



**Natural Resources  
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# News Release

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## **Alabama NRCS Announces 2020 Agricultural Conservation Easements Program Wetland Reserve Easement Sign-Up**

**AUBURN, Ala., February 19, 2020**, – USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service announced the 2020 Agricultural Conservation Easements Program Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE) sign-up with an application deadline of March 23, 2020 for farmers, ranchers and private landowners to apply for financial and technical assistance.

NRCS accepts ACEP-WRE applications throughout the year but makes funding selections at specific times during the fiscal year. NRCS is encouraging Alabama producers and private landowners to submit their applications as soon as possible because funding is limited. NRCS provided over \$1 million in ACEP-WRE funding to eligible Alabama farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and private landowners in fiscal year 2019.

“NRCS works hard to help eligible farmers, ranchers and private landowners plan and carry out conservation practices that can benefit all Alabama’s residents by providing clean air and water, healthy and productive forests, and healthy soils. ACEP-WRE provides crucial funding to help producers carry out these practices on their agricultural land,” said Ben Malone, State Conservationist for Alabama.”

ACEP-WRE, a voluntary conservation program, promotes water quality through long term protection. This program is available to eligible producers and landowners and offers financial and technical assistance to protect private lands that deliver environmental benefits, such as improved water quality and reduced soil erosion. Eligible land includes cropland, pastureland and non-industrial private forestland.

**-More-**

To learn more about financial and technical assistance available to help Alabama farmers and other landowners improve and protect their land, visit NRCS in Alabama's website at [www.al.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.al.nrcs.usda.gov), or visit your local NRCS office. USDA service center locations are listed at <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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