

**Louisiana**  
**State Technical Committee Meeting**  
**April 23, 2015**

# **Conservation Program Update**

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)  
Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE)



### CSP Summary - 2010 - 2015

#### Archive - Expired Sign-up

Sign-up	Ag-Acres	Ag-Obligation	Ag-# of Contracts	NIPF-Acres	NIPF-Obligation	NIFE_# of Contracts	Total # of Contracts	Total sign-up Acres2	Total Sign-up Obligations
2010-1	122,041.8	\$2,205,033.00	142	24,298.0	\$172,303.00	55	197	146,339.8	\$2,377,336.00
2010-2	109,772.2	\$3,016,717.00	100	6,030.9	\$78,693.00	20	120	115,803.1	\$3,095,410.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>231,814.0</b>	<b>\$5,221,750.00</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>30,328.9</b>	<b>\$250,996.00</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>262,142.9</b>	<b>\$5,472,746.00</b>

#### Active Sign-up

Sign-up	Ag-Acres	Ag-Obligation	Ag-# of Contracts	NIPF-Acres	NIPF-Obligation	NIFE_# of Contracts	Total # of Contracts	Total sign-up Acres2	Total Sign-up Obligations
2011-1	249,717.0	\$7,001,237.00	231	28,231.0	\$341,550.00	44	275	277,948.0	\$7,342,787.00
2012-1	234,782.3	\$5,262,786.00	231	16,016.7	\$78,339.00	28	259	250,799.0	\$5,341,125.00
2013-1	128,446.5	\$3,176,545.00	143	3,658.5	\$28,936.00	20	163	132,105.0	\$3,205,481.00
2014-1	253,482.0	\$6,076,917.00	245	12,518.9	\$86,272.00	28	273	266,000.9	\$6,163,189.00
2015-1 Renewal	227,895.0	\$5,273,651.00	213	27,039.0	\$172,092.00	50	263	254,934.0	\$5,445,743.00
2015-1							0	0.0	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,094,322.8</b>	<b>\$26,791,136.00</b>	<b>1063</b>	<b>87,464.1</b>	<b>\$707,189.00</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>1,233</b>	<b>1,181,786.9</b>	<b>\$27,498,325.00</b>

Sign-up	# of Parishes	Smallest Acre Contract	Largest Acre Contract	Contracts <500 ac	Contracts 501-1500 ac	Contracts 1501-2000 ac	Contracts >2001 ac	Largest Parish Enrollments Ag	Largest Parish Enrollments NIFE
2010-1	46	7.5	5,276.0	131	28	17	21	Tensas	Tensas
2010-2	34	14.2	4,289.2	51	37	14	18	Morehouse	Livingston
2011-1	40	2.5	8,857.0	102	105	32	36	Morehouse	Pointee Coupee
2012-1	46	3.0	7,772.0	110	88	23	38	Morehouse	Sabine
2013-1	36	3.0	4,848.0	68	70	13	12	St. Landry	Winn
2014-1	39	0.3	9,245.0	103	123	20	27	Calcasieu	Tensas
2015-1-Renewal	48	7.5	6,584.0	134	57	28	44	Tensas	Tensas
2015-1									
<b>Totals</b>				<b>699</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>196</b>		

Sign-up	# Applications	Total Contracts	% Contracted
2010-1	315	197	63%
2010-2	177	120	68%
2011-1	389	275	71%
2012-1	390	259	66%
2013-1	259	163	63%
2014-1	444	273	61%
2015-1-Renewal	288	263	91%
2015-1			#DIV/0!

## CSP 2015-1 Application Report as of 4/14/2015

### Pending / Eligible Applications

Parish	Applications
Acadia	20
Allen	21
Ascension	2
Assumption	4
Avoyelles	27
Beauregard	13
Bienville	4
Bossier	8
Caddo	8
Calcasieu	6
Caldwell	1
Cameron	8
Catahoula	20
Claiborne	4
Concordia	14
DeSoto	14
East Baton Rouge	4
East Carroll	12
East Feliciana	5
Evangeline	25
Franklin	19
Grant	13
Iberia	10
Iberville	2
Jackson	2
Jefferson	0
Jefferson Davis	30
Lafayette	5
Lafourche	4
LaSalle	0
Lincoln	3
Livingston	6

Parish	Applications
Madison	25
Morehouse	10
Natchitoches	6
Orleans	3
Ouachita	4
Plaquemines	5
Pointe Coupee	15
Rapides	18
Red River	11
Richland	29
Sabine	6
St. Benard	0
St. Charles	3
St. Helena	3
St. James	0
St. John the Baptist	2
St. Landry	31
St. Martin	5
St. Mary	14
St. Tammany	4
Tangipahoa	5
Tensas	20
Terrebonne	3
Union	6
Vermillion	12
Vernon	2
Washington	11
Webster	10
West Baton Rouge	6
West Carroll	33
West Feliciana	1
Winn	4

Note: 621 Applications Total in Pending or Eligible status

**Louisiana - NRCS**  
**Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE)**  
**ACEP-WRE Status Update (as of 4/17/15)**

**FY 2015 ACEP-WRE Applications**

Batching Period	Applications Received	Application Acres	Eligible Funding Needs			
			Eligible Applications	Eligible Acres	Acquisition	Restoration
October	124	30,326	68	11,389	\$16,224,951	\$1,968,607
November	2	140	1	140	\$269,184	\$17,849
December	3	664	1	453	\$0	\$0
January	11	5,471	5	4,920	\$6,235,323	\$439,753
February	6	5,157	6	5,157	\$451,080	\$35,924
March	9	843	9	843	\$211,200	\$26,976
April	3	305	3	305	\$137,445	\$8,515
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>42,907</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>23,207</b>	<b>\$23,529,183</b>	<b>\$2,497,624</b>

	# Easements	Acres	Obligated \$	UnObligated \$	% Obligated
FA Fund Allocation				\$12,354,852	0.0%
TA Fund Allocation				\$3,062,492	0.0%

Parishes with Funded Applications:

**FY2014 ACEP-WRE Enrollments**

	# Easements	Acres	Obligated \$	UnObligated \$	% Obligated
FA Fund Allocation	22	7,134.8	\$12,891,736	\$52,018	99.6%
TA Fund Allocation			\$5,160,863	\$249,741	95.2%

Parishes with Funded Applications: Cameron, Concordia, East Carroll, Evangeline, Franklin, Jefferson Davis, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Richland, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Washington, Winn

**1992-2014 WRP/ACEP-WRE Enrollment Summary**

<b>Enrolled Easements</b>	922.00	(41 remaining to close)
<b>Enrolled Acres</b>	296,993.73	(14,287.7 acres remaining to close)
<b>Closed Easements</b>	881.00	
<b>Closed Acres</b>	282,706.05	
<b>Fully Restored Acres</b>	240,784.50	
<b>Partially Restored Acres</b>	5,614.06	
<b>Pending Restoration Acres</b>	36,307.49	

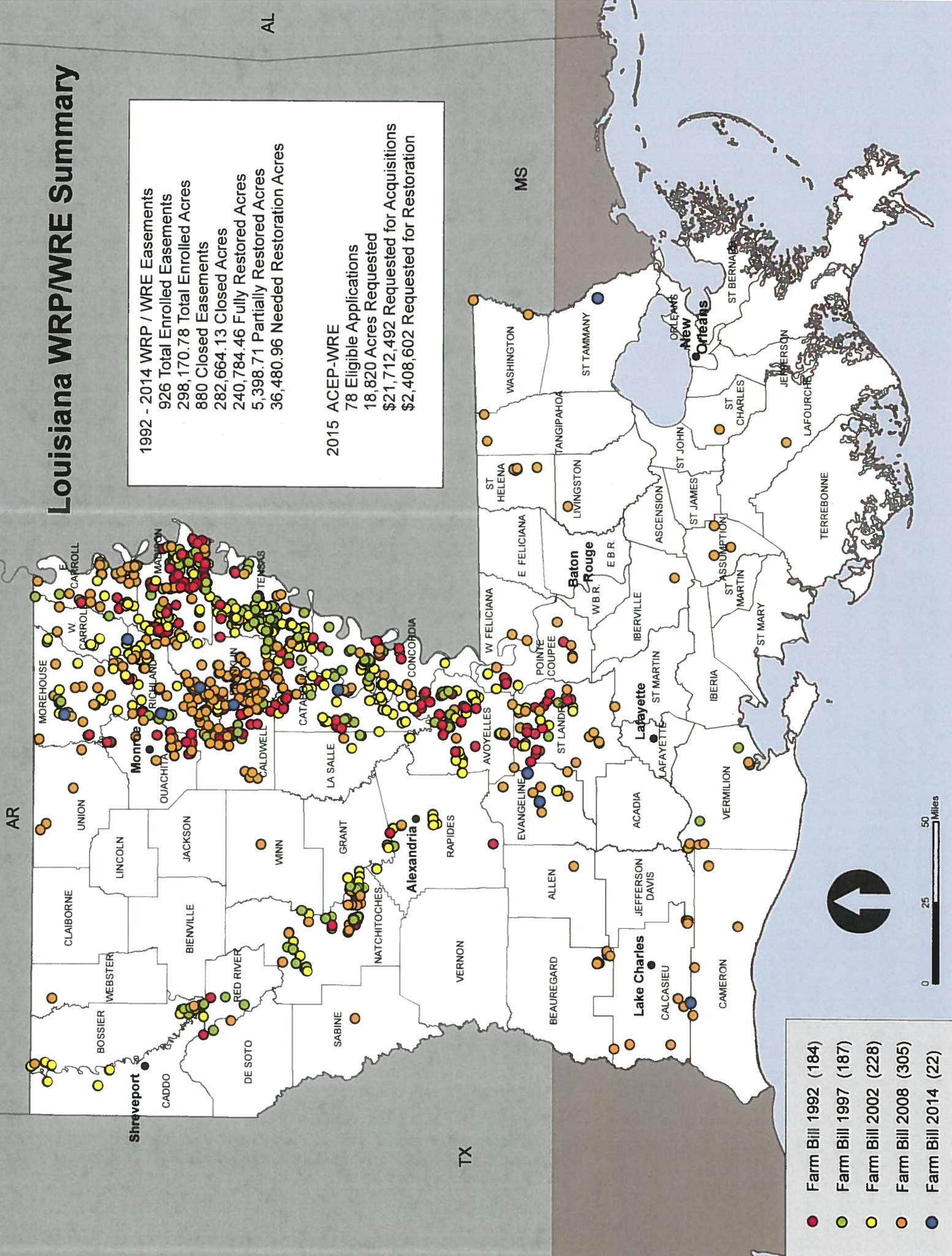
**Application and Enrollment Acre Trends**

	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2011	FY 2010
Average Offered Acres	389	319	238	236	305	200
Average Enrolled Acres		324	197	317	454	178

# Louisiana WRP/WRE Summary

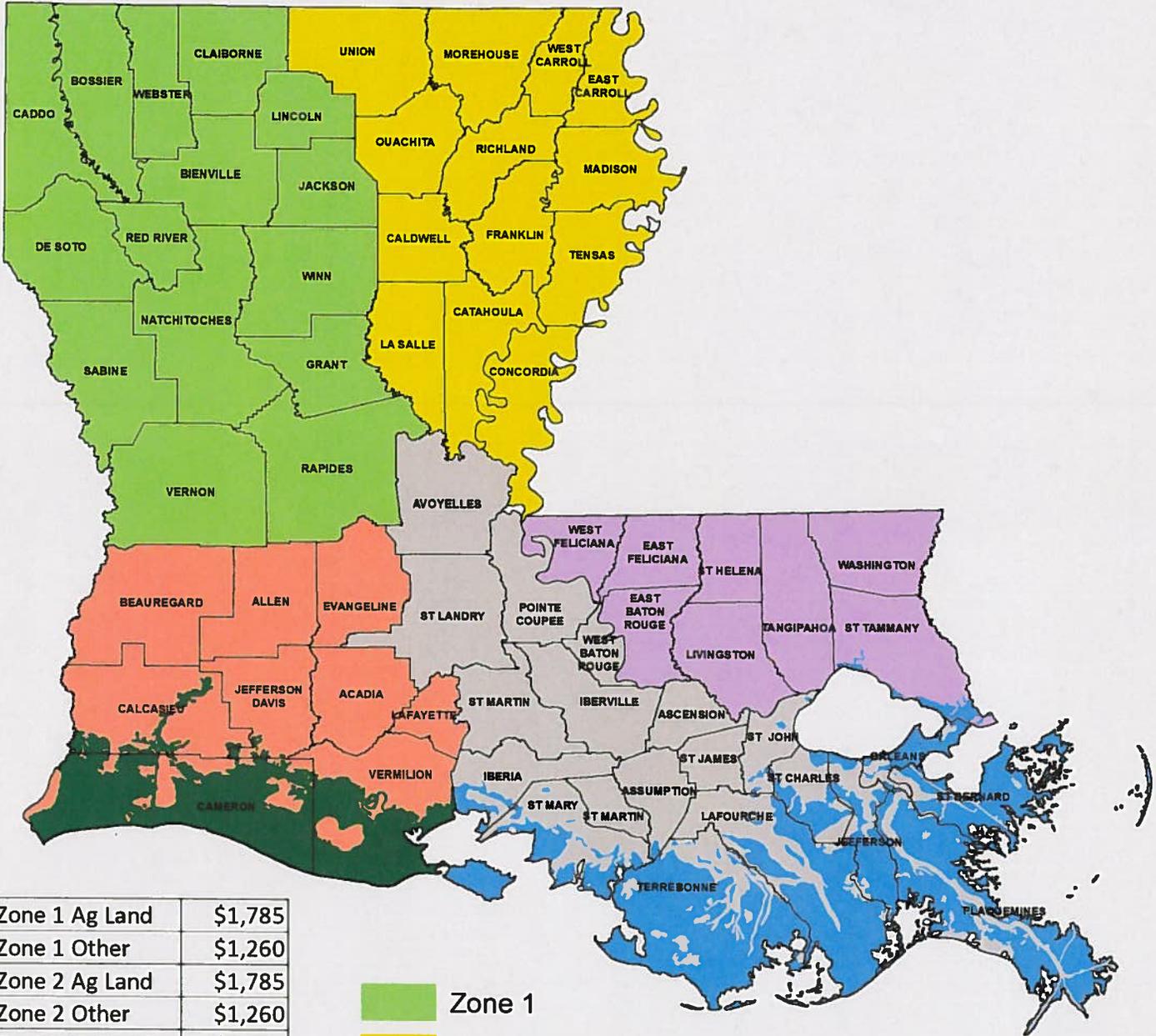
1992 - 2014 WRP / WRE Easements  
 926 Total Enrolled Easements  
 298,170.78 Total Enrolled Acres  
 880 Closed Easements  
 282,664.13 Closed Acres  
 240,784.46 Fully Restored Acres  
 5,398.71 Partially Restored Acres  
 36,480.96 Needed Restoration Acres

2015 ACEP-WRE  
 78 Eligible Applications  
 18,820 Acres Requested  
 \$21,712,492 Requested for Acquisitions  
 \$2,408,602 Requested for Restoration

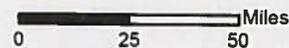
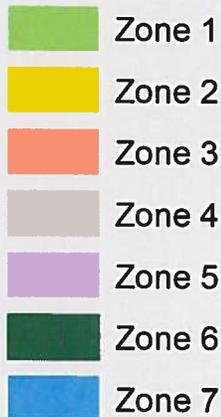


- Farm Bill 1992 (184)
- Farm Bill 1997 (187)
- Farm Bill 2002 (228)
- Farm Bill 2008 (305)
- Farm Bill 2014 (22)

# FY 2015 Louisiana ACEP-WRE Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC)



Zone 1 Ag Land	\$1,785
Zone 1 Other	\$1,260
Zone 2 Ag Land	\$1,785
Zone 2 Other	\$1,260
Zone 3 Ag Land	\$1,575
Zone 3 Other	\$1,260
Zone 4 Ag Land	\$1,920
Zone 4 Other	\$1,210
Zone 5 Ag Land	\$1,895
Zone 5 Other	\$1,200
Zone 6 Ag Land	\$1,575
Zone 6 Other	\$1,260
Zone 7 Ag Land	\$1,805
Zone 7 Other	\$1,140



# ACEP-WRE Policy Changes

## Easement Compensation:

- <<NEW>> National Policy: For easement offers with multiple GARC land categories, a weighted per acre easement value will be calculated for each offer.
- Example:

GARC Land Category	Acres of Land Category	GARC per Acre Value	Easement Compensation Value
Ag Land	120	\$1,785	\$214,200
Other Land	80	\$1,260	\$100,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>\$1,575</b>	<b>\$315,000</b>

(\* The total weighted per acre easement value is calculated by dividing the total acres into the total easement compensation value)

- If the surveyed acres are within 10 percent of the acreage estimated at the time the offer was made, the final easement compensation value will be adjusted using the surveyed acres and the weighted per acre value calculated at the time of offer.
- If the surveyed acres exceed a 10 percent difference from the original estimated acres, weighted per acre value will be re-calculated to determine the final easement compensation value.

## Exempt Cropland Acres:

- County Cropland Limitation: No more than 25% of total cropland in any county may be enrolled in CRP and ACEP-WRE (includes previous WRP); and no more than 10% may be enrolled in ACEP-WRE (includes previous WRP).
- <<NEW>> **Exemption:**
  - Cropland designated by NRCS with “subclass w” in the land capability classes IV through VIII because of severe use limitations due to soil saturation or inundation.
- <<NEW>> **Enrollment Adjustments:**
  - For counties that are at or near the 10% limitation, NRCS should review previously enrolled easements, including WRP, and identify the easement acres on cropland with exempt “subclass w” soils. NRCS will work with FSA at the state level to adjust cropland enrollment by excluding ACEP-WRE, including WRP, easement acres on exempt cropland soils.

## ACEP-WRE Policy Changes

### Lands Established to Trees Under CRP:

In general, lands established to trees under a CRP contract are not eligible, whether the contract is active or not. However, there may be specific circumstances under which the State Conservationist may determine these lands to be **eligible if**:

- Tree establishment has not been completed, a planted stand failed to become established, or a stand that was determined to be established subsequently failed.
- **<<NEW>>** The State Conservationist determines the enrollment of such lands would further the purposes of the program based on the following criteria:
  - The application meets all other ACEP-WRE eligibility criteria.
  - The established cover conforms to ACEP-WRE restoration requirements.
  - If the CRP contract is active, upon closing of the ACEP-WRE easement, the CRP contract will be terminated or otherwise modified, subject to such terms and conditions as are mutually agreed upon by FSA and the landowner.
  - Any additional criteria developed by the State Conservationists.
    - The CRP acres make up an inholding of an eligible ACEP-WRE application, with at least a one-to-one match of eligible non-CRP acres. The entire offer, CRP and non-CRP, must meet all eligibility criteria and will be ranked as a single offer for enrollment.
    - The CRP acres are immediately adjacent to (boundary to boundary) an existing permanently protected wetland area, such as ACEP or WRP easements, NWRs, WMAs, National Forests, State Parks, FMHA easements, Mitigation Banks, etc. The CRP tract must be determined by NRCS to add to the existing wetland functions and values of the adjacent protected area, either through existing features or additional restoration and enhancement.
    - Eligible CRP acres will not have a priority over other ACEP-WRE offers. Eligible ACEP-WRE offers including CRP acres will be ranked and considered for funding on a competitive basis.