



United States Department of Agriculture

**FARMLAND PROTECTION
POLICY ACT
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR
FY 2021**

January 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Progress of Federal Agencies in Implementing Farmland Protection Policy Act	1
Table 1. Important Farmland Evaluated under FPPA in 2008-2021	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 2021	4



Black Angus graze in Monkton, MD on July 13, 2021.
USDA/FPAC photo by Preston Keres. Public domain source: <https://flic.kr/p/2mba67A>

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 2021.

Table 1.—Important Farmland Evaluated under FPPA in 2008-2021

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
2021	97,416	63%	35

In FY 2021, NRCS received 2,547 AD-1006 or CPA-106 forms from 19 Federal agencies, 3 State or Federal/State Partnership entities, and 13 unspecified agencies or offices requesting assistance to evaluate the impact of proposed conversions of lands that would result from their projects. A total of 155,252 acres of land in 44 states and U.S. territories were proposed for conversion to nonagricultural uses. Of the acres reviewed, about 63 percent (97,416 acres) were identified as important farmland (as defined in 7 CFR part 657). Of the important farmland, 74,579 acres were prime or unique farmland and 22,837 acres were State or locally important farmland.

California and Florida had the highest number of farmland acres proposed for conversion, with 33,216 acres and 29,297 acres, respectively (Table 2). Seven states and territories reported no acres, and nine states reported less than 100 acres (Table 3).

In FY 2021, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reported the largest number of important farmland acres proposed for conversion, with 28,152 acres. This accounts for about 29 percent of all important farmland acres proposed for conversion in 2021 (Table 4).

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

State	Acres
California	33,216
Florida	29,297
Arkansas	28,266
South Carolina	10,448
Pennsylvania	9,010

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>
AL	663	0.4%	217	0.2%
AR	28266	18.2%	11003	11.3%
AZ	113	0.1%	43	0.0%
CA	33216	21.4%	15116	15.5%
CB	12	0.0%	12	0.0%
CO	149	0.1%	0	0.0%
CT	15	0.0%	0	0.0%
DE	8	0.0%	7	0.0%
FL	29297	18.9%	28814	29.6%
GA	2035	1.3%	1640	1.7%
IA	1717	1.1%	1713	1.8%
ID	470	0.3%	447	0.5%
IL	151	0.1%	147	0.2%
IN	1028	0.7%	1028	1.1%
KS	326	0.2%	298	0.3%
KY	3443	2.2%	1938	2.0%
LA	525	0.3%	178	0.2%
MA	60	0.0%	43	0.0%
MD	373	0.2%	188	0.2%
ME	1096	0.7%	159	0.2%
MI	219	0.1%	207	0.2%
MN	209	0.1%	180	0.2%
MO	4686	3.0%	2668	2.7%
MS	3657	2.4%	2505	2.6%
MT	1099	0.7%	575	0.6%
NC	3283	2.1%	2575	2.6%
ND	140	0.1%	88	0.1%
NE	311	0.2%	145	0.1%
NH	717	0.5%	407	0.4%
NJ	12	0.0%	11	0.0%
NY	1843	1.2%	1174	1.2%
OH	517	0.3%	211	0.2%
OK	5216	3.4%	2853	2.9%
OR	483	0.3%	59	0.1%
PA	9010	5.8%	5575	5.7%
SC	10448	6.7%	6940	7.1%
SD	15	0.0%	8	0.0%
TN	1849	1.2%	825	0.8%
TX	2041	1.3%	1584	1.6%
VA	410	0.3%	255	0.3%
VT	16	0.0%	15	0.0%
WA	60	0.0%	56	0.1%
WI	5981	3.9%	5492	5.6%
WV	72	0.0%	17	0.0%

**Alaska (AK), New Mexico (NM), Nevada (NV), the Pacific Islands Area (PIA), Rhode Island (RI), Utah (UT), 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 2021

<i>Federal agency and other entities</i>	<i>No. of form requests to NRCS</i>	<i>No. of acres proposed for conversion</i>	<i>No. of acres identified as important farmland</i>	<i>Of which:</i>	
				<i>Prime or unique</i>	<i>State or locally important</i>
<i>Appalachian Regional Commission</i>	6	32	12	4	8
<i>Department of Agriculture</i>					
• Natural Resources Conservation Service	3	2797	1971	478	1493
• Rural Development	640	43277	24572	15345	9227
• Other (unspecified)	1	2	2	1	1
<i>Department of Commerce</i>					
• Economic Development Administration	44	5604	5045	1825	3220
• Other (unspecified)	8	9	8	4	4
<i>Department of Defense</i>					
• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	41	28791	28152	28141	11
• U.S. Army	2	3	0	0	0
• Other (unspecified)	5	6785	11	11	0
<i>Department of Energy</i>					
• Other (unspecified)	6	57	53	39	14
<i>Department of Health and Human Services</i>					
• Health Resources and Services Administration	1	1	0	0	0
• Other (unspecified)	2	7	7	7	0
<i>Department of Homeland Security</i>					
• Customs and Border Protection	1	15	15	13	2
• Federal Emergency Management Agency	65	426	196	170	26
• Other (unspecified)	2	789	465	465	0
<i>Department of Housing and Urban Development</i>					
• Federal Housing Administration	1	126	85	85	0
• Other (unspecified)	495	1967	1483	1228	255
<i>Department of the Interior</i>					
• Bureau of Indian Affairs	6	6	6	2	5
• Bureau of Reclamation	7	32182	14364	9964	4400
• Fish and Wildlife Service	1	0	0	0	0
• National Park Service	3	25	2	2	0
• Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement	6	322	140	93	47
<i>Department of Justice</i>					
• Bureau of Justice Assistance	1	0	0	0	0
• Other (unspecified)	1	5	4	4	0
<i>Department of Transportation</i>					
• Federal Aviation Administration	18	628	484	342	143
• Federal Highway Administration	797	12579	5652	4886	766
• Federal Railroad Administration	3	2	2	2	0
• Federal Transit Administration	1	0	0	0	0
• Other (unspecified)	196	8634	7680	6919	760
<i>Department of Veterans Affairs</i>	3	223	141	64	77
<i>Environmental Protection Agency</i>	167	5518	3903	1927	1976
<i>Federal Communications Commission</i>	1	1	0	0	0
<i>General Services Administration</i>	1	39	32	32	0
<i>Tennessee Department of Transportation</i>	8	904	452	452	0
<i>Tennessee Valley Authority</i>	3	3496	2478	2074	404