



Customer Focus

David and Rose Leibundguth, owners of Lynnwood Farm in Mercer County, enrolled 311 acres in Kentucky's farmland preservation program. Kentuck's Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Corporation acquired the permanent easement in 2000, with Farmland Protection Program (FPP) funds.

David is such a believer in the PACE program that he has volunteered his time to speak at farmland preservation meetings in neighboring counties. He said, "Without the PACE program my family would have lost the farm, but now the debt has been reduced to where the farm can support itself, and keep my family on the farm."

Also, to make a further statement about farmland preservation, the Leibundguth's petitioned the Kentucky Soil and Water Commission to form an Agricultural District. This would allow the farm to remain as agricultural land on local tax roles. The petition was recently approved by the Commission.

David and Rose follow an NRCS farm plan and have implemented such practices as conservation tillage on grain fields, and winter cover crops on tobacco fields. They have also planted approximately 30 acres of hardwood trees. They have been doing their part to improve water quality in the Herrington Lake watershed which is listed as an impaired water body.

Development pressure is intense in the area since Lynnwood farm is located near three towns and is about 35 miles from the city of Lexington. Historical preservation was also a factor in saving the farm. The main house on Lynnwood is a Greek Revival House, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Farmland Protection Program Kentucky Summary

Overview The USDA Farmland Protection Program (FPP) helps farmers keep their productive land in agriculture. The program assists States, Tribes, local governments and non-profit organizations by purchasing conservation easements for the purpose of limiting conversion to non-agricultural uses. NRCS provides up to 50% of the easement cost to the cooperating entity, which acquires, manages, and enforces the easement. Landowners participate voluntarily, and protected farms remain in private ownership. Every protected farm operates under a conservation plan approved by the local Conservation District. Nationally, over \$52 million have been obligated to state and local entities since establishment of the program in 1996. Proposals were accepted in 1996, 1997, 1998, and 2001.

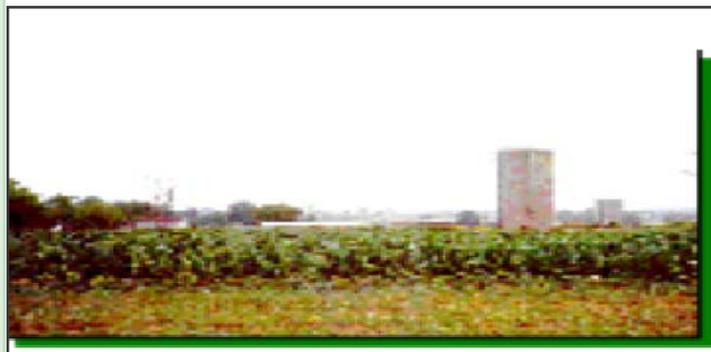
Accomplishments In Kentucky between 1996 and 1998, \$1.1 million in FPP funds were awarded to 14 Kentucky farmers to protect over 2,660 acres. Since the FPP was established in 1996, applications for Kentucky funding were received in three of the four years that funds were available. Kentucky programs have requested over \$13 million to protect more than 35,300 acres on over 160 farms. In 2001, the Kentucky Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Corporation (PACE) and the Fayette County Rural Land Management Board, Inc. were awarded \$600,000 to purchase conservation easements on approximately 628 acres on 9 farms. Proposals were selected through a competitive process to protect the most strategic farms that will help accomplish FPP and local land use goals. The easements also protect entire working farms, woodlands, wetlands, important natural areas, and cultural resources.

Outlook Although Kentucky is still predominantly an agricultural state with approximately 42 percent of the state's 25.8 million acres used for farming and livestock operations, development pressure is increasing each year. According to the National Resources Inventory (NRI), it is estimated that 47,400 acres of farmland were converted to non-agricultural uses each year from 1992 to 1997. This rate simplified is about 130 acres per day of agricultural land being developed in Kentucky. If this rate of development remains unchanged, between 1997 and 2020, it is expected that another 10 percent of the state's total farmland will be lost. Areas of greatest threat to development are around the metropolitan areas of Louisville, Northern Kentucky (Cincinnati), Lexington, and Bowling Green. Over half of the state's farmland lost to development occurs in areas surrounding these metropolitan regions.

State Contact:

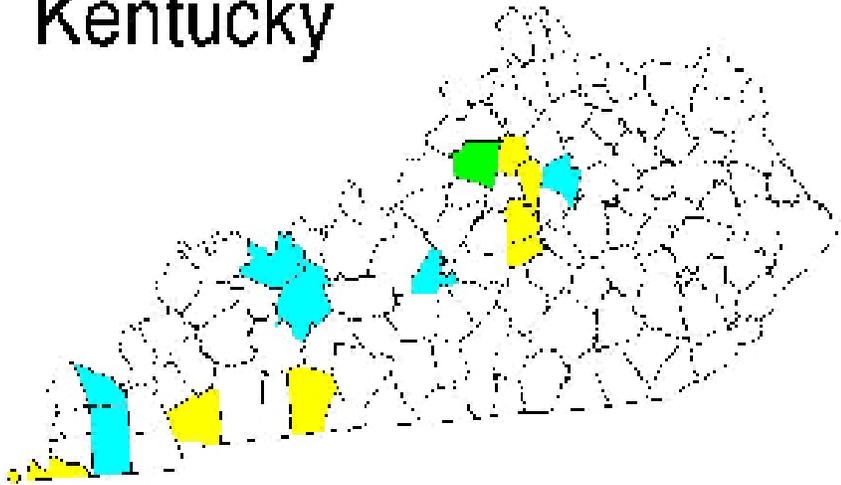
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*Photo of Kentucky farmland.
By: NRCS*



**Farmland Protection Program
Kentucky Easements
(As of December 2001)**

Kentucky



- Counties with acquired FPP acreage
- Counties with pending FPP acreage
- Counties with both acquired and pending FPP acreage



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

10/01/01

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County: Daviess / Acres: 50
Total Easement Cost: \$50,000
Average per acre: \$1,000
Federal Payment Amount: \$25,000 / 50%

County: Fayette / Acres: 109
Total Easement Cost: \$300,000
Average per acre: \$2,752
Federal Payment Amount: \$150,000 / 50 %

County: Franklin / Acres: 285
Total Easement Cost: \$285,750
Average per acre: \$1,003
Federal Payment Amount: \$142,890 / 50%

County: Fulton / Acres: 272
Total Easement Cost: \$40,226
Average per acre: \$148
Federal Payment Amount: \$15,878 / 39%

County: Graves / Acres: 42
Total Easement Cost: \$50,400
Average per acre: \$1,200
Federal Payment Amount: \$5,000 / 10%

County: Larue / Acres: 290
Total Easement Cost: \$244,355
Average per acre: \$843
Federal Payment Amount: \$92,060 / 50%

County: Logan / Acres: 184
Total Easement Cost: \$184,120
Average per acre: \$1,001
Federal Payment Amount: \$92,060 / 50%

County: McCracken / Acres: 18
Total Easement Cost: \$108,000
Average per acre: \$6,000
Federal Payment Amount: \$54,000 / 50%

County: Mercer / Acres: 74
Total Easement Cost: \$73,680
Average per acre: \$996
Federal Payment Amount: \$36,840 / 50%

County: Mercer/Boyle Acres: 312
Total Easement Cost: \$280,350
Average per acre: \$899
Federal Payment Amount: \$140,175 / 50%

County: Ohio / Acres: 302
Total Easement Cost: \$550,000
Average per acre: \$1,821
Federal Payment Amount: \$275,000 / 50%

County: Shelby / Acres: 1,108
Total Easement Cost: \$1,091,993
Average per acre: \$986
Federal Payment Amount: \$545,996 / 50%

County: Trigg / Acres: 155
Total Easement Cost: \$119,896
Average per acre: \$774
Federal Payment Amount: \$59,934 / 50%

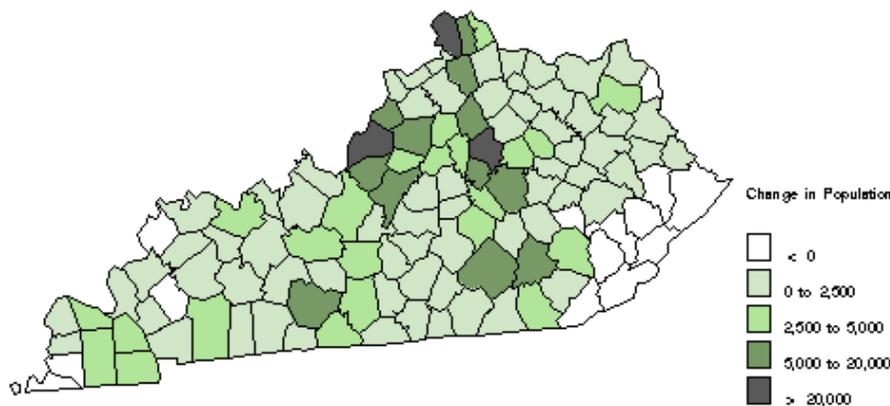
County: Woodford / Acres: 90
Total Easement Cost: \$90,100
Average per acre: \$1,001
Federal Payment Amount: \$45,050 / 50%

Kentucky Totals:

Acres: 3,291
Total Easement Cost: \$3,468,900
Average per acre: \$1,054
Federal Payment Amount: \$1,710,000
Percentage: 49%

Difference in Population between 1990 and 2000

Kentucky



Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, Census of Population 2000