, timber excise tax | |
| \$6,815,260 | \$894,000 | Local government contributions, private contributions, property tax revenue, real estate transfer tax, timber excise tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$2,241,122 | \$0 | Property tax revenue | |
| \$2,505,100 | N/A | Private contributions, property tax revenue, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | West Virginia |
| \$10,273,494 | N/A | Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$833,610 | N/A | Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$358,500 | N/A | Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$1,428,901 | N/A | Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$1,553,675 | N/A | Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$791,330 | N/A | Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$7,236,032 | N/A | Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$569,750 | N/A | Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$440,423 | N/A | Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$1,127,240 | N/A | Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$264,000 | N/A | Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$515,457 | N/A | Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$673,300 | N/A | Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$94,250 | N/A | Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE | |
| | | | Wisconsin |
| \$274,160 | \$0 | Local government contributions, private contributions, property tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$928,481 | N/A | Property tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$2,917,922 | \$1,016,921 | Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, property tax revenue, ACEP-ALE | |
| \$1,901,944,908 | \$216,518,329 | | LOCAL TOTALS |

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county and/or state programs. Amounts may include unspent funds that are encumbered for installment payments on completed projects. Unless otherwise noted, this figure does not include incidental land acquisition costs—such as appraisals, insurance and recording fees—or the administrative cost of running the program. These figures do not include additional funds contributed by federal programs, other localities, private land trusts, foundations and/or individuals.

Program Funds Available

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

Funding Sources Used to Date

Sources of funding for each program. “Transportation funding” refers to federal money disbursed under The Moving Ahead

for Progress in the 21st Century Act and its predecessors for “transportation enhancements.” Easement acquisitions that protect scenic views and historic sites along transportation routes were eligible for these funds prior to 2012.

The Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program, authorized by the Department of Defense’s Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program, provides funds to establish easement-protected buffer areas around military installations.

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) protects agricultural land and conserves wetlands. It consolidates the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). 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 includes FRPP.

NOTES

~ Figure carried forward from previous PACE tables.

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

◆ Programs enter into installment purchase agreements (IPAs) with landowners. IPAs are structured so that land-owners receive semi-annual, tax-exempt interest over a term of years (typically 20 to 30). The principal is due at the end of the term. Landowners can convert IPAs into securities that can be sold to recover the principal at any time. Programs often purchase U.S. zero-coupon bonds to cover the final balloon payment. The interest payments are generally funded by a dedicated revenue source, such as a real estate transfer tax. Therefore, Program Funds Spent to Date may appear relatively low for these jurisdictions.

‡ Maryland’s Carroll and Frederick Counties offer “critical farms” programs. The programs allow landowners to sell to the county options to buy their easements

for 75 percent of the appraised easement value.

In exchange, landowners apply to the state PACE program. If the state approves the application, the landowner must repay the county from the proceeds. If the state application is not approved within five years, the county holds the easement, unless the landowner repays the program, with interest. Figures for Carroll and Frederick Counties may include critical farm projects that have not yet been approved by the state.

Δ Total program activity includes fee simple acquisitions.

+ Total and Independent Easements/Restrictions Acquired represents the number of parcels protected. Program staff track individual parcels, rather than number of easements or restrictions acquired.

^ Independent Program Funds Spent to Date includes incidental land acquisition costs and/or personnel costs.

× Program Funds Available includes money for other land conservation purposes.

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For more information on PACE, see the [Purchase of Agricultural Easements](#) 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. The FIC is a public/private partnership between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and American Farmland Trust.