



Farmland Protection Policy Act Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2022

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Black Angus graze in Monkton, Maryland, on July 13, 2021.
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Progress of Federal Agencies in Implementing Farmland Protection Policy Act

Under the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA), Federal agencies are required to evaluate the impacts of federally funded projects that may involve permanently converting prime and important farmlands to nonagricultural uses and to consider alternative actions that would lessen the effects of converting that productive agricultural land. In complying with the FPPA, Federal agencies request assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) by submitting a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form (Form AD-1006 or CPA-106). The requesting agency then conducts a Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) of the project area. NRCS provides the land evaluation information necessary for the responsible Federal agency to complete the site assessment portion of the analysis. To implement the FPPA, Federal agencies address the potential conversion of agricultural land when reviewing internal projects or providing assistance to local communities.

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. The land could be cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forestland, or other land but not developed urban land or water. Land used for a specific high-value food or fiber crop is classified as “unique farmland.” Generally, additional “farmlands of statewide importance” include those that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. In some local areas, there is concern for certain additional farmlands, even though these lands are not identified as having national or statewide importance. These farmlands are identified as being of “local importance” through ordinances adopted by local government. The NRCS State Conservationist reviews and certifies lists of farmland of State and local importance. These lists, along with State and locally established LESA systems, where applicable, are used by Federal agencies to review and evaluate activities that may impact farmland.

As defined in 7 CFR part 657, important farmland encompasses prime and unique farmland, as well as farmland of statewide and local importance. Table 1 summarizes the proportion and amount of important farmland considered for conversion as a part of Federal projects under the FPPA in fiscal years (FYs) 2008 through 2022.

Table 1. Important Farmland Evaluated under FPPA in Fiscal Years 2008 through 2022

Fiscal year	Acres of important farmland within land evaluated	Percent of important farmland within land evaluated	Number of Agencies that submitted requests
2008	87,902	71%	25
2009	58,106	67%	23
2010	54,103	38%	30
2011	99,386	49%	29
2012	36,146	33%	33
2013	245,972	60%	33
2014	106,136	67%	32
2015	44,886	48%	34
2016	32,370	77%	22
2017	42,561	63%	35
2018	31,557	50%	36
2019	47,297	67%	31
2020	43,416	54%	35
2021	97,416	63%	35
2022	48,610	39%	32

In FY 2022, NRCS received 2,397 AD-1006 or CPA-106 forms from 32 Federal departments and agencies, 13 States, and 4 Federal and State Partnership entities requesting assistance to evaluate the impact of proposed conversions of lands that would result from their projects. A total of 125,068 acres of land in 47 states and U.S. territories were proposed for conversion to nonagricultural uses. Of the acres reviewed, about 39 percent (48,610 acres) were identified as important farmland (as defined in 7 CFR part 657). Of the important farmland, 24,683 acres were prime or unique farmland, and 23,904 acres were State or locally important farmland.

Florida and South Carolina had the highest number of farmland acres proposed for conversion, with 11,397 acres and 5,090 acres, respectively (table 2). Four States reported no acres, and 15 States reported less than 100 acres (table 3).

In FY 2022, Rural Development (RD) reported the largest number of important farmland acres proposed for conversion, with 15,641 acres. This accounts for about 32 percent of all important farmland acres proposed for conversion in 2022 (table 4).

Table 2. Top Five States with Acres of Farmland Proposed for Conversion by Federal Projects

State	Acres
Florida	11,397
South Carolina	5,090
Arizona	4,548
Wisconsin	3,142
North Carolina	2,842

Table 3. Acres of Farmland Proposed by State or U.S. Territory for Conversion by Federal Projects

State	Total acres proposed	Total acres proposed/nationwide total	Acres of important farmland proposed	Acres of important farmland proposed/nationwide total of proposed important farmland
AK	30	0.0%	0	0.0%
AL	104	0.1%	89	0.2%
AR	1,261	1.0%	283	0.6%
AZ	5,645	4.5%	4,548	9.4%
CA	16,007	12.8%	484	1.0%
CB	47	0.0%	16	0.0%
CO	146	0.1%	0	0.0%
CT	12	0.0%	11	0.0%
DE	34	0.0%	28	0.1%
FL	19,761	15.8%	11,397	23.4%
GA	706	0.6%	399	0.8%
IA	2,774	2.2%	2,528	5.2%
ID	312	0.2%	189	0.4%
IL	1,581	1.3%	1,507	3.1%
IN	34,336	27.5%	7	0.0%
KS	469	0.4%	394	0.8%
KY	2,828	2.3%	954	2.0%
LA	989	0.8%	770	1.6%
MA	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
MD	46	0.0%	27	0.1%
ME	455	0.4%	94	0.2%
MI	460	0.4%	456	0.9%
MN	393	0.3%	300	0.6%
MO	1,387	1.1%	620	1.3%
MS	4,071	3.3%	2,489	5.1%
MT	225	0.2%	165	0.3%
NC	3,881	3.1%	2,842	5.8%
ND	325	0.3%	28	0.1%
NE	804	0.6%	762	1.6%
NH	170	0.1%	110	0.2%
NJ	10	0.0%	10	0.0%
NM	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
NV	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
NY	1,276	1.0%	982	2.0%
OH	108	0.1%	79	0.2%
OK	5,981	4.8%	2,293	4.7%
OR	216	0.2%	180	0.4%
PA	2,916	2.3%	1,341	2.8%
PIA	95	0.1%	86	0.2%
RI	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
SC	5,814	4.6%	5,090	10.5%

Table 3. Acres of Farmland Proposed by State or U.S. Territory for Conversion by Federal Projects, continued

State	Total acres proposed	Total acres proposed/nationwide total	Acres of important farmland proposed	Acres of important farmland proposed/nationwide total of proposed important farmland
SD	3,669	2.9%	1,450	3.0%
TN	1,004	0.8%	410	0.8%
TX	2,156	1.7%	1,742	3.6%
UT	116	0.1%	116	0.2%
VA	114	0.1%	70	0.1%
VT	46	0.0%	17	0.0%
WA	70	0.1%	54	0.1%
WI	2,158	1.7%	3,142	6.5%
WV	44	0.0%	38	0.1%
WY	14	0.0%	14	0.0%

*Massachusetts (MA), New Mexico (NM), Nevada (NV), and Rhode Island (RI) reported 0 acres of proposed important farmland and 0 total proposed acres. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest acre. Due to this, there is a slight discrepancy between the overall total and the sum of state totals for "Total acres proposed." This note also applies to the acreage totals for "Acres proposed for conversion" in table 4.

Table 4. Breakdown of Acres and AD-1006 or CPA-106 Forms Received by Federal Agencies and Other Entities in Fiscal Year 2022

Federal agency or other entities	Sub-agency or sub-entity	No. of form requests to NRCS	Acres proposed for conversion	Acres identified as important farmland	Acres of which are prime or unique	Acres of which are State or locally important
Appalachian Regional Commission	Not applicable (NA)	6	9	5	0	5
Department of Agriculture	Natural Resources Conservation Service	35	2,866	1,783	1,715	68
	Rural Development	577	22,750	15,641	9,036	6,591
	Other (unspecified)	1	28	2	0	2
Department of Commerce	Economic Development Administration	54	5,828	4,810	1,467	3,344
	Other (unspecified)	7	16	15	15	0
Department of Defense	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	65	14,714	11,159	1,084	10,075
	U.S. Army	3	0	0	0	0
	Other (unspecified)	1	0	0	0	0
Department of Education	NA	1	0	0	0	0
Department of Energy	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	4	49	49	47	2
	Other (unspecified)	7	563	397	325	72
Department of Health and Human Services	Health Resources and Services Administration	12	131	82	75	8
	Other (unspecified)	6	68	48	48	0
Department of Homeland Security	Customs and Border Protection	2	0	0	0	0
	Federal Emergency Management Agency	42	863	745	387	358
	U.S. Coast Guard	2	0	0	0	0
Department of Housing and Urban Development	Other (unspecified)	446	1,611	1,068	737	331

Table 4. Breakdown of Acres and AD-1006 or CPA-106 Forms Received by Federal Agencies and Other Entities in Fiscal Year 2022, continued

Federal agency or other entities	Sub-agency or sub-entity	No. of form requests to NRCS	Acres proposed for conversion	Acres identified as important farmland	Acres of which are prime or unique	Acres of which are State or locally important
Department of the Interior	Bureau of Indian Affairs	8	57	57	3	54
	Bureau of Reclamation	2	229	139	31	108
	Fish and Wildlife Service	2	85	65	25	40
	Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement	1	6	6	4	2
	U.S. Geologic Survey	3	7	7	7	0
Department of Justice	Bureau of Justice Assistance	1	0	0	0	0
Department of Transportation	Federal Aviation Administration	30	1,720	845	362	482
	Federal Highway Administration	489	28,304	4,742	3,141	1,602
	Federal Railroad Administration	1	140	102	0	102
	Federal Transit Administration	2	4	4	4	0
	Other (unspecified)	386	7,932	4,546	4,204	342
Department of Veterans Affairs	NA	1	0	0	0	0
Environmental Protection Agency	Clean Water State Revolving Fund	13	2,500	0	0	0
	Other (unspecified)	160	30,697	137	48	80

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Federal agency or other entities	Sub-agency or sub-entity	No. of form requests to NRCS	Acres proposed for conversion	Acres identified as important farmland	Acres of which are prime or unique	Acres of which are State or locally important
General Services Administration	NA	1	30	0	0	0
Surface Transportation Board	NA	3	292	292	292	0
Tennessee Valley Authority	NA	2	3,042	1,677	1,550	127

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