AWWG Recommendations

- $500 million annual baseline funding, and CBO scoring of foregone insurance and commodity payments
- Improve funding opportunities by:
  - Making non-USDA federal funds eligible for ACEP match
  - Creating “forests of special environmental significance” designation, allow 75% federal cost share
- Improve landowner participation by:
- Forests: Explicit recognition of forestland eligibility; Remove 2/3 forest acreage limit
- NGO-owned: Explicit recognition of NGO-owned land eligibility; Facilitation of “buy-protect-sell” transaction model for conservation
- Improve management and streamline contracting on new and existing ACEP tracts by:
  - Boosting Reserved Grazing Rights on ACEP-WRE, particularly in the Northern Great Plains
  - Increasing percentage of USDA funds allowed as third-party endowment needs on ACEP-ALEs
  - Streamlining current complexities, such as offering “combo” or “mixed-use” easements containing both grass and cropland
  - Exploring innovative “working land” options compatible with farm, ranch, and habitat resource concerns
- Eliminate 10% county cap for ACEP-WRE, and maintain overall 25% county cap for land

For more information, please visit www.trcp.org/farmbill or contact Alex Maggos (amaggos@trcp.org)
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (ACEP)
- Incentives for landowners to conserve agricultural lands and wetlands
- 2 components: Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) and Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)
- Voluntary program to strengthen the nation’s food supply
- Incentivizes landowners to avoid converting working lands to non-agricultural uses
- Conservation partners purchase easement contracts to maintain agricultural production on eligible lands
- NRCS will cost-share up to 50% of easement price – or 75% for environmentally sensitive grasslands

Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)
- Easements protect, restore, and improve participating wetlands through incentives to landowners
- Natural infrastructure that enhances fish and wildlife habitat, boosts water quality, and mitigates flooding
- Priority given to wetlands with potential to enhance habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife
- Easements purchased on permanent, 30-year, or max-under-state-law timelines

TOTAL ACEP PAYMENTS (2014-2016)
- Florida $75,151,100
- Arkansas $64,310,000
- California $63,441,600
- Louisiana $51,200,500
- Iowa $42,667,300
- Kentucky $36,520,800
- Ohio $30,586,600
- Montana $29,265,100
- S. Dakota $27,424,300

ALE TOTAL ACRES (2014-2016)
- Montana 59,817
- California 25,095
- Oregon 18,345
- Wyoming 14,941
- Colorado 14,551
- Utah 13,592

WRE TOTAL ACRES (2014-2016)
- Louisiana 23,737
- Arkansas 17,597
- California 11,084
- Florida 9,420
- N. Dakota 9,319
- Georgia 6,563
- Kentucky 5,929
- S. Dakota 5,850
- Iowa 4,682
- Mississippi 4,253

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