



Testimony before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry
By Chelsea Gazillo, American Farmland Trust, New England Policy Manager
March 18, 2021

RE: Support for LD 568 – An Act to Establish a Working Farmland Access and Protection Program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry and a Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund within Land for Maine’s Future Program

Senator Dill, Representative O’Neil, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, my name is Chelsea Gazillo, and I am American Farmland Trust’s (AFT’s) New England Policy Manager. I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of AFT **in support** of LD 568 – An Act to Establish a Working Farmland Access and Protection Program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) and a Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund within Land for Maine’s Future (LMF) Program

AFT is the nation’s leading conservation organization dedicated to protecting farmland, promoting sound farming practices, and keeping farmers on the land. Since its founding in 1980 by farmers and citizens concerned about the rapid loss of farmland to development, AFT has helped protect over 6.8 million acres of farmland and led the way for the adoption of conservation practices on millions more. Established in 1985, AFT’s New England office works to save the land that sustains us across the region.

Maine’s farmland plays a vital role in our regional economy and food security. Maine has the most agricultural land of any of the six New England states by far, as well as the largest amount of prime and important farmland. According to American Farmland Trust’s [Farms Under Threat: The State of the States](#), roughly 18,000 acres of Maine’s agricultural land were converted to urban development or low-density residential land use between 2001 and 2016.¹ The nearly 18,000 acres of farmland converted is enough to generate \$10 million in annual revenue.² Simultaneously, the LMF has worked, since 1987, to permanently protected 41 farms or 9,755 acres of farmland with agricultural conservation easements.³ To date, State of Maine funding has protected less than one percent of the state’s farmland. This is compared to Vermont that has permanently protected over 164,000 acres of farmland on 700 farms using state dollars to match federal funds.⁴ Maine has protected the least amount of farmland compared to the rest of New England states (see appendix 1). More must be done to address the growing threats to Maine’s

¹ Freedgood, J., M. Hunter, J. Dempsey, A. Sorensen. 2020. Farms Under Threat: The State of the States. Washington, DC: American Farmland Trust.

² https://storage.googleapis.com/csp-fut.appspot.com/reports/spatial/Maine_spatial.pdf

³ <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/lmf/>

⁴ <https://vhcb.org/our-programs/conservation/farmland-conservation>

Chelsea Gazillo • New England Policy Manager

One Short Street • Suite 2 • Northampton, MA 01060
Phone: (413) 586-9330 X 15 • Fax: (413) 586-9332

National Office 1150 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 600 Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 331-7300 Fax: (202) 659-8339
www.farmland.org

farmland, including real estate development pressures, land loss because of a changing climate, and high land prices.

The time for Maine to codify a Farmland Protection Program into state statute is now. Human activity on an acre of farmland produces 66x's fewer GHG emissions than that on an acre of developed land. Participation in farmland protection programs has been proven to encourage the adoption of new, improved, and more widespread regenerative farming practices. Farmland also provides a range of reliable cost-saving environmental services, such as air pollution removal, wildlife habitat, flood mitigation, and carbon sequestration. As Maine prepares to implement mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency strategies to combat climate change, formalizing a state farmland preservation program is a key component of these efforts.

As Maine strives to incentive farmers to adopt climate smart agricultural practices, increasing farmland protection efforts are of paramount importance. Many farmers cite access to land tenure as an obstacle to implementing these practices.⁵ In December 2020, Governor Mills announced the completion of the state's Climate Action Plan, [Maine Won't Wait](#). This plan outlines the importance of increasing the amount of farmland protected in Maine as a potential nature-based solution to combat climate change.

Working lands lie at the heart of the state's food and agricultural system. As Maine looks towards building a robust, equitable, and resilient agricultural economy, farmland affordability and accessibility is essential. Maine's new and beginning farmers are at the crux of ensuring the agricultural sector continues for future generations. According to recent reports published by both the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Young Farmer's coalition, access to affordable farmland remains one of the key barriers to new and young farmers. Agricultural Conservation Easements have been proven to lower the real estate price of a farm and make the land more affordable to a new and beginning farmers or farmer wishing to expand their farming operation. They can also provide equitable access to farmers that have historically been denied equal opportunity to prosper, facing challenges such as loan discrimination, barriers to accessing federal and private programs, exploitative labor practices, intimidation, and theft and appropriation of land. We also suggest reviewing the authoring language used in nearby states like Connecticut and Rhode Island, whose statutes enable Buy/Protect/Sell, or Vermont's statute that authorize Options to Purchase at Agricultural Value - which provides additional tools to address farmland affordability and accessibility. Establishing a farmland preservation program that looks critically and intentionally at farmland access for new and beginning farmers will be essential to the future of Maine's agricultural sector.

In 2016, American Farmland Trust and Land for Good produced the [Gaining Insights, Gaining Access report](#) that looked at characteristics of New York and New England's farm population at both ends of the spectrum—those at or beyond retirement age, and those young or new to farming. The average age of Maine's farmers is 65 and most lack an identified successor. Most

⁵ Adusumilli, N., & Wang, H. (2019). Conservation Adoption Among Owners and Tenant Farmers in the Southern United States. *Agriculture*, 9(3), 53.

Chelsea Gazillo • New England Policy Manager

One Short Street • Suite 2 • Northampton, MA 01060
Phone: (413) 586-9330 • Fax: (413) 586-9332

National Office 1150 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 600 Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 331-7300 Fax: (202) 659-8339
www.farmland.org

of the participants that were interviewed as part of this project saw Agricultural Conservation Easements as an important tool farmers can use for farmland succession and transfer.⁶ As an organization that has actively been involved with state farmland protection efforts for over 40 year, we can attest that state programs specifically dedicated to farmland protection do a better job at keeping land permanently in farming, while also supporting a more economically and ecologically resilient agricultural sector. Studies show farmers use farmland protection funds to invest in business viability and innovation, most frequently used to pay down debt, put money towards saving, purchase leased land, expand, and diversify their operations, upgrade farm equipment, and/or transfer farms to the next generation. Protecting farmland also encourages other local farmers and business owners to invest in their own operations because they have greater confidence in the stability and longevity of the local farm sector.

Establishing a Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund within LMF will not only be good for the environment and agricultural producers in the state but also, help leverage additional federal resources through the USDA – Natural Resource Conservation Service’s (NRCS). A Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund would set the state up to receive additional matching funds through the USDA-NRCS – ACEP-ALE program, which would be a very good deal for Maine’s communities. As of the end of 2020, Maine protected 10 farms using USDA-ACEP-ALE funding and leveraged around \$1.7 million in federal funds to do so.⁷ If passed, LD 568 would create opportunity for the state to accelerate farmland protection projects and, if more state funding is allocated towards LFM and earmarked for farmland protection, there would be opportunity to leverage more of these funds through the ACEP-ALE program.

AFT’s 2020 Status of State Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Programs (see appendix 2) outlines that, despite having the largest amount of prime and important farmland in the region, the State of Maine has spent the least amount of state fund on farmland protection compared to the rest of New England. To date, Maine has expended nearly \$12.6 million on farmland protection efforts – or roughly \$10 per resident, over the entire life of the LMF. The establishment of a dedicated fund for farmland protection efforts in Maine will only help further protecting farmland for future generations.

While AFT is supportive of Sec. 5 -2 that will establish a review panel to advise the Commissioner of Agriculture in the operation of the program, including, but not limited to evaluating applications, the legislature may want to set a limit on the amount of time this entity has to review a project. Farmland protection applications that utilize USDA-NRCS funding go through many vigorous review steps from the time a farmer submits their application to closing. Projects that leverage federal ACEP-ALE funds are subject to multiple time sensitive agricultural appraisals that are completed by certified appraisers who must attend a special training on how to evaluate the agricultural value of a farm. If the application review takes too long it will jeopardize the state's efforts to leverage federal funds.

⁶ <https://landforgood.org/wp-content/uploads/Maine-Gaining-Insights-AFT-LFG.pdf>

⁷ https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download/?cid=nrcseprd1734430&ext=pdf

Chelsea Gazillo • New England Policy Manager

One Short Street • Suite 2 • Northampton, MA 01060
Phone: (413) 586-9330 • Fax: (413) 586-9332

National Office 1150 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 600 Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 331-7300 Fax: (202) 659-8339
www.farmland.org

Establishment of a Working Farmland Access and Protection Program within the DACF and a Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund within LMF, as outlined in LD 568, will advance farmland protection efforts; farmland accessibility and affordability; climate smart agriculture practices; and increase the profitability of Maine's farms.

As leaders in farmland protection, please feel free to reach out to me at cgazillo@farmland.org or my colleagues at AFT, if you have any questions about the design and implementation of establishing a farmland protection program and dedicated fund in Maine.

To conclude, AFT supports the state's efforts to establish a Working Farmland Access and Protection Program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, and a Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund within the LMF.

We strongly urge you to support and pass LD 568. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

AFT is an agricultural non-profit organization with a mission to save the land that sustains us by protecting farmland, promoting sound farming practices, and keeping farmers on the land. AFT is the only national agricultural organization that approaches its work in this comprehensive, holistic manner. We recognize the connection between the land, forward-looking farming practices, and the farmers who do the work.

Chelsea Gazillo • New England Policy Manager

One Short Street • Suite 2 • Northampton, MA 01060
Phone: (413) 586-9330 • Fax: (413) 586-9332

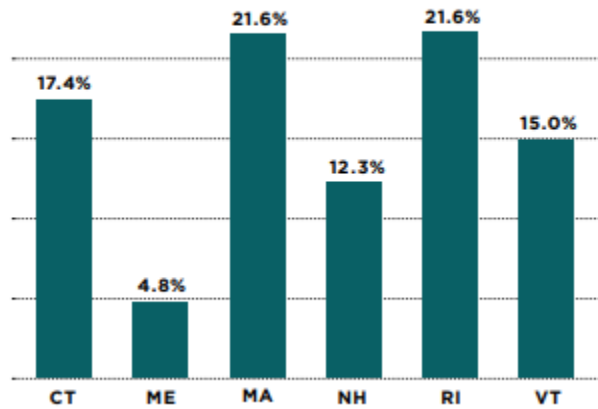
National Office 1150 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 600 Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 331-7300 Fax: (202) 659-8339
www.farmland.org

Appendix 1:

[Farms Under Threat, A New England Perspective](#) did a in depth review of the status of farmland conservation in New England. That review included a look at the percentages of farmland protected across the region. The following chart from page 21 of the report illustrates the percentage of each states farmland that is permanently protected.

FIGURE 13. PERCENTAGE OF EACH STATE'S AGRICULTURAL LAND CURRENTLY PROTECTED

The regional data, broken out by state, indicates the percent of each state's remaining agricultural land that occurs within permanently protected open space.



Chelsea Gazillo • New England Policy Manager

One Short Street • Suite 2 • Northampton, MA 01060
Phone: (413) 586-9330 • Fax: (413) 586-9332

National Office 1150 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 600 Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 331-7300 Fax: (202) 659-8339
www.farmland.org

STATUS OF STATE PACE PROGRAMS

OVERVIEW

As of January 2020, 28 states had active 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 29 states that have funded easement acquisitions. Montana’s program expired in 2003 and is not an active program, but it is included in the table because it funded easement acquisitions. Three other states are not included: In 2017, Oregon authorized a program but has not yet funded any acquisitions. Georgia and Missouri have authorized PACE but do not yet have 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.

Some programs (e.g., Delaware and Massachusetts) purchase and hold easements directly. Others have the authority to acquire and co-hold easements with partners (e.g., county governments). Some 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 PACE program was authorized. “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 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 programs do not hold easements but instead provide funds for easement purchases to local governments or land trusts.

Acres Protected

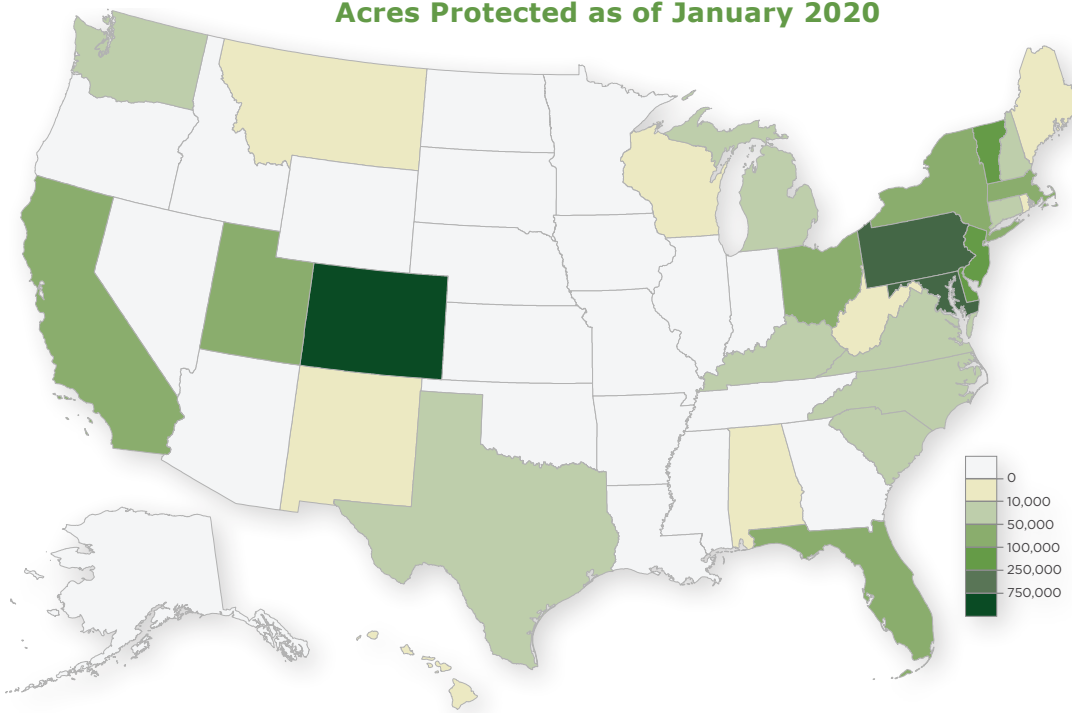
Number of acres protected by the program.

Land in Farms

Acres of land in farms as reported in the Farms and Land in Farms 2019 Summary released by the United States

Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA NASS). For the purposes of the Census of Agriculture, USDA NASS defines a “farm” as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year.

Acres Protected as of January 2020



PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS

State	Year of Inception/ Year of First Acquisition	Easements or Restrictions Acquired	Acres Protected	Land in Farms (Acres)	Program Funds Spent to Date
Alabama					
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries ^{v. 2009}	2004/2005	21	4,591	8,300,000	\$1,636,866
California					
Agricultural Land Mitigation Program ⁱ	2016/2017	9	1,261		\$11,677,189
California Farmland Conservancy Program ^{i, v. 2014}	1995/1997	184	59,498	24,300,000	\$88,569,039
Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program ⁱ	2014/2015	30	35,391		\$30,525,752
Colorado					
Great Outdoors Colorado ^{i,ii}	1992/1995	502	872,167	31,800,000	\$233,534,803
Connecticut					
Farmland Preservation Program ⁱ	1978/1979	373	45,127	380,000	\$125,169,203
Delaware					
Agricultural Lands Preservation Program	1991/1996	1,004	133,975	530,000	\$168,428,081
Young Farmer Loan Program	2011/2012	35	2,707		\$7,990,608
Florida					
Rural and Family Lands Protection Program ⁱ	2001/2001	47	54,385	9,700,000	\$78,219,109
Hawaii					
Legacy Land Conservation Program ^{v. 2017}	2005/2007	4	772	1,100,000	\$4,309,425
Kentucky					
Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements ^{v. 2018}	1994/1998	186	32,928	12,900,000	\$11,863,284
Maine					
Farmland Protection Program ^{v. 2015}	1987/1990	42	9,752	1,300,000	\$12,574,122
Maryland					
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation	1977/1980	2,378	322,102	2,000,000	\$877,580,772
Rural Legacy Program ^{i,iii}	1997/1999	748	102,933		\$555,026,665
Massachusetts					
Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program ⁱ	1977/1980	924	73,892	500,000	\$235,493,835
Michigan					
Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program	1994/1994	146	26,239	9,800,000	\$36,827,248
Montana					
Montana Agricultural Heritage Program ^{iv}	1999/2000	8	9,923	58,000,000	\$888,000
New Hampshire					
Agricultural Lands Preservation Program ^{v. 2000}	1979/1980	31	2,864	430,000	\$19,017,345
Land Conservation Investment Program ^{iv}	1987/1988	36	6,232		\$5,349,008
Land and Community Heritage Investment Program ^{i, iii}	2000/2001	61	7,355		\$8,668,337
New Jersey					
New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program	1983/1985	2,648	236,571	750,000	\$1,137,731,430

Notes: For explanation of column headings, please see factsheet text.

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

ii. 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.

STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2020

Additional Funds Spent to Date	Program Funds Available for FY20	Program Funds Available Per Capita	Funding Sources <i>Primary state funding sources are in green.</i>	
				Alabama
\$3,273,731	\$0	\$0.00	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE	
				California
\$90,771,162	\$28,000,000	\$0.71		
\$639,353	\$20,000,000	\$0.51	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (cap and trade auction proceeds) , Mitigation Fees	
\$67,971,224	\$5,000,000	\$0.13	Appropriations, bonds , mitigation fees, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
\$22,160,585	\$3,000,000	\$0.08	Bonds, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (cap and trade auction proceeds) , mitigation fees, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE	
				Colorado
\$536,187,345	\$12,948,775	\$2.25	Local government contributions, lottery proceeds , ACEP-ALE	
				Connecticut
\$39,586,697	N/A	N/A	Bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, recording fees, ACEP-ALE	
				Delaware
\$407,759,962	\$13,000,000	\$13.35		
\$407,759,962	\$10,000,000	\$10.27	Appropriations , bonds, lawsuit settlement funds, license plate revenue, local government contributions, private contributions, property tax relief program withdrawal penalties, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding, REPI	
—	\$3,000,000	\$3.08	Appropriations , licence plate revenue, property tax relief program withdrawal penalties	
				Florida
\$16,566,488	\$17,100,000	\$0.80	Appropriations , bonds, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE, REPI	
				Hawaii
\$10,609,425	\$3,300,000	\$2.33	Real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE	
				Kentucky
\$11,597,016	\$0	\$0.00	Appropriations, bonds, tobacco settlement funds, ACEP-ALE, REPI	
				Maine
\$17,162,782	\$0	\$0.00	Appropriations, bonds, credit card royalties, local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE	
				Maryland
\$214,003,275	\$110,337,039	\$18.25		
\$211,900,349	\$80,434,884	\$13.30	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, property tax relief program withdrawal penalties, real estate transfer tax , ACEP-ALE	
\$2,102,926	\$29,902,155	\$4.95	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax , ACEP-ALE, REPI (ACUB)	
				Massachusetts
\$96,859,188	\$3,000,000	\$0.44	Appropriations, bonds , local government contributions, mitigation fees, municipal land fees, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding	
				Michigan
\$14,532,845	\$1,900,000	\$0.19	Local government contributions, private contributions , property tax relief program withdrawal penalties, ACEP-ALE	
				Montana
\$1,420,710	\$0	\$0.00	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE	
				New Hampshire
\$31,910,747	\$3,500,000	\$2.57		
\$140,000	\$0	\$0.00	Appropriations, local government contributions, ACEP-ALE	
—	\$0	\$0.00	Bonds	
\$31,770,747	\$3,500,000	\$2.57	Appropriations, recording fees , ACEP-ALE	
				New Jersey
\$629,691,111	\$146,046,580	\$16.44	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, mitigation fees, private contributions, sales tax, condemnation proceeds, corporate business tax , sale of fee-simple purchased properties, ACEP-ALE	

- iii. "Program Funds Available" includes money for other land conservation purposes.
- iv. Program has terminated or is no longer acquiring agricultural conservation easements.
- v. Figures are carried forward from previous PACE tables. Information current as of year indicated.

PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS

State	Year of Inception/ Year of First Acquisition	Easements or Restrictions Acquired	Acres Protected	Land in Farms (Acres)	Program Funds Spent to Date
New Mexico					
New Mexico Natural Heritage Conservation Program ^{v.2015}	2010/2010	3	5,930	40,000,000	\$850,000
New York					
Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program ⁱ	1996/1998	307	79,612	6,900,000	\$196,989,132
North Carolina					
Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund ⁱ	1986/1999	159	22,590	8,400,000	\$24,000,739
Ohio					
Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program	1999/1999	496	79,741	13,600,000	\$60,671,518
Pennsylvania					
Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program ⁱ	1988/1989	5,636	577,092	7,300,000	\$1,032,801,415
Rhode Island					
Farmland Preservation Program	1981/1985	117	7,979	60,000	\$36,446,450
South Carolina					
South Carolina Conservation Bank	2002/2004	79	21,123	4,800,000	\$16,934,907
Texas					
Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program ⁱ	2005/2005	13	28,019	126,500,000	\$1,648,864
Utah					
LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Program (in partnership with Utah Department of Agriculture).	1999/2000	45	55,540	10,700,000	\$11,586,724
Vermont					
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Farmland Conservation Program ⁱ	1987/1987	746	164,250	1,200,000	\$83,800,000
Virginia					
Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation ⁱ	2000/2001	26	8,525	7,800,000	\$16,504,135
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund ⁱ	2001/2008	105	12,190		\$12,106,611
Washington					
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farmland Protection Category ⁱ	2007/2008	68	12,706	14,600,000	\$19,951,193
West Virginia					
West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority-Farmland Protection Program	2000/2009	30	8,027	3,500,000	\$4,683,999
Wisconsin					
Farmland Preservation Program ^{i, v. 2012}	2009/2011	17	5,124	14,300,000	\$4,824,076
STATE TOTALS		17,264	3,129,113		\$4,585,738,655

Notes: For explanation of column headings, please see factsheet text.

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

STATUS OF STATE PROGRAMS AS OF JANUARY 2020

Additional Funds Spent to Date	Program Funds Available for FY20	Program Funds Available Per Capita	Funding Sources <i>Primary state funding sources are in green.</i>
New Mexico			
\$1,200,000	\$0	\$0.00	Appropriations, ACEP-ALE
New York			
—	\$17,910,000	\$0.92	Bonds, Environmental Protection Fund (license plate fees, real estate transfer tax, unclaimed container deposits) , local government contributions, ACEP-ALE
North Carolina			
\$75,432,171	\$4,782,073	\$0.46	Appropriations , local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, REPI (ACUB)
Ohio			
\$23,535,319	\$6,850,000	\$0.59	Bonds , local government contributions, private contributions, Southern Ohio Tobacco Agricultural Easement Program, ACEP-ALE, NRCS-RCPP
Pennsylvania			
\$492,776,568	\$83,072,670	\$6.49	Appropriations, bonds, cigarette tax, Environmental Stewardship Fund (municipal landfill fees, unconventional gas well impact fees), interest on securities, local government contributions, real estate transfer tax , use value assessment withdrawal penalties, ACEP-ALE
Rhode Island			
\$76,915,578	\$3,000,000	\$2.83	Appropriations, bonds , local government contributions, private contributions, ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding
South Carolina			
—	\$12,058,779	\$2.34	Appropriations , real estate transfer tax, recording fees
Texas			
\$12,365,350	\$5,450,000	\$0.19	Appropriations , private contributions, ACEP-ALE, Federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program
Utah			
\$72,390,466	\$2,000,000	\$0.62	Appropriations, local government contributions, private contributions, sales tax , ACEP-ALE
Vermont			
\$121,140,000	\$3,200,000	\$5.13	Appropriations, bonds, local government contributions, mitigation fees, private contributions, real estate transfer tax , ACEP-ALE, federal transportation funding
\$22,040,822	\$13,071,875	\$1.53	
Virginia			
—	\$421,875	\$0.05	Appropriations
\$22,040,822	\$12,650,000	\$1.48	Appropriations, local government contributions , ACEP-ALE
Washington			
\$43,525,742	\$0	\$0.00	Appropriations , bonds, development impact fees, local government contributions, private contributions, real estate transfer tax, ACEP-ALE
West Virginia			
\$110,167,449	\$4,796,913	\$2.68	Appropriations, local government contributions, real estate transfer tax, deed recording fees , ACEP-ALE
Wisconsin			
\$1,753,907	\$0	\$0.00	Bonds, private contributions, ACEP-ALE
\$3,218,942,651	\$495,324,704	\$1.51	

- iii. "Program Funds Available" includes money for other land conservation purposes.
- iv. Program has terminated or is no longer acquiring agricultural conservation easements.
- v. Figures are carried forward from previous PACE tables. Information current as of year indicated.

FARMLAND INFORMATION CENTER

Program Funds Spent

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, or the administrative costs of running the program. These figures do not include additional funds, 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

Funds contributed to date by federal programs, local governments, private land trusts, foundations, and/or individuals (see "Funding Sources Used").

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 2019 from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Funding Sources Used

Sources of funding to date for each program. Funding sources in blue indicate primary funding source for 2018. "Federal transportation funding" refers to money disbursed by the U.S. Department of Transportation's

Federal Highway Administration to support transportation alternatives and enhancements.

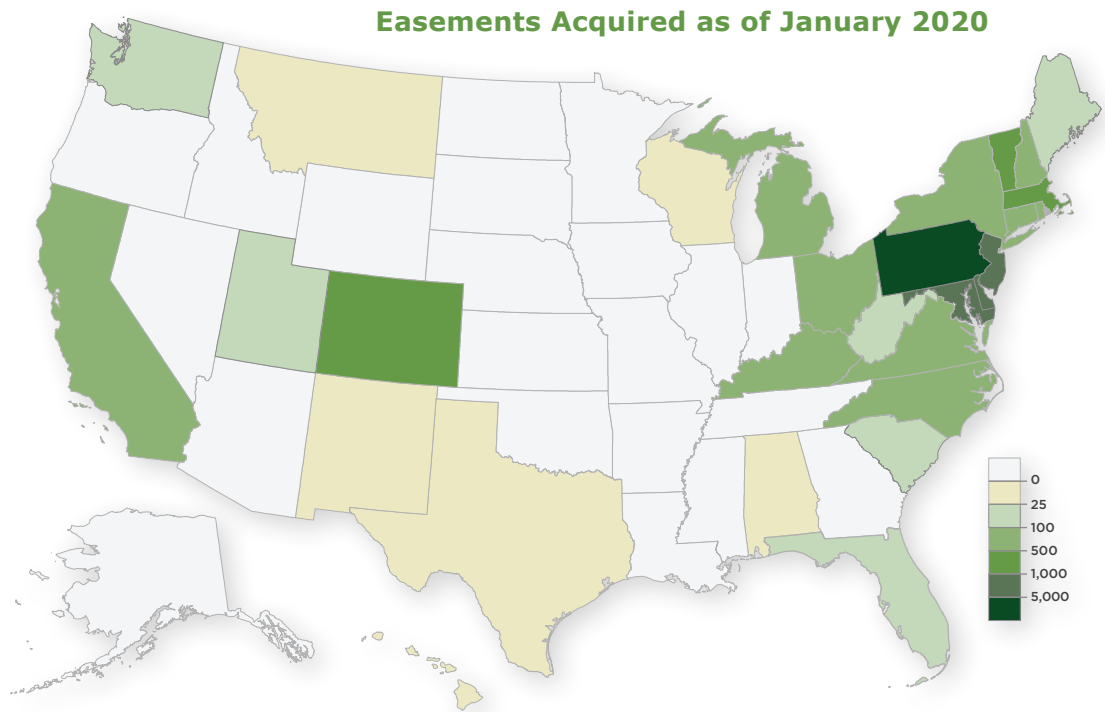
The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI) provides funds to establish easement-protected buffer areas around military installations.

The federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program authorizes funds to be distributed to oil and gas producing states to mitigate the impacts of oil and gas extraction from the continental shelf.

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. In the table, ACEP-ALE includes FRPP.

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

© 2020 American Farmland Trust



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