



United States Department of Agriculture

**FARMLAND PROTECTION
POLICY ACT
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR
FY-2018**

March 2019

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This report consists of two components:

- I. Progress of federal agencies in implementing Farmland Protection Policy Act;*
 - II. Review and revision of Federal policies and procedures affecting farmland conversion*
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I. 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 adverse effects of the land's conversion. 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 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 urban built-up 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 FPPA in fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

Table 1.—Important Farmland Evaluated under FPPA 2008–2018

Fiscal Year	Important Farmland (within land evaluated)	Percent Important Farmland (of total land evaluated)	Agencies Submitting Requests
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>% Total Acres</i>	<i>No. of Agencies</i>
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

In fiscal year 2018, NRCS received 2,694 AD-1006 or CPA-106 forms from 36 Federal agencies and 7 State or Public-Private Partnership entities requesting assistance to evaluate the impact of proposed conversions of lands that would result from their projects. A total of 167,008 acres of land from 43 States were proposed for conversion to nonagricultural uses. However of that 167,008 acres, one study of Beaver Lake and Bull Shoals Lake from the US Army Corps of Engineers encompassed 104,974 acres and did not propose conversion of agricultural land. As such, the total amount of proposed converted acreage used in this report is the difference – 63,231 acres – except in the report of the agency summary where the acreage is reported in full. Of the acres reviewed, 50% (31,557 acres) were identified as important farmland (as defined in 7 CFR part 657). Of these important farmlands, 20,257 acres were prime farmland or unique farmland and 11,300 acres were State or locally important farmland.

Arkansas (AR) and Oklahoma (OK) had the highest number of farmland acres proposed for conversion, with 23,116 acres and 4,678 acres, respectively. Seven states reported no acres, and ten states reported less than 100 acres (Tables 2 and 3).

In FY 2018, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reported the largest amount of important farmland proposed for conversion at 8,671 acres. This accounts for about 27 percent of all proposed important farmland conversion (Table 4).

Table 2.—Top 5 States with Acres of Farmland Proposed for Conversion by Federal Projects

State	Acres
Arkansas	23,116
Oklahoma	4,678
North Carolina	3,943
Wyoming	3,693
Texas	3,380

Table 3.—Acres of Farmland Proposed by State for Conversion Due to Federal Projects

<i>State</i>	<i>Total acres proposed</i>	<i>Total acres proposed as a percentage of total acres proposed nationwide</i>	<i>Acres of important farmland proposed</i>	<i>Acres of important farmland proposed as a percentage of acres of important farmland proposed nationwide</i>
AK	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
AL	641	0.39%	318	1.01%
AR	23,116	76.70%	9,434	29.90%
AZ	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
CA	1,211	0.00%	160	0.00%
CO	60	0.04%	0	0.00%
CT	1	0.00%	0	0.00%
DE	113	0.07%	0	0.00%
FL	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
GA	2,269	1.36%	1,139	3.61%
HI	11	0.01%	8	0.02%
IA	1,568	0.94%	1,445	4.58%
ID	177	0.11%	175	0.55%
IL	624	0.37%	521	1.65%
IN	1,418	0.85%	1,306	4.14%
KS	421	0.25%	419	1.33%
KY	2,298	1.38%	1,386	4.39%
LA	1,162	0.70%	470	1.49%
MA	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
MD	137	0.08%	134	0.43%
ME	35	0.02%	34	0.11%
MI	51	0.03%	51	0.16%
MN	1,289	0.77%	938	2.97%
MO	1,635	0.98%	419	1.33%
MS	547	0.33%	152	0.48%
MT	453	0.27%	174	0.55%
NC	3,943	2.36%	3,278	10.39%
ND	261	0.16%	225	0.71%
NE	125	0.07%	47	0.15%
NH	351	0.21%	23	0.07%
NJ	213	0.13%	189	0.60%
NM	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
NV	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
NY	142	0.08%	133	0.42%
OH	1,212	0.73%	821	2.60%
OK	4,678	2.80%	2,684	8.51%
OR	266	0.16%	207	0.66%
PA	461	0.28%	223	0.71%
PR	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

**Table 3.—Acres of Farmland Proposed by State for Conversion Due to Federal Projects
(continued)**

<i>State</i>	<i>Total acres proposed</i>	<i>Total acres proposed as a percentage of total acres proposed nationwide</i>	<i>Acres of important farmland proposed</i>	<i>Acres of important farmland proposed as a percentage of acres of important farmland proposed nationwide</i>
RI	64	0.04%	1	0.00%
SC	1,374	0.82%	513	1.63%
SD	765	0.46%	642	2.03%
TN	676	0.40%	431	1.37%
TX	3,380	2.02%	1,836	5.82%
UT	8	0.00%	0	0.00%
VA	1,313	0.79%	317	1.01%
VT	47	0.03%	43	0.14%
WA	79	0.05%	13	0.04%
WI	908	0.54%	1,381	4.37%
WV	38	0.02%	28	0.09%
WY	3,693	2.21%	0	0.00%
Totals	67,090	100.0%	42,561	100.00%

Table 4.—Breakdown of Acres and AD-1006/CPA-106 Forms Received by Federal Agencies in FY 2018

Federal Agency	No. of form requests to NRCS	No. of acres proposed for conversion	No. of acres identified as important farmland	Of which:	
				Prime or unique	State or locally important
Appalachian Regional Commission	2	122	0	0	0
Department of Agriculture					
• Natural Resources Conservation Service	115	4,006	2,619	2,194	425
• Rural Development	480	6,601.5	4,930	3,183	1,748
• Rural Utilities Service	316	9,926	1,456	486	971
• US Forest Service	1	19	15	15	0
• Other (Unspecified)	1	9	9	9	0
Department of Commerce					
• Economic Development Administration	10	273	261	223	38
Department of Defense					
• U.S. Air Force	2	0	0	0	0
• U.S. Department of Army	1	0	0	0	0
• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	45	106,224*	6,974	2,195	4,780
• Other (Unspecified)	2	0	0	0	0
Department of Energy					
	12	7	2	2	0
Department of Health and Human Services					
• Health Resources and Services Administration	2	6	5	4	1
Department of Homeland Security					
• Federal Emergency Management Agency	85	96	67	59	8
• U.S. Coast Guard	1	0	0	0	0
• U.S. Customs and Border Protection	1	0	0	0	0
• Other (Unspecified)	1	0	0	0	0
Department of Housing and Urban Development					
	630	1,716	1,118	900	217
Department of Interior					
• Bureau of Indian Affairs	17	593	548	529	19
• Bureau of Land Management	1	0	0	0	0
• Bureau of Reclamation	2	11	0	0	0
• National Park Service	2	8	7	7	0
• Office of Surface Mining	3	31	21	0	21
• Others (unspecified agencies)	1	0	0	0	0
Department of Transportation					
• Federal Aviation Administration	39	3,117	1,693	647	1,046
• Federal Highway Administration	610	26,803	8671	7494	1177
• Federal Railroad Administration	1	114	101	101	0
• Federal Transit Administration	2	1	1	0	1
• Others (unspecified agencies)	57	1,237	1,080	669	411
Department of Veterans Affairs					
	11	177	138	43	95
Environmental Protection Agency					
	193	5,862	1,000	617	383
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission					
	1	0	0	0	0
Federal Housing Administration					
	2	75	10	10	0
Surface Transportation Board					
	1	0	0	0	0
Tennessee Valley Authority					
	1	385	263	263	0
Western Area Power Administration					
	1	14	14	0	14
Other (7 State & Other Entities)					
	24	931	735	702	33
TOTAL	2,652	167,006	31,553	20,252	11,301

II. Review and Revision of Federal Policies and Procedures Affecting Farmland Conversion

Based on ongoing reviews, there were no revisions of Federal policies and procedures affecting farmland conversion. To simplify completion of required forms for projects that impact important farmland, NRCS developed and released PDF (portable document format) versions of two important forms: Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (Form AD-1006) and Farmland Conversion Impact Rating for Corridor Type Project (Form NRCS-CPA-106). These fillable forms are updated regularly and can be downloaded from the FPPA section of the NRCS Web site:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/fppa/>.