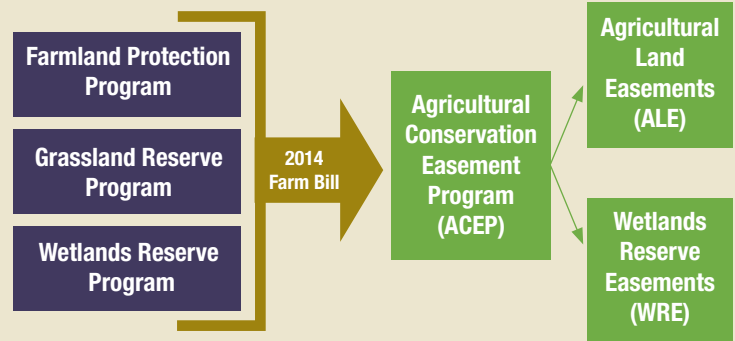




Easements

AWWG Recommendations

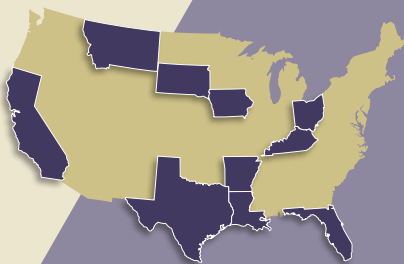
- \$500 million annual baseline funding, and CBO scoring of foregone insurance and commodity payments
- Improve funding opportunities by:
 - Making non-USDA federal funds eligible for ACEP match
 - Creating “forests of special environmental significance” designation, allow 75% federal cost share
- Improve 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)

**TOTAL ACEP PAYMENTS
(2014-2016)**

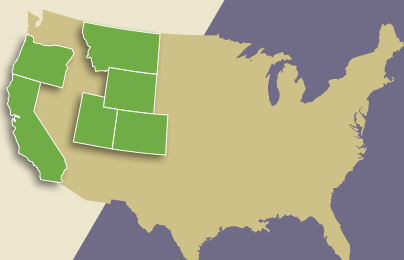
Florida	\$75,151,100
Arkansas	\$64,310,000
California	\$63,441,600
Louisiana	\$51,200,500
Iowa	\$42,667,300
Kentucky	\$36,520,800
Ohio	\$30,586,600
Montana	\$29,265,100
S. Dakota	\$27,424,300



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)



**ALE TOTAL ACRES
(2014-2016)**

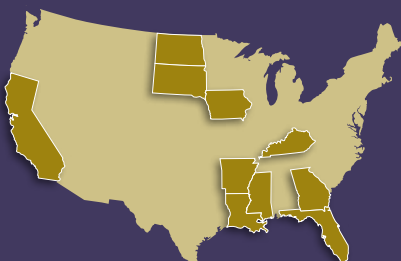
Montana	59,817
California	25,095
Oregon	18,345
Wyoming	14,941
Colorado	14,551
Utah	13,592

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

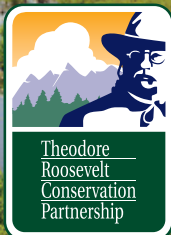
**WRE TOTAL ACRES
(2014-2016)**

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



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



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