

**Florida Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Fiscal Year 2023**

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

Fiscal Year - 2023	
Landowner Name and Address	
Eligible cooperating 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 cooperating entity eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:
Does the eligible 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)	
_____ Support the policy of a State or local farm and ranch land protection program? (Y/N)	
Is the land eligible? (Y/N)	
Which land eligibility criteria is the land being enrolled under? <i>(Identify only one eligibility category)</i>	
NRCS employee confirming land eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:

**Florida Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Fiscal Year 2023**

**Florida State Ranking Factors**

State Ranking Factors (Maximum of 200 Points)	Maximum Points	Points Received
1. The parcel is in an area zoned for agricultural use based on current property appraiser records. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 points for yes</li> <li>• 0 points for no</li> </ul>	1	
2. Entity Easement Experience Eligible entity has demonstrated performance in managing and enforcing easements, and completes annual monitoring on _____(enter number) easements annually. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 points for 10 or more easements</li> <li>• 5 points for 5-9 easements</li> <li>• 0 points for less than 5 easements</li> </ul>	10	
3. State-specific factors for grasslands of special environmental significance. Use attached Appendix A -GSS Supplemental Worksheet to determine points. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0-15=0</li> <li>• 16-30=20</li> <li>• 31-45=40</li> <li>• 46-60=60</li> <li>• 61-75=75</li> </ul>	75	
4. T & E Species and Species of Concern Parcel has known populations of State or Federal T & E animal species or State species of concern, or parcel is located within Federal T & E designated Critical Habitat for a T& E species. (The Agricultural Land Easement Plan must address the T & E species, Critical Habitat, or State Species of Concern to at least maintain or improve habitat for the species.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 points if currently occupied by five (5) or more species State or Federally listed as threatened or endangered AND easement will provide high quality habitat for these species.</li> <li>• 15 points if currently occupied by two to four (2-4) species State or Federally listed as threatened or endangered AND easement will provide high quality habitat for these species.</li> <li>• 5 point if currently occupied by one (1) species State or Federally listed as threatened or endangered AND easement will provide high quality habitat for these species.</li> </ul>	25	
5. Geographic region where the enrollment of lands may help achieve National, State, and regional conservation goals and objectives, or enhance existing government or private conservation projects. Name of project or region _____ . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 points for yes</li> <li>• 0 points for no</li> </ul>	8	

**Florida Natural Resources Conservation  
Service Fiscal Year 2023**

<p>6. Parcel shows evidence of agricultural viability (access to markets and infrastructure).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 points for yes</li> <li>• 0 points for no</li> </ul>	1	
<p>7. Measures that will be used to maintain or increase agricultural viability, such as succession plans, agricultural land easement plans (not including required highly erodible (HEL) conservation plans), or entity deed terms that specifically address long-term agricultural viability. Select all that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 points for an active conservation plan written within the last five years</li> <li>• 20 points if entity will create or update agricultural land easement plan prior to closing</li> <li>• 0 points for no plan</li> </ul>	30	
<p>8. Social, cultural, economic, or scenic benefits ( select all that apply) Application Entity must supply documentation, for NRCS review, which supports the selection of one or more of the categories listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 points if agricultural products are sold for consumption in local or regional markets</li> <li>• 5 points if farm or ranch is within the watershed of a wild and scenic river</li> <li>• 0 points if none of the above</li> </ul>	10	
<p>9. Historical or Archaeological Resources (circle the one that applies with the highest value) Entity must provide documentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 points if farm or ranch includes historical or archaeological sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places or sites formally determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the State or Tribal historic preservation officer.</li> <li>• 5 points if farm or ranch includes historical or archaeological sites in the process of listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the State or Tribal historic preservation officer.</li> <li>• 5 points if farm or ranch includes other significant historical or archaeological resources, e.g. Indian mounds are present on the property.</li> <li>• 0 points if none of the above, or insufficient information in the application.</li> </ul>	10	
<p>10. Are landowners a historically underserved group, limited resource landowner, new or beginning farmer or rancher or veteran landowner? USDA-NRCS Definitions and policy are to be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 points for Yes</li> <li>• 0 points for No</li> </ul>	30	
<p><b>Total Points for State Ranking Factors</b></p>	<b>200</b>	

**Florida Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Fiscal Year 2023**

<b>National Ranking Criteria (Must be 200 points Maximum)</b>		
<b>National Ranking Factors and Scaling</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Points</b>
<p>11. Percent of prime, unique, and important soils in the parcel to be protected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 points for greater than 80 percent</li> <li>• 15 points for greater than 70 percent and less than or equal to 80 percent</li> <li>• 10 points for greater than 60 percent and less than or equal to 70 percent</li> <li>• 5 points for greater than 50 percent and less than or equal to 60 percent</li> <li>• 0 points for 50 percent or less</li> </ul>	20	
<p>12. Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the parcel to be protected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 points for greater than 90 percent</li> <li>• 10 points for greater than 40 percent and less than or equal to 90 percent</li> <li>• 5 points for greater than 33 percent and less than or equal to 40 percent</li> <li>• 0 points for 33 percent or less</li> </ul>	20	
<p>13. 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 (USDA -NASS - Census of Agriculture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 points for ratios of greater than 2.0</li> <li>• 7 points for ratios of greater than 1.0 and less than or equal to 2.0</li> <li>• 0 points for a ratio of 1 or less</li> </ul>	15	
<p>14. 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>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 points for decreases of more than 15 percent</li> <li>• 10 points for decreases of greater than 10 and less than or equal to 15 percent</li> <li>• 5 points for decrease of greater than 5 and less than or equal to 10 percent</li> <li>• 1 point for decreases of greater than 0 and less than or equal to 5 percent</li> <li>• 0 points for decrease of 0 percent or less</li> </ul>	15	
<p>15. Decrease in the percentage of acreage of permanent grassland, pasture, and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pasture, 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>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 points for decreases of more than 15 percent</li> <li>• 10 points for decreases of greater than 10 and less than or equal to 15 percent</li> <li>• 5 points for decrease of greater than 5 and less than or equal to 10 percent</li> <li>• 3 points for decreases of greater than 0 and less than or equal to 5 percent</li> <li>• 0 points for decrease of 0 percent or less</li> </ul>	15	

**Florida Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Fiscal Year 2023**

<p>16. Percent population growth in the county as documented by the U.S. Census. (<a href="#">Census Bureau Home Page</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 points for growth rate of more than three times the State growth rate</li> <li>• 7 points for growth rate of two and less than or equal to three times the State growth rate</li> <li>• 4 points for growth rate of greater than one and less than or equal to two times the State growth rate</li> <li>• 0 points for growth rate of less than one times the State growth rate</li> </ul>	15	
<p>17. Population density (population per square mile) as documented by the most recent U.S. Census. (Census Bureau Home Page)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 points for population density of greater than 3 times the State population density</li> <li>• 7 points for population density of greater than two and less than or equal to three times the State population density</li> <li>• 4 points for population density of greater than one and less than or equal to two times the State population density</li> <li>• 0 points for population density less than one times the State population density</li> </ul>	15	
<p>18. Existence of a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 points for plan documented and performed by industry professional</li> <li>• 0 points for no plan</li> </ul>	5	
<p>19. Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, such as compatible military installations; land owned in fee title by the United States or an Indian Tribe, State or local government, or by a nongovernmental organization whose purpose is to protect agricultural use and related conservation values; or land that is already subject to an easement or deed restriction that limits the conversion of the land to nonagricultural use or protects grazing uses and related conservation values. Name of protected land_____.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 points if EOA boundary adjoins protected land boundary</li> <li>• 7 points EOA is within 1 mile of protected land boundary</li> <li>• 4 points if EOA is greater than 1 mile but less than 3 miles from protected land</li> <li>• 0 points easement offer area (EOA) boundary greater than 3 miles from the protected land boundary</li> </ul>	15	
<p>20. Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 points if EOA boundary adjoins</li> <li>• 7 points if EOA is within 1 mile in proximity</li> <li>• 4 points if EOA is greater than or equal to 1 mile but less than 3 miles in proximity</li> <li>• 0 points if easement offer area (EOA) boundary is greater than 3 miles in proximity</li> </ul>	15	

**Florida Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Fiscal Year 2023**

<p>21. Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous or proximal acres devoted to agricultural use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 points if the parcel links two noncontiguous corridors of protected agricultural use</li> <li>• 6 points if parcel is a contiguous or proximal expansion of agricultural use protected area</li> <li>• 0 points if parcel does not increase a protected agricultural use area</li> </ul>	15	
<p>22. The parcel is currently enrolled in CRP in a contract that is set to expire within a year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 points if Yes</li> <li>• 0 points if No</li> </ul>	5	
<p>23. The parcel contains grasslands of special environmental significance that will benefit from protection under the long-term easement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 points if score from GSS Worksheet is 40 or above</li> <li>• 0 points for if score from GSS Worksheet is below 40</li> </ul>	25	
<p>24. Percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement that is the eligible entity's own cash resources for payment of easement compensation to the landowner and comes from sources other than the landowner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 points for <math>\geq 50\%</math></li> <li>• 0 points for <math>&lt; 50\%</math></li> </ul>	5	
<p><b>Total Points for National Ranking Factors</b></p>	<b>200</b>	
<p><b>Total Score (State+National Factors)</b></p>	<b>400</b>	

**Agricultural Land Easement – Grassland of Special Environmental Significance (ACEP- ALE-GSS) Supplemental Ranking Worksheet – FY 2023**

<b>Ranking Factors and Items</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>A) Priority for Conservation– Plant Community (weighted average if multiple apply, by percent)</b>		
1) Sandhills, Dry Prairie, Wet Prairie, Scrub, Cutthroat Sloop	20	
2) Scrubby Flatwoods, High Pine, Marl Prairie	10	
3) Freshwater Marshes, Wet Flatwoods, Mesic Flatwoods	5	
4) For all other Plant Communities (e.g., improved pasture, pine stands without native understory, crop)	0	
<b>B) Biodiversity – based on historic aerial photography, landowner accounts, soil interpretation, FSA</b>		
1) No crop history on 100 % of application area and has a mixed stand of native herbaceous understory	25	
2) No crop history on 75 - 99 % of application area and has a mixed stand of native herbaceous understory	20	
3) No crop history on 50 - 74 % of application area and has a mixed stand of native herbaceous understory	15	
4) No crop history on 25 - 49 % of application area and has a mixed stand of native herbaceous understory	10	
5) No crop history on 10-24 % of application area and has a mixed stand of native herbaceous understory	5	
<b>C) Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Category I invasive plant cover observed</b>		
1) 0-2% by ocular estimate	15	
2) >2-10% by ocular estimate	5	
3) >10% by ocular estimate	0	
<b>D) Preservation of Imperiled Plants</b>		
1) Offer contains one or more federally-listed plant populations that will be viable with scheduled management and landowner objectives. Determination based on the size of population and planned conservation practices for the specific location.	10	
2) Offer contains one or more state-listed plant populations that will be viable with scheduled management and landowner objectives. Determination based on size of population and planned conservation practices for the specific location.	5	
<b>F) Enter Points in to ACEP-ALE Worksheet for GSS.</b>	Total Possible Points 75	