



United States Department of Agriculture

**FARMLAND PROTECTION
POLICY ACT
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR
FY 2020**

January 2021

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Precision agriculture of cotton at Schirmer Farms, in Batesville, Texas, on August 12th, 2020.
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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 effects of converting that productive agricultural land. 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 developed urban 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 2020.

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

| Fiscal year | Important farmland (within land evaluated) | Percent important farmland (of total land evaluated) | Agencies submitting requests |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| | <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 |
| 2020 | 43,416 | 54% | 35 |

In FY 2020, NRCS received 2,839 AD-1006 or CPA-106 forms from 25 Federal agencies, 10 State or Public-Private Partnership entities, and 6 unspecified agencies or offices requesting assistance to evaluate the impact of proposed conversions of lands that would result from their projects. For consistent counting, 35 agencies or other entities are recorded as submitting requests because the unspecified agencies or offices have not been verified. A total of 80,085 acres of land in 47 states and U.S. territories were proposed for conversion to nonagricultural uses. Of the acres reviewed, about 54 percent (43,416 acres) were identified as important farmland (as defined in 7 CFR part 657). Of the important farmland, 34,580 acres were prime or unique farmland and 8,836 acres were State or locally important farmland.

Louisiana and North Dakota had the highest number of farmland acres proposed for conversion, with 16,468 acres and 11,065 acres, respectively (Table 2). Four states and territories reported no acres, and twelve states reported less than 100 acres (Table 3).

In FY 2020, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reported the largest number of important farmland acres proposed for conversion, with 14,389 acres. This accounts for about 33 percent of all important farmland acres proposed for conversion in 2020 (Table 4).

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

| State | Acres |
|----------------|--------------|
| Louisiana | 16,468 |
| North Dakota | 11,065 |
| North Carolina | 7,666 |
| Mississippi | 6,589 |
| Texas | 4,864 |

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

| <i>State</i> | <i>Total acres proposed</i> | <i>Total acres proposed / nationwide total</i> | <i>Acres of important farmland proposed</i> | <i>Acres of important farmland proposed / nationwide total of proposed important farmland</i> |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| AK | 10 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| AL | 2,014 | 3% | 943 | 2% |
| AR | 629 | 1% | 373 | 1% |
| AZ | 59 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| CA | 563 | 1% | 558 | 1% |
| CO | 3 | 0% | 3 | 0% |
| CT | 22 | 0% | 7 | 0% |
| DE | 23 | 0% | 14 | 0% |
| FL | 1,622 | 2% | 510 | 1% |
| GA | 375 | 0% | 219 | 1% |
| IA | 1,391 | 2% | 1,282 | 3% |
| ID | 409 | 1% | 399 | 1% |
| IL | 4,301 | 5% | 4,123 | 10% |
| IN | 350 | 0% | 354 | 1% |
| KS | 484 | 1% | 450 | 1% |
| KY | 2,062 | 3% | 1,045 | 2% |
| LA | 16,468 | 21% | 4,467 | 10% |
| MA | 3 | 0% | 3 | 0% |
| MD | 459 | 1% | 249 | 1% |
| ME | 393 | 0% | 74 | 0% |
| MI | 468 | 1% | 233 | 1% |
| MN | 1,176 | 1% | 907 | 2% |
| MO | 1,833 | 2% | 678 | 2% |
| MS | 6,589 | 8% | 2,948 | 7% |
| MT | 502 | 1% | 373 | 1% |
| NC | 7,666 | 10% | 4,672 | 11% |
| ND | 11,065 | 14% | 8,644 | 20% |
| NE | 559 | 1% | 431 | 1% |
| NH | 691 | 1% | 66 | 0% |
| NJ | 11 | 0% | 11 | 0% |
| NV | 20 | 0% | 19 | 0% |
| NY | 274 | 0% | 159 | 0% |
| OH | 1,305 | 2% | 691 | 2% |
| OK | 2,955 | 4% | 1,440 | 3% |
| OR | 462 | 1% | 442 | 1% |
| PA | 821 | 1% | 241 | 1% |
| PIA | 31 | 0% | 20 | 0% |
| SC | 2,256 | 3% | 1,296 | 3% |
| SD | 2,211 | 3% | 1,491 | 3% |
| TN | 890 | 1% | 239 | 1% |
| TX | 4,864 | 6% | 1,966 | 5% |
| UT | 47 | 0% | 1 | 0% |
| VA | 1,370 | 2% | 900 | 2% |
| VT | 7 | 0% | 7 | 0% |
| WA | 130 | 0% | 126 | 0% |
| WI | 41 | 0% | 35 | 0% |
| WV | 203 | 0% | 174 | 0% |

**The Caribbean Region (CB), New Mexico (NM), Rhode Island (RI), and Wyoming (WY) reported 0 acres of proposed important farmland and 0 total proposed acres. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest acre. Due to this, there is a slight discrepancy between the overall total and the sum of state totals for "Total acres proposed". This note also applies to the acreage totals for "No. of acres proposed for conversion" in Table 4.*

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 |
| Appalachian Regional Commission | 1 | 23 | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Department of Agriculture | | | | | |
| • Farm Services Agency | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| • Natural Resources Conservation Service | 25 | 849 | 263 | 105 | 158 |
| • Rural Development | 791 | 16,364 | 11,366 | 7,588 | 3,874 |
| • U.S. Forest Service | 11 | 21 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| • Other (unspecified) | 1 | 12 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Department of Commerce | | | | | |
| • Economic Development Administration | 50 | 1,371 | 1,118 | 1,082 | 35 |
| Department of Defense | | | | | |
| • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers | 49 | 30,274 | 14,389 | 14,309 | 80 |
| • Other (unspecified) | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Department of Energy | | | | | |
| • Other (unspecified) | 6 | 1,294 | 958 | 1 | 957 |
| Department of Health and Human Services | | | | | |
| • Health Resources and Services Administration | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| • Indian Health Services | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Department of Homeland Security | | | | | |
| • Federal Emergency Management Agency | 136 | 669 | 198 | 142 | 55 |
| • U.S. Coast Guard | 1 | 75 | 17 | 0 | 17 |
| Department of Housing and Urban Development | | | | | |
| • Federal Housing Administration | 7 | 64 | 20 | 20 | 0 |
| • Other (unspecified) | 472 | 3,063 | 1,844 | 1,389 | 455 |
| Department of the Interior | | | | | |
| • Bureau of Indian Affairs | 26 | 36 | 36 | 16 | 20 |
| • Bureau of Land Management | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| • Fish and Wildlife Service | 2 | 48 | 29 | 29 | 0 |
| • National Park Service | 2 | 194 | 155 | 131 | 25 |
| • Office of Surface Mining | 5 | 90 | 28 | 4 | 24 |
| • Other (unspecified) | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Department of Justice | | | | | |
| • Bureau of Prisons | 1 | 225 | 208 | 123 | 85 |
| Department of Transportation | | | | | |
| • Federal Aviation Administration | 36 | 2,171 | 1,629 | 1,100 | 530 |
| • Federal Highway Administration | 803 | 11,940 | 4,698 | 3,305 | 1,393 |
| • Federal Railroad Administration | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| • Federal Transit Administration | 3 | 23 | 16 | 0 | 16 |
| • Others (unspecified) | 112 | 2,220 | 1,184 | 825 | 359 |
| Department of Veterans Affairs | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Department of the Treasury | 19 | 411 | 236 | 236 | 0 |
| Environmental Protection Agency | 168 | 2,043 | 884 | 606 | 279 |
| Federal Energy Regulatory Commission | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other (10 State or other entities) | 95 | 6,599 | 4,020 | 3,556 | 463 |