

Attachment B: FY 2026 ACEP Implementation Timelines
Entering into New Agreements and Obligations and Target Dates for Prior-Year Agreements

Vermont State-specific timeline for new enrollments and obligations

ACEP FY 2026 Enrollment and Acquisition Actions	Target Date	Notes
ACEP: Guidance and allocations for FY 2026 ACEP implementation provided to States and NRCS partners.	December 2025	Vermont will complete FY 2026 CART ranking pools and post ranking criteria and signup deadlines.
ACEP Signup Deadline - ACEP-ALE - ACEP-ALE Program Agreements - ACEP-WRE	1/15/2026	Complete applications submitted by this date will be considered for FY26 ACEP funding. Applications submitted after this date may be considered subject to the availability of funds.
ACEP-WRE Ranking deadline	1/19/2026	- NRCS to complete eligibility determinations and assessment and ranking in CART. Eligible applications received by the application cutoff date must be ranked and prioritized using the most current State ranking criteria.
ACEP-ALE: FSA Eligibility Deadline: FSA determinations do not need to be completed by this date, but ALE landowners must <i>submit</i> all payment eligibility requirements or have an appointment scheduled with FSA to do so.	1/30/2026	For FY26 new enrollments, landowners that have not submitted FSA paperwork or made an appointment with FSA by this date will be deferred to the next available ranking pool. <i>FSA Required Forms:</i> - New Client Information (AD-2047) - Adjusted Gross Income (CCC-941) - HEL/Wetlands Self-Certification (AD-1026) - Farm Operating Information (CCC-902) - Conservation Compliance (Farm and Tract of easement in associated with client in FSA records)
ACEP-ALE Ranking deadline	2/15/2026	- NRCS to complete eligibility determinations and assessment and ranking in CART. Eligible applications received by the application cutoff date must be ranked and prioritized using the most current State ranking criteria.
ACEP-ALE: Deadline to submit parcel contract substitute modification requests	2/27/2026	Requests to substitute a parcel, including application and all supporting materials, must be submitted by this date for completion in FY26. Landowners must have records with FSA or an appointment with FSA <i>prior to submitting</i> application.
ACEP-WRE: Funds reservations ACEP-ALE: Approve applications	3/30/2026	- Reserve funds for selected ACEP-WRE applications - Complete the necessary steps to set ACEP-ALE applications to Approved status in ProTracts and notify entity of approved applications.

ACEP-ALE: Parcel contract expiration date	3/31/2026	- Parcel contracts executed in FY2023 expire unless extended before this deadline. - Parcel contracts executed in FY2022 with 1 extension may be extended for an additional 12 months. - Parcel contracts executed in 2021 with 2 extensions must be closed with all post-close items submitted by this date.
ACEP: Deadline to request additional funds for consideration in 2 nd Funds Assessment.	4/1/2026	- ALE entities may request supplemental funds for additional projects, cost overrun (i.e., increases to federal share) of existing parcel contracts or substitute parcels.
ACEP-WRE: Finalize the preliminary WRPOs and cost estimates in CD	4/15/2026	Sufficient documentation, including conservation plan map, preliminary WRPO, and schedule of operations, must be submitted to the State Office for internal controls reviews.
ACEP: Complete all state-level internal controls (IC) reviews for initial application batching period.	4/30/2026	Deadline to complete state-level IC reviews and submit to Easement Programs Division for national-level pre-obligation review
ACEP: Final deadline to submit requests for additional funding in FY 2026.	6/1/2026	Funds may be requested for cost overrun or for any FY26 applications that are prepared to have all contracts/agreements fully executed by all required parties, and funds obligated prior to the fiscal year end deadlines.
ACEP-ALE: NRCS to send individual ACEP-ALE parcel cost-share contracts to the eligible entity to obtain required signatures.	6/9/2026	NRCS will issue enrollment offers only after completion of all required eligibility determinations and preliminary due diligence reviews and upon conclusion of required internal controls reviews.
ACEP-WRE: States issue WRE offers of enrollment (agreements) to landowners with eligible applications selected for funding.	6/16/2026	NRCS will issue enrollment offers only after completion of all required eligibility determinations and preliminary due diligence reviews and upon conclusion of required IC reviews.
ACEP-ALE: Deadline to submit parcel contract modification requests to add funds or change landowner	6/23/2026	Changes to landowners on a parcel contract and additional funds submitted after this date are unlikely to be approved in FY26.
ACEP: Easements must not be closed during this period.	9/23/2026	Easements must not be closed during this blackout period for closing to minimize negative impacts of unreconciled late-September closings and payments on the NRCS financial statement.