



United States Department of Agriculture

**FARMLAND PROTECTION
POLICY ACT
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR
FY-2016**

**United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service**

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This report consists of two components:

- I. Progress of Federal agencies in implementing Farmland Protection Policy Act; and
- II. Review and revision of Federal policies and procedures affecting farmland conversion.

I. 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 adverse effects of the land's conversion. 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). 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 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 urban built-up 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 FPPA in fiscal years 2007 through 2016.

Table 1.—Important Farmland Evaluated under FPPA 2007–2016

Fiscal year	Important farmland (within land evaluated)	Percent Important farmland (of total land evaluated)	Agencies Submitting requests
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>% Total acres</i>	<i>No. of agencies</i>
2007	74,220	39%	25
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

In fiscal year 2016, NRCS received 2,583 AD–1006 forms from 22 Federal agencies requesting assistance to evaluate the impact of proposed land conversions that would result from their projects. A total of 41,659 acres of land from 43 States were proposed for conversion to nonagricultural uses. Of the acres reviewed, 77% (32,370 acres) were identified as important farmland (as defined in 7 CFR part 657). Of these important farmlands, 24,748 acres were prime farmland or unique farmland and 7,613 acres were State or locally important farmland.

Texas and Arizona had the highest number of farmland acres proposed for conversion, with 7,248 acres and 3,668 acres, respectively (table 2). Seven states reported no acres, and 12 States reported less than 100 acres (table 3).

In FY–2016, the Department of Transportation reported the largest amount of important farmland proposed for conversion, 9,238 acres. This accounts for more than 28 percent of all proposed conversion of important farmland (table 4).

Table 2.—Top 10 States with Acres of Farmland Proposed for Conversion by Federal Projects

State	Acres
Texas	7,248
Arizona	3,668
Oklahoma	3,345
Indiana	3,217
Illinois	2,810
Mississippi	2,608
Missouri	1,771
Kentucky	1,706
Iowa	1,697
South Dakota	1,659

Table 3.—Acres of Farmland Proposed by State for Conversion Due to Federal Projects

State	Total acres proposed by State	Total acres proposed by State as a percentage of total acres proposed nationwide	Acres of important farmland proposed by State	Acres of important farmland proposed by State as a percentage of acres of important farmland proposed nationwide
AK	5	0.01%	5	0.01%
AL	440	1.06%	0	0.00%
AR	684	1.64%	165	0.51%
AZ	3,669	8.81%	3,665	11.32%
CA	415	1.00%	272	0.84%
CO	27	0.06%	27	0.08%
CT	210	0.50%	13	0.04%
DE	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
FL	952	2.29%	682	2.11%
GA	577	1.38%	459	1.42%
HI	2	0.00%	2	0.01%
IA	1,698	4.08%	1,474	4.55%
ID	121	0.29%	121	0.37%
IL	2,810	6.75%	2,728	8.43%
IN	3,217	7.72%	2,759	8.52%
KS	1,273	3.05%	1,086	3.35%
KY	1,707	4.10%	274	0.85%
LA	606	1.45%	180	0.56%
MA	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
MD	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
ME	114	0.27%	114	0.35%
MI	98	0.24%	98	0.30%
MN	331	0.79%	288	0.89%
MO	1,771	4.25%	378	1.17%
MS	2,609	6.26%	2,313	7.14%
MT	45	0.11%	45	0.14%
NC	1,293	3.10%	1,050	3.24%
ND	70	0.17%	35	0.11%
NE	926	2.22%	917	2.83%
NH	51	0.12%	51	0.16%
NJ	236	0.57%	229	0.71%
NM	5	0.01%	5	0.02%
NV	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
NY	48	0.12%	18	0.06%

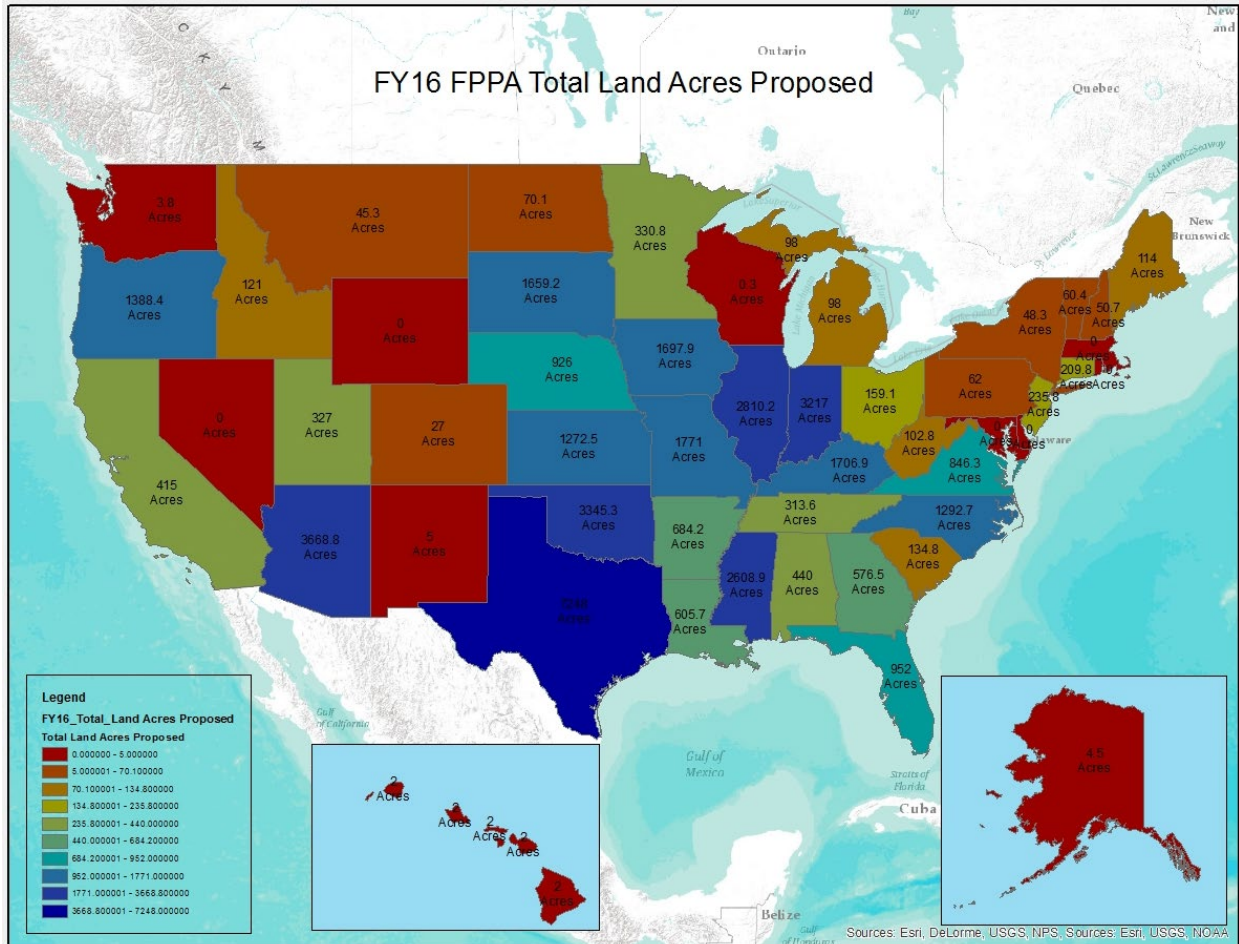
State	Total acres proposed by State	Total acres proposed by State as a percentage of total acres proposed nationwide	Acres of important farmland proposed by State	Acres of important farmland proposed by State as a percentage of acres of important farmland proposed nationwide
OH	159	0.38%	108	0.33%
OK	3,345	8.03%	1,237	3.82%
OR	1,388	3.33%	816	2.52%
PA	62	0.15%	62	0.19%
PR	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
RI	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
SC	135	0.32%	135	0.42%
SD	1,659	3.98%	1,659	5.13%
TN	314	0.75%	314	0.97%
TX	7,248	17.40%	7,248	22.39%
UT	327	0.78%	327	1.01%
VA	846	2.03%	846	2.61%
VT	60	0.14%	60	0.19%
WA	4	0.01%	4	0.01%
WI	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
WV	103	0.25%	103	0.32%
WY	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Totals	41,659	100.0%	32,370	100.00%

Table 4.—Breakdown of Acres and AD–1006 Forms Received by Federal Agencies in FY–2016

Dept.	Federal Agency	State	Totals
ARC	Appalachian Regional Commission	AD–1006 requests received	5
		Total land - acres proposed	5.5
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	3.5
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	3.5
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	0.0
DHS	Federal Emergency Management Agency	AD–1006 requests received	61
		Total land - acres proposed	51.4
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	16.1
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	3.9
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	12.2
DOA	Department of Army	AD–1006 requests received	2
		Total land - acres proposed	592.4
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	592.4
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	512.7
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	79.7
DOC	Department of Commerce	AD–1006 requests received	5
		Total land - acres proposed	934.2
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	934.2
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	507.9
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	426.3
	Economic Development Administration	AD–1006 requests received	2
		Total land - acres proposed	46.8
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	46.7
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	33.3
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	13.4
DOE	Dept. of Energy	AD–1006 requests received	9
		Total land - acres proposed	53.1
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	34.5
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	31.8
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	2.7
DOI	Bureau of Indian Affairs	AD–1006 requests received	33
		Total land - acres proposed	3,624.0
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	3,620.0
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	3,620.0
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	0.0
	Office of Surface Mining	AD–1006 requests received	2
		Total land - acres proposed	3.0
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	3.0
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	0.0
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	3.0

Dept.	Federal Agency	State	Totals
DOT	Department of Transportation	AD-1006 requests received	419
		Total land - acres proposed	11,215.1
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	9,238.2
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	6,457.3
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	2,780.9
	Federal Aviation Administration	AD-1006 requests received	25
		Total land - acres proposed	1,015.4
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	861.6
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	692.0
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	169.6
	Federal Highway Administration	AD-1006 requests received	457
		Total land - acres proposed	9,311.1
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	7,322.2
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	5,547.2
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	1,775.0
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	AD-1006 requests received	158
		Total land - acres proposed	1,128.5
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	886.8
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	414.1
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	472.7
HHS	U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services	AD-1006 requests received	9
		Total land - acres proposed	16.0
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	12.5
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	2.5
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	10.0
	Health Resources and Services Administration	AD-1006 requests received	11
		Total land - acres proposed	2.0
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	2.0
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	2.0
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	0.0
HUD	Housing and Urban Development	AD-1006 requests received	571
		Total land - acres proposed	1,407.2
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	902.3
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	750.5
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	132.8
TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority	AD-1006 requests received	4
		Total land - acres proposed	2,329.8
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	2,326.0
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	2,263.0
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	63.0
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	AD-1006 requests received	17
		Total land - acres proposed	1,062.4
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	613.5
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	566.9
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	46.6

Dept.	Federal Agency	State	Totals
USDA	Natural Resources Conservation Service	AD-1006 requests received	70
		Total land - acres proposed	1,909.3
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	959.9
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	770.6
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	189.3
	Rural Development	AD-1006 requests received	522
		Total land - acres proposed	4,359.2
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	2,761.5
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	1,973.0
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	798.5
	Rural Utilities Service	AD-1006 requests received	187
		Total land - acres proposed	2,337.4
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	978.6
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	513.8
State and local farmland - acres proposed		464.8	
VA	Veterans Affairs	AD-1006 requests received	3
		Total land - acres proposed	27.2
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	27.2
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	26.2
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	1.0
GSA	General Services Administration	AD-1006 requests received	1
		Total land - acres proposed	227.6
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	227.6
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	56.1
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	171.5
Total	All	AD-1006 requests received	2,583
		Total land - acres proposed	41,658.6
		Total important farmland - acres proposed	32,370.3
		Prime or Unique (Ac)	24,748.3
		State and local farmland - acres proposed	7,613.0



II. Review and Revision of Federal Policies and Procedures Affecting Farmland Conversion

Based on ongoing reviews, there were no revisions of Federal policies and procedures affecting farmland conversion. To simplify completion of required forms for projects that impact important farmland, NRCS continues to regularly update PDF (portable document format) versions of two important forms: Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (Form AD-1006) and Farmland Conversion Impact Rating for Corridor Type Project (Form NRCS-CPA-106). These fillable forms can be downloaded from the FPPA section of the NRCS

website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/fppa/>.