The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements component (WRE), NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM
NRCS provides technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners and Indian tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through the purchase of a wetland reserve easement. For acreage owned by an Indian tribe, there is an additional enrollment option of a 30-year contract.

BENEFITS
Wetland Reserve Easements provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals, reduce flooding, recharge groundwater, protect biological diversity and provide opportunities for educational, scientific and limited recreational activities.

ELIGIBLE LAND
Land eligible for wetland reserve easements includes farmed or prior converted wetland that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored. NRCS will prioritize applications based on the easement’s potential for protecting and enhancing habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

Through the wetland reserve enrollment options, NRCS may enroll eligible land through:

- **Permanent Easements** are conservation easements in perpetuity. NRCS pays 100 percent of the easement value for the purchase of the easement, and 100 percent of the restoration costs.
- **30-Year Easements** expire after 30 years. Under 30-year easements, NRCS pays 75 percent of the easement value for the purchase of the easement, and 75 percent of the restoration costs.
- **Easement values** are based on annually-approved **Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARCs)** on a per acre basis.

HOW TO APPLY
Eligible landowners may apply at any time by contacting their local District Conservationist:

More Information
For more information about WRE, visit the National NRCS ACEP website at:


NRCS CONTACT INFORMATION
- Local District Conservationists: [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/il/contact/local/](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/il/contact/local/)
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