



United States Department of Agriculture



NRCS
Farm Bill Training

Easement Programs Division

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Agricultural Land Easements

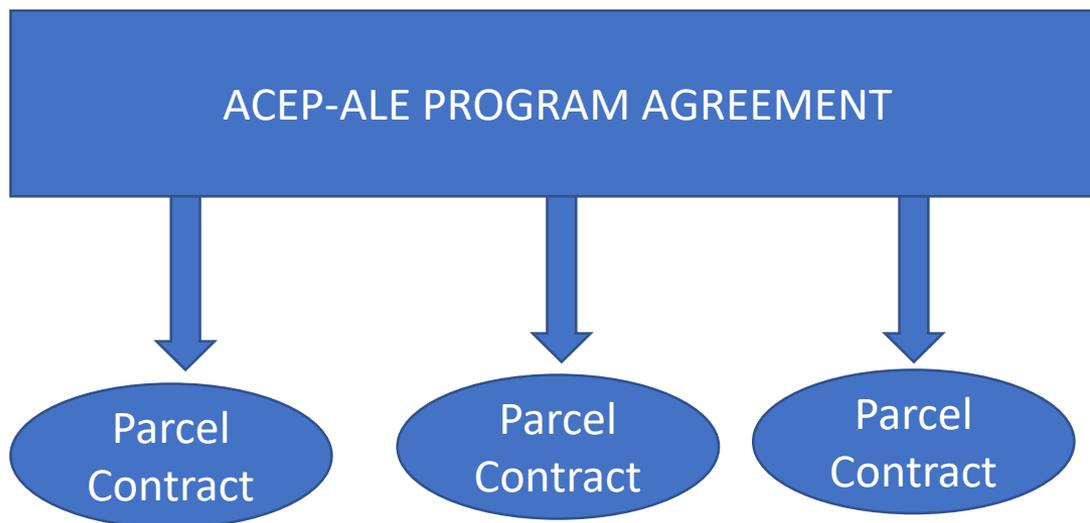
FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
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Why ALE Program Agreements?

- **Introduced as an alternative to using the Cooperative and Grant agreement process**
 - Reduce review time and duplicate information
 - Increase transparency in process for partners
- **Streamlining the program implementation**
 - Program authority allows options
 - Cooperative Agreement was original option chosen
 - Process was identified as delay in implementation
- **Consistency across all programs**
 - ACEP-WRE uses program specific agreements
 - EQIP and CSP deliver cost-share using program agreements

Program Agreement Concept

- Umbrella Agreement with cost share contracts
- **PROGRAM AGREEMENT** with a Parcel Contract
 - Reduce review time and duplicate information
 - Increase transparency in process for partners



ACEP-ALE Program Agreement

- **One-time agreement, good for 3 to 5 years, no annual amendments**
 - One Entity Application from an Eligible Entity
- **Primary purpose of agreement is to identify parties, establish roles and responsibilities**
 - Eligible Entity and all potential co-holders and 3rd party right holders
- **Agreements contain standard language, with the option to attach additional details**
 - Single Program Agreement for Certified and Non-certified Entities
 - Add specificity on processes, interactions, or how certain events may be handled

ACEP-ALE Program Agreement

- **Funds and parcels identified in the individual ACEP-ALE Cost-Share Contracts – not in the agreement**
 - Simplifies agreement approval process
 - Minimizes the events requiring an amendment to the agreement
- **Parcels can be selected and funded at any time over life of agreement**
 - Fund availability only required at time of individual parcel contract, not at time of agreement

Example Program Agreement and Parcel Contract Relationship

Entity Application:
January 2019

Agreement Executed:
March 2019
Expires 9/30/2024

Agreement Exhibit A:

- Entity A
- Co-holders 1, 2, 3
- 3rd Party Right holders 1, 2, 3, 4

<p><u>Parcel 1 (FY 2019)</u> Application Submitted: Jan. 2019 Contract Executed: March 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entity A • Co-holder 1 and 2
<p><u>Parcel 2 (FY 2019)</u> Application Submitted: May 2019 Contract Executed: August 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entity A • Co-holder 3 • 3rd Party Holder 2
<p><u>Parcel 3 (FY 2020)</u> Application Submitted: Oct. 2019 Contract Executed: Jan. 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entity A • Co-Holder 1 and 3 • 3rd Party Holder 1
<p><u>Parcel 4 (FY 2021)</u> Application Submitted: June 2020 Contract Executed: Dec. 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entity A • 3rd Party Holder 4

Program Agreement Pilot

- **EPD Developed a new manner for ALE Agreements**
 - Overall need to improve ALE Agreement Process
- **FY 2019 Piloted concept for ALE Agreements**
 - Vermont
 - Connecticut
 - Delaware
 - Montana
- **Obligated using a streamlined approach**
 - Five Program Agreements
 - 39 Parcels obligated
 - Almost \$15M in NRCS funds in agreements

Program Agreements Systems

- **System Integration being developed**
 - Overall need to improve ALE Agreement Process
- **ProTracts**
 - FY 2020 Functionality
 - Enter Program Agreement Applications
 - Enter Parcel Contract Applications

ProTracts ACEP-ALE Functionality

- **Access to ACEP-ALE as program option based on zRoles**
- **zROLES will be assigned to Easement Programs Staff**

- **Implementation in FY2020 for entering applications**
 - **Enter Program Agreement Applications**
 - **Enter Parcel Contract Applications**

- **FUTURE PROTRACTS Functionality**
 - **Agreements and parcel contract generation**
 - **Modifications**
 - **Integration with CART/CD for agreement development**

ProTracts SCREENS FOR ACEP-ALE

- Next slides go through the ProTracts screens for entering ACEP-ALE applications
- Development is still occurring so these are in process screen shots
- FINAL ProTracts interface may be different
- Once fully functional training will be provided



Program Agreement Application



ACEP 2018 Application

Application | Applicant Info | Ranking | Delete Application | Print | Save

Program: ACEP 2018

Application Number: 54410120002

Add Entity Participants

Program Component: ACEP-ALE

Entity Decision Maker: BETTY D BROOKS

Application FY: 2020

Application Status: Pending

Entity	Role	Certification Status	Certified Date
BETTY D BROOKS	None	Not Certified	

Application Date: 10/24/2019

Application Type: Program Agreement

Application Status Date: 10/24/2019

Add Parcel Contract

Signup Number:

Lead State: AL

Fund Reserved:

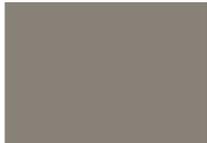
Servicing Office: ALABAMA STATE OFFICE 100179

Planner: TRAVIS YOST

FA Spending Plan:

Associated Parcel Contract Applications:

Parcel Contract Application #	Parcel Landowner	Entity DM	Application Status	Application Estimated Cost
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Program Agreement Entity

Program Agreement Entity Participant Information - ACEP 2018 - Internet Explorer

Add Participant

Delete Participant

View Eligibility

Update Eligibility

Vendor Info

Save

Cancel

Apply

Entity Name: BETTY D BROOKS

Business Entity Type: Individual

Address: 4823 STONEWOOD CT.
PIEDMONT
AL 36272

Telephone: (256) 834-5300

Email: none

Contact Person: Jim Brooks

Contact Person Phone: 123
(123-123-1234)

Charter:

Maximum of 500 characters

Comments:

Maximum of 500 characters

Certification Status: Not Certified

Certification Date:
(MM/DD/YYYY)

- Roles:
- Eligible Entity - Independent
 - Eligible Entity - Dependent
 - Co-holder
 - Third Party

Eligibility: Eligible

[Eligibility Questions](#)

Duns Number: [Search](#)

SAH Cage Code:

SAH Expiration Date:

Decision Maker: Yes No

Signature Acceptable for Modifications

Signature Required for Payments

Date Program Agreement Signed:
(MM/DD/YYYY)

Date Appendix Signed:
(MM/DD/YYYY)

Parcel Contract Application

The screenshot shows the ProTracts web application interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following menu items: Tools, Applications, Contracts, Rates, Forms, Funds, Reports, Contact Us, Help, Log Off. A session timer indicates "Session ends in 30 minutes if not active." Below the navigation bar, a yellow status bar displays "Machine: ARCCOFT35000135 User: 036542 # Active Sessions: 1". The main content area is titled "ACEP 2018 Application" and includes a sub-menu with "Application", "Applicant Info", "Ranking", "Delete Application", "Print", and "Save".

The application form contains the following fields and values:

- Program:** ACEP 2018
- Program Component:** ACEP-ALE (dropdown menu)
- Application Type:** Parcel Contract
- Location:** Location (highlighted in green) Calloway Creek
- Associated Program Agreement:** 544101195KS
- Application FY:** 2020 (dropdown menu)
- Signup Date:** 10/8/2019
- Signup Number:** (empty text field)
- County Service Center:** ALABAMA STATE OFFICE 100179 (dropdown menu)
- Planner:** BARBARA PURSLEY

A prominent green button labeled "Select Entity Participants from Program Agmt." is highlighted with a red rectangular border.



Parcel Contract Application

Application | Applicant Info | Ranking | Delete Application | Print | Save

Program: ACEP 2018
 Program Component: ACEP-ALE
 Associated Program Agreement: 444101195KP
 Application FY: 2020
 Application Date: 10/24/2019
 Application Type: Parcel Contract
 Enrollment Type:

Application Number: 44410120010
 Application Status: Pending
 Application Status Date: 10/24/2019

Select Entity Participants From Program Agreement

Entity	Role	Certification Status	Certified Date
AARON SMITH	None	Not Certified	

Add 3rd Party Holder Entity Participants

Add Landowner LandOwner(s):

Location: 32°47'6"N -86°15'45"W Lower Weoka Creek

Duration:
 Land Ownership:
 Predominant Crop Type:
 Predominant Livestock Type:
 Conservation Deed:

Signup Number:
 Application Priority: None
 County Servicing Office: ALABAMA STATE OFFICE 100179
 Planner: BARBARA PURSLEY

Parcel Contains highly Erodeable Cropland: Yes No
 Offered Acres:
 Eligible Acres:
 LO Donated acres:
 FA Spending Plan:
 Account Type:

ERS Accepted: Yes No
 Valuation Approved: Yes No
 Cost List:

AGI Eligible Landowners: 0.0000%
 AGI Eligible Cost: \$0.00
 Expiration Date:

Enter Estimated Cost

Application Cost: Form NRCS-CPA-1155 is technically adequate: Yes No

Land Eligibility: Not Eligible **Evaluate Land Eligibility**

Fund Reserved: Fund Reserved Date:

Program: ACEP 2018

Application Number: 54410120010

Select Entity From Program

Program Component: ACEP-ALE

Application Status: Pending

Entity
AARON SMITH

Associated Program Agreement: 544101195KP

Application Status Date: 10/24/2019

Add 3rd Par

Application FY: 2020

Application Date: 10/24/2019

Legal Description

Add Landowner

Application Type: Parcel Contract

Location: 32°47'6"N -86°15'45"W Lower Weoka Creek

Enrollment Type: Select an Enrollment Type

Duration: Select a Duration

Land Ownership: Select a Land Ownership

Signup Number:

Parcel Contains highly Erodible Cropland: Yes No

Application Priority: None

Offered Acres:

County Servicing Office: ALABAMA STATE OFFICE 100179

Eligible Acres: 0

Planner: BARBARA PURSLEY

LO Donated acres: 0

Ranking Score:

FA Spending Plan:

Is this parcel a substitute: Yes No

Account Type:

Land Enrolled in Other Programs: Yes No

AGI Eligible Landowners: 0.0000%

Expiration Date:

AGI Eligible Cost: \$0.00

Land Eligibility Category: Select a Land Eligibility Category

Enter Estimated Cost

Land Eligibility: Not Eligible

Evaluate Land Eligibility

Application Cost:

Form NRCS-CPA-1155 is technically adequate Yes No

Fund Reserved:

Fund Reserved Date:

Select Entity Participants From Program Agreement

Entity	Role	Certification Status	Certified Date
AARON SMITH	None	Not Certified	

Add 3rd Party Holder Entity Participants

Add Landowner LandOwner(s):

er Weoka Creek

Predominant Crop Type:

Predominant Livestock Type:

Conservation Deed:

ERS Accepted: Yes No

Valuation Approved: Yes No

Cost List:

Expiration Date:

Form NRCS-CPA-1155 is technically adequate Yes No

ACEP-ALE in ProTracts

- **Current Development is on-going**
- **Parcel Contract applications will be completed in January**
- **Contract development will be available in March**
- **FY2020 will allow Program Agreement and Parcel Contract completion using ProTracts**
- **Development will then proceed to contract and agreement management**

FY2020 Program Agreements ACEP-ALE Applications

- **ACEP REGULATION and ACEP MANUAL will have Program Agreement updates**
- **Applicable States for Program Agreements will receive separate guidance**
- **Examples of Program Agreement and Parcel Contract will be given to applicants**

- **Leadership is still determining the scope of the applicable States**
 - **Dependent on availability of ProTracts functionality**
 - **Continuing with Pilot States at least**

ACEP-ALE PA Applications

- **Entities will apply using the ACEP-ALE application documents**
 - CPA-41 and CPA-41A and supporting eligibility documents
 - Partners will not see a difference in application needs
 - Except for GAD required forms that won't be needed
- **ProTracts entry will be at the State or field office level**
 - States approved for using Program Agreements for ACEP-ALE will receive separate guidance
- **Applications will mirror the items on CPA-41 and CPA-41 for ProTracts entry information**
 - Documents for Land Eligibility and entity eligibility will be required at application
- **ProTracts business rules will allow for entity, land and landowner eligibility**
 - SCIMS entry needed for entity and landowners



QUESTIONS

