



United States Department of Agriculture

**FARMLAND PROTECTION  
POLICY ACT  
ANNUAL REPORT  
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Progress of Federal Agencies in Implementing Farmland Protection Policy Act</b> .....	1
Table 1. Important Farmland Evaluated under FPPA in 2008-2019 .....	2
Table 2. Top 5 States with Acres of Farmland Proposed for Conversion by Federal Projects.....	2
Table 3. Acres of Farmland Proposed by State or U.S. Territory for Conversion by Federal Projects.....	3
Table 4. Breakdown of Acres and AD-1006/CPA-106 Forms Received by Federal Agencies and Other Entities in FY 2019 .....	5



Sunrise and morning harvest at Apex Farm apple orchards in Shelburne, Massachusetts, on October 16, 2019. USDA photo by Lance Cheung. Public domain source: <https://secure.flickr.com/photos/usdagov/49445751262/>

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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 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 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 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 the FPPA in fiscal years 2008 through 2019.

**Table 1.—Important Farmland Evaluated under FPPA in 2008-2019**

<b>Fiscal year</b>	<b>Important farmland (within land evaluated)</b>	<b>Percent important farmland (of total land evaluated)</b>	<b>Agencies submitting requests</b>
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent 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
2019	47,297	67%	31

In FY 2019, NRCS received 2,494 AD-1006 or CPA-106 forms from 23 Federal agencies, 8 State or Public-Private Partnership entities, and 8 unspecified agencies or offices requesting assistance to evaluate the impact of proposed conversions of lands that would result from their projects. For consistent counting, 31 agencies or other entities are recorded as submitting requests because the unspecified agencies or offices have not been verified. A total of 70,219 acres of land in 47 states and U.S. territories were proposed for conversion to nonagricultural uses. Of the acres reviewed, about 67 percent (47,297 acres) were identified as important farmland (as defined in 7 CFR part 657). Of the important farmland, 36,349 acres were prime or unique farmland and 10,948 acres were State or locally important farmland.

Texas and North Dakota had the highest number of farmland acres proposed for conversion, with 13,751 acres and 10,816 acres, respectively (Table 2). No report was received from Washington State. Five states and territories reported no acres, and twelve states reported less than 100 acres (Table 3).

In FY 2019, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reported the largest number of important farmland acres proposed for conversion, with 18,802 acres. This accounts for about 40 percent of all important farmland acres proposed for conversion in 2019 (Table 4).

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

<b>State</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Texas	13,751
North Dakota	10,816
Kansas	5,657
Louisiana	4,868
Oklahoma	3,992

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

<b>State</b>	<b>Total acres proposed</b>	<b>Total acres proposed as a percentage of total acres proposed nationwide</b>	<b>Acres of important farmland proposed</b>	<b>Acres of important farmland proposed as a percentage of acres of important farmland proposed nationwide</b>
AK	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
AL	2,739	3.9%	1,573	3.3%
AR	2,052	2.9%	652	1.4%
AZ	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
CA	1,842	2.6%	1,549	3.3%
CB	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CO	668	1.0%	612	1.3%
CT	10	0.0%	0	0.0%
DE	124	0.2%	0	0.0%
FL	1,236	1.8%	692	1.5%
GA	1,091	1.6%	525	1.1%
HI	1,159	1.7%	1,005	2.1%
IA	110	0.2%	86	0.2%
ID	376	0.5%	368	0.8%
IL	1,033	1.5%	660	1.4%
IN	5,657	8.1%	5,657	12.0%
KS	3,164	4.5%	1,520	3.2%
KY	4,868	6.9%	3,997	8.5%
LA	15	0.0%	15	0.0%
MA	39	0.1%	0	0.0%
MD	7	0.0%	6	0.0%
ME	411	0.6%	373	0.8%
MI	620	0.9%	262	0.6%
MN	788	1.1%	290	0.6%
MO	1,946	2.8%	381	0.8%
MS	61	0.1%	48	0.1%
MT	1,236	1.8%	692	1.5%
NC	1,561	2.2%	1,326	2.8%
ND	10,816	15.4%	8,703	18.4%
NE	352	0.5%	64	0.1%
NH	5	0.0%	5	0.0%
NJ	1,418	2.0%	880	1.9%
NM	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
NV	15	0.0%	15	0.0%
NY	129	0.2%	125	0.3%
OH	104	0.1%	104	0.2%
OK	3,992	5.7%	2,506	5.3%
OR	303	0.4%	293	0.6%
PA	1,465	2.1%	1,203	2.5%
PIA	5	0.0%	3	0.0%

**Table 3.—Acres of Farmland Proposed by State or U.S. Territory for Conversion by 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	30	0.0%	12	0.0%
SC	592	0.8%	480	1.0%
SD	940	1.3%	713	1.5%
TN	986	1.4%	749	1.6%
TX	13,751	19.6%	7,481	15.8%
UT	60	0.1%	50	0.1%
VA	2,682	3.8%	1,938	4.1%
VT	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
WA*	NA	NA	NA	NA
WI	9	0.0%	6	0.0%
WV	987	1.4%	374	0.8%
WY	7	0.0%	2	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,219</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>47,297</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\* No report received.

**Table 4.—Breakdown of Acres and AD-1006/CPA-106 Forms Received by Federal Agencies and Other Entities in FY 2019**

Federal agency and other entities	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
<b>Appalachian Regional Commission</b>	8	39	9	9	0
<b>Department of Agriculture</b>					
• Agricultural Research Service	1	0	0	0	0
• Farm Services Agency	5	9	7	7	0
• Natural Resources Conservation Service	36	554	235	235	0
• Rural Development	460	5,079	4,320	3,036	1,285
• Rural Utilities Service	150	2,749	1,216	1,015	202
• U.S. Forest Service	9	0	0	0	0
<b>Department of Commerce</b>					
• Economic Development Administration	14	64	36	36	0
• Other (unspecified)	3	7.3	6.2	6.2	0
<b>Department of Defense</b>					
• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	43	22,984	18,802	17,081	1,721
• Other (unspecified)	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Department of Energy</b>					
• Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	1	0	0	0	0
• Other (unspecified)	12	926	207	144	63
<b>Department of Health and Human Services</b>					
• Health Resources and Services Administration	1	0	0	0	0
• Indian Health Services	1	0	0	0	0
• Other (unspecified)	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Department of Homeland Security</b>					
• Federal Emergency Management Agency	47	534	385	49	337
• Other (unspecified)	4	377	253	253	0
<b>Department of Housing and Urban Development</b>					
	517	1,598	1,173	900	274
<b>Department of the Interior</b>					
• Bureau of Indian Affairs	74	300	211	140	71
• Fish and Wildlife Service	2	15	2	2	0
• National Park Service	1	7	0	0	0
• Office of Surface Mining	2	12	1	0	1
• Other (unspecified)	2	82	72	62	10
<b>Department of Justice</b>					
• Bureau of Prisons	1	77	77	77	0
• Other (unspecified)	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Department of Transportation</b>					
• Federal Aviation Administration	28	1,123	666	367	299
• Federal Highway Administration	753	25,160	14,598	9,144	5,454
• Federal Railroad Administration	4	1,165	1,037	741	296
• Federal Transit Administration	2	0	0	0	0
• Others (unspecified)	170	2,305	1,210	778	432
<b>Department of Veterans Affairs</b>					
	3	48	42	42	0
<b>Environmental Protection Agency</b>					
	104	1,142	478	264	214
<b>Other (8 State or other entities)</b>					
	31	3,899	2,263	1,972	291
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,494</b>	<b>70,219</b>	<b>47,297</b>	<b>36,349</b>	<b>10,948</b>