

**Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Agricultural Land Easement (ACEP-ALE)  
Parcel Eligibility and Ranking Form**

Fiscal Year	
Landowner Name and Address	
Eligible entities names and addresses	
Parcel Location:	Locality (Town/Township):
County:	State:
Are all landowners of record AGI eligible? (Y/N)	
Are all landowners of record HEL eligible? (Y/N)	
Are all landowners of record WC eligible? (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming landowner eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:
Is the cooperating entity eligible? (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming entity eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:
Does the eligible cooperating entity have a written pending offer for the parcel? (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming written pending offer:	
Name:	Signature:
Does the land (enter a response for each):	
_____ Have 50-percent prime, unique, and important farmland? (Y/N)	
_____ Have historical or archeological resources? (Y/N)	
_____ Protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring and conserving land? (Y/N)	
_____ Have land that supports the policy of a State or local farm and ranch land protection program? (Y/N)	
Is the land eligible? (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming land eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:

National Ranking Criteria (Must be 200 points Maximum)		
National Ranking Factors and Scaling	Maximum Points	Points
Percent of prime, unique, and important farmland in the parcel to be protected  -50% or less- 0 points -51-60 %- 4 points -61-70%- 8 points -71-80%- 12 points -Greater than 80%- 16 points	16	
Are landowners a historically underserved group, small scale farmer, limited resource landowner, new or beginning farmer or rancher or veteran landowner  -Yes- 3 points -No- 0 points	3	
Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the parcel to be protected  -33% or less – 0 points -33-40%- 4 points -40-50%- 8 points -more than 50%- 16 points	16	
Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel to be protected to average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture ( <a href="#">USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture</a> )  -ratio of 1.0 or less- 0 points -ratio of 1.1 – 2- 7 points -ratio of more than 2- 15 points	15	
Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture ( <a href="#">USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture</a> )  -decrease of 0% or less- 0 points -decrease of 1 - 5%- 1 point -decrease of 5-10%- 5 points -decrease of 11-15%- 9 points -decrease of more than 15% - 15 points	15	
<a href="#">Percent population growth in the county as documented by the United most recent United States Census (Census Bureau Home Page)</a>  -0 points for growth rate of less than 1 times the State growth rate, -4 points for growth rate of 1.1 – 2 times the State growth rate -7 points for growth rate of 2.1 - 3 the State growth rate -15 points for growth rate of more than 3 times the State growth rate)	15	

<p><a href="#">Population density (population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census (Census Bureau Home Page)</a></p> <p>-0 points for population density less than 1 times the State population density  -4 points for population density of greater than 1 and less than or equal to 2 times the State population density  -7 points for population density of greater than 2 and less than or equal to 3 times the State population density  -15 points for population density of greater than 3 times the State population density)</p>	15	
<p>Existence of a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations</p> <p>-0 points for no plan  -7 points for a plan  - 15 points for plan documented and performed by industry professional</p>	15	
<p>Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, including military installations</p> <p>-0 points easement offer area (EOA) boundary greater than 3 miles from the protected land boundary  -4 points EOA is greater than 1 miles but less than 3 miles from protected land  -7 points EOA is within 1 mile of protected land boundary  -15 points EOA boundary adjoins protected land boundary)</p>	15	
<p>Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure</p> <p>-0 points if EOA boundary greater than 3 miles in proximity  -4 points if EOA is greater than or equal to 1 miles but less than 3 miles in proximity  -7 points EOA is within 1 mile in proximity  -15 points EOA boundary adjoins)</p>	15	
<p>Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous acres devoted to agricultural use</p> <p>-15 points if the parcel links two noncontinuous corridors of protected agricultural use  -6 points if parcel expands agricultural use protected area  -0 points parcel does not increase a protected agricultural use area)</p>	15	
<p>Parcel contains historical or archaeological resources that will be protected by easement area</p> <p>-15 points if Yes  -0 points if No)</p>	15	
<p>The grassland in the parcel will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement</p> <p>(15 points if Yes, 0 points if No)</p>	15	

Currently enrolled in CRP in a contract that is set to expire within a year and is grassland that would benefit from protection  (15 points for Yes, 0 points for No)	15	
Total Points for National Ranking Factors	200	

**State Ranking Factors**

**State Ranking Factors (Maximum of 200 Points)**

Resource Concerns addressed		
<p><b>Proximity to protected habitats.</b> This may include land entered into conservation programs such as WRE, WRP, EWP, EWPR, GRP, state owned Game Productions Areas, USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas, Forest Service Grasslands, and military installations.</p> <p>-adjacent to offered area – 50 points          -within 0.5 miles of offered area – 25 points          -0.6-1.0 miles from offered area – 15 points          -greater than 1 mile from offered area – 5 points</p>		
<p><b>Habitat Biodiversity.</b></p> <p>-Offered area is 1,000 acres or more – 50 points          -Offered area is 999-500 acres – 25 points          -Offered area is 499-250 acres – 15 points          -Offered area is less than 250 acres – 5 points</p>		
<p><b>Species Composition</b></p> <p>-Offered area is primarily rangeland with 75% or more native species-50 points          -Offered area is primarily rangeland with 25-74% native species-25 points          -Offered area is comprised of 4 or more species on pasture/hayland or is rangeland with less than 24% native species-15 points          -none of the above - 5 points</p>		
<p>Land has a current Resource Management System (RMS) conservation plan that meets or exceeds all NRCS standards and specifications OR the applicant agrees to develop a RMS plan above the minimum ACEP-ALE requirements.</p> <p>Yes- 50 points          No-0 points</p>		
Total Points for State Ranking Factors	200	