

**Texas NRCS**  
**Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**  
**Agricultural Land Easement (ALE)**

[Texas NRCS ACEP Webpage](#)

**2021 Application Package Contents**

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Applications are to be submitted electronically by **March 1, 2021**, to:

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**2021 ACEP-ALE Application Checklist**

1. A complete ACEP-ALE application must contain all of the following:
  - Form CPA-41, "Entity Application," identifying every proposed easement holder;\*
  - Form CPA-41A, "Parcel Sheet," for each parcel;
  - Commitment for Title Insurance T-7 (valid and unexpired) for each parcel;
  - Written pending offer for each parcel signed by the entity and the landowner;
  - Entity information required in subsection 2 below;
  - Parcel information required in subsection 3 below;
  - If applicable, documentation that parcel(s) meet the definition for Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance (GSS).\*\*

**\*Entity Application is not needed if a Program Agreement was established in 2020.**

**\*\*Separate applications must be submitted for ACEP ALE and ACEP ALE GSS.**

2. Entity information submitted with the entity application (CPA-41) must—
  - a. Document the entity's commitment to long-term conservation of agricultural lands through the use of voluntary conservation easements that protect farm or ranch lands from conversion to nonagricultural uses.
  - b. Document the entity's capability and record of acquiring, holding, managing, and enforcing conservation easements.
    - i. This must include a citation to the State conservation easement enabling statute that the entity will rely on to acquire the agricultural land easements.
    - ii. If the entity is a State, local, or Tribal government, then this must include a citation to the entity's statutory authority to acquire conservation easements consistent with the purposes of ACEP-ALE.
  - c. Document the entity capacity to monitor and enforce the agricultural land easements.
  - d. Document or certify that, at the time of application, the eligible entity has the required funds available for each parcel if applicable.
  - e. Provide evidence of current registration in DUNS and SAM for each holding and co-holding eligible entity. [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov)
  - f. Provide evidence of entry by FSA in the Service Center Information Management System (SCIMS).
  - g. Include a copy of the written pending offer for each parcel that the entity is submitting for cost-share assistance.

3. Parcel information, submitted with each CPA-41A must describe the parcel to be protected using assistance from ACEP-ALE. Specifically, it must include the following for each parcel:
  - a. Landowner deed, title commitment or other proof of ownership for the parcel
  - b. Proof that each landowner on the Title Commitment has a SCIMS record and meets AGI/HEL/WC eligibility from the Farm Services Agency (FSA).
  - c. A map showing the location of the parcel.
  - d. Evidence and map of legal and physical access to the parcel.
  - e. A map or aerial image showing the proposed parcel boundaries and larger property boundaries if different than the parcel boundaries.
  - f. A map showing each of the following that are applicable:
    - i. The location and acres of the prime, unique, or statewide and locally important soil in each parcel
    - ii. The location and acres of lands where grazing uses and related conservation values would be protected
    - iii. The location and acres of grasslands of special environmental significance
    - iv. The location, number, and acreage of historical or archaeological sites proposed to be protected
  - g. If the presence of historical or archeological sites is the basis for land eligibility, a brief description of the site's significance and documentation of the site's formal listing on the National, Tribal, or State register or eligibility for listing in the National register must be included in the application. NRCS State office will review this documentation to determine the entity's ability to manage and enforce the easement for historic preservation purposes.
  - h. A narrative description of how the protection of the parcel will further a State or local policy consistent with ACEP, if this is the basis for the parcel's land eligibility.
  - i. A map showing the location of other protected land in relation to parcel, if applicable.
  - j. Estimated agricultural land easement value, costs, and contributions for each parcel.
  - k. Narrative statement or map showing the parcel's accessibility to agricultural markets.
  - l. Narrative statement or map showing the parcel's access to existing agricultural infrastructure, on- and off-farm, and other support systems.
  - m. Narrative statement or map showing the threat of conversion or fragmentation (either from non-agricultural development or cropland conversion of grassland) for each parcel.
  - n. Ownership of subsurface mineral rights and any required water rights for each parcel.
  - o. Copies of any phase I environmental site assessments, if available.
  - p. Copies of appraisal reports, if available.