



FARM AND RANCH LANDS PROTECTION PROGRAM (FRPP)

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April 17, 2013

**Ohio Department of Agriculture
Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program
Meeting**





Program Authorization

□ In 2013

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program has continued authorization and will be having sign-ups for new enrollment



Parcel and Entity Application Information

Deadlines

- January 31, 2013
- February 28, 2013
- March 29, 2013
- April 30, 2013
- May 31, 2013
- June 28, 2013

All application information is available on the FRPP page:

http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp/frpp_2013.html



Smith Farm in Seneca County

Funds

- ❑ Funds currently allocated to Ohio for use in FRPP \$6.8 million
- ❑ Last year NRCS utilized nationwide \$161 million preserving 239,000 acres on 419 farms.

Tips to applying

- ❑ Apply early and often
- ❑ Will be competitive
- ❑ More funds will be requested if needed
- ❑ Ohio is number one in the country as far number of entities and sites obligated



System for Award Management (SAM)

- All direct entry obligations in FMFI must be registered into SAM prior to obligation.**
 - All FRPP entities and third parties involved in the closing activities.
- Requires a DUNS number for entities and individuals prior to registration in SAM.**
- SAM registration information sheet.**

- www.sam.gov**

Cost share assistance

- NRCS share 75% of purchase price at a maximum
- Entity share 25% of purchase price at a minimum
- Must know two things to determine this:
 - FMEV (Fair Market Easement Value)
 - Cash Purchase Price
- Rule of thumb every dollar an entity can contribute NRCS will provide three more to go with it for the purchase
- That's a 1:3 ratio.



Cooperating Entity

- Must be 501c3, or
- State or Local government
- With staff or volunteers
- Have sufficient experience
- Able to hold easements



❑ Cooperating Entity

- Must have a pending offer on a project (option or purchase agreement) signed by landowner and entity
- Must certify to having control of at least 25% of the purchase price in cash (no in kind exchanges)



□ Land

- Must be less than 2/3 forested
- Must be more than 1/2 prime, unique or locally important soil, or
- Historical significance, or
- Special Initiative
- Must be clear title on land
- Landowner must control all surface rights
- If landowner doesn't control surface rights (mineral leases, timber leases, etc...) they must seek subordination or release



Landowner

- Must meet farm bill adjusted gross income limitations
- Must be compliant with HEL and sod and swamp busting provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill
- Must be privately owned



- Farm Bill Eligibility for landowners**
 - HEL/WC – AD 1026 forms
 - AGI form – CCC 933
- If applicable, a conservation plan may be required for the landowner to enter into the FRPP program.**
- If applicable, a forest management plan must be completed by an ODNR forester.**
- Environmental site visits to complete necessary paperwork.**





Important items of FRPP easement process

- Creating the conservation easement terms (CE Deed) with NRCS**
- Ordering Title Work**
 - Commitments
 - 60yr search period at a minimum
- Ordering Appraisal**
 - Must be performed in accordance with FRPP specifications, no exceptions!
 - Will be reviewed by NRCS reviewers for accuracy



- CE terms, title work and appraisal are approved by NRCS
- NRCS issues closing instructions
- Cooperating Entity schedules closing
- Funds are advanced to closing
- After closing all items required by NRCS via the closing instructions are sent.
- NRCS reviews the closing package to ensure full compliance with FRPP was achieved!



- ❑ Annual on site monitoring by Cooperating Entity
- ❑ NRCS will monitor on-site once every 5 years



Unofficial Data: NEST verified on 7 January 2013

FY	Acres	Farms	Funds \$
2012	4,768.29	41.00	8,539,533.00
2011	10,223.79	74.00	11,446,442.00
2010	3,174.37	16.00	3,741,973.50
2009	3,760.78	21.00	3,152,279.00
2008	4,491.64	22.00	2,844,412.00
2007	2,953.66	25.00	2,305,296.75
2006	3,253.40	11.00	1,675,977.00
2005	5,764.27	30.00	3,816,359.06
2004	4,143.71	21.00	3,227,832.72
2003	2,437.84	14.00	2,351,436.00
2002	1,783.17	5.00	1,612,800.00
Totals	46,754.92	280.00	44,714,341.03



FRPP Progress

FY	# of Easements Closed	# of Acres
2003	5	1,783
2004	8	1,894
2005	21	3,534
2006	29	5,040
2007	9	2,968
2008	11	2,320
2009	24	2,912
2010	17	3,529
2011	29	5,287
2012	25	4,018
2013	34	3,622
Closing's Pending	52	7,564.40

Unofficial Data: NEST verified on 7 January 2013

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Programs

- ▶ 2008 Farm Bill
- ▶ Blanchard Watershed ANNAGNPS Modeling Project
- ▶ Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)
- ▶ Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- ▶ Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)
- ▶ Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- ▶ Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)
- ▶ Grand Lake St. Mary's Watershed Special Project
- ▶ Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
- ▶ Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI)

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program in Ohio

- [Link to Application Materials](#)
- [Link to Application Timeline](#)

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program is a voluntary program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to protect working agricultural lands by limiting non-agricultural uses. NRCS works with approved state, local and non-profit entities who arrange for the purchase of development rights through conservation easements on private lands. The entity holds and manages these conservation easements in perpetuity.

Notice of 2013 Program Funding - Updated!

Currently, the next application ranking period deadlines are **January 31, February 28, March 29, April 30, May 31, and June 28, 2013**. If funds available are exhausted during any ranking period, ranking periods will continue to be held and projects ranked and held in a pending status until funds are available.

FRPP Preserves an Ohio Century Farm

The Smith Farm in Seneca County is entirely comprised of prime soils situated within a large bend of the Sandusky River and contains more than a mile of wooded river frontage. This stretch of river is highly scenic and popular with local canoeists and kayakers.



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- ▶ Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI)
- ▶ Ohio Lake Erie Buffer Program
- ▶ Rapid Watershed Assessments
- ▶ Toledo Harbor Pilot Project
- ▶ Upper Auglaize Watershed AGNPS Modeling Project
- ▶ Urban Conservation
- ▶ Wetlands Reserve

Applying for FRPP

The new application process allows for continuous sign-up throughout the year. Periodic ranking periods will be announced by the State Conservationist. All eligible applicants that have submitted eligible parcels will be ranked at that time.

Applications must be hand-delivered to the Ohio NRCS State Office by Close of Business or mailed Postmarked by the application ranking period deadline to be considered for funding in that funding round.

Attn: FRPP Manager, Matt Harbage
 Ohio NRCS State Office
 200 N High St, Room 522
 Columbus, Oh 43215
 (614) 255-2461

Parcel Application Materials

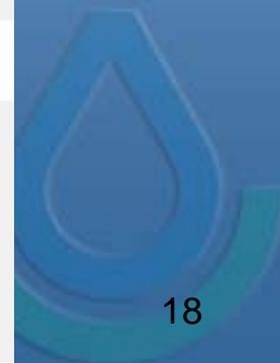
The following documents require Adobe Acrobat Reader.

- [FRPP Parcel Application](#) (PDF, 431 Kb)
- [FRPP Ranking Sheet](#) (PDF, 292 Kb)
- [NRCS-CPA-1200, Conservation Program Application](#) (PDF, 125 Kb)
- [FRPP Estimate of Matching Funds](#) (PDF, 130 Kb)

Entity Application Materials

The following documents require Adobe Acrobat Reader.

- [FRPP Entity Application](#) (PDF, 463 Kb)
- [SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance](#) (PDF, 124 Kb)
- [SF-424a, Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs](#) (PDF, 28 Kb)
- [SF-424b, Assurances - Non-Construction Programs](#) (PDF, 29 Kb)
- [SF-1199A, Direct Deposit Form](#) (PDF, 128 Kb)



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- ▶ Toledo Harbor Pilot

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

FRPP is not a grant program. Accepting FRPP funding constitutes an agreement to partner with the USDA in acquiring the proposed easement. Like any partner, FRPP must ensure that significant program requirements are met. USDA will review appraisal and title work, conduct an on-site investigation and landowner interview, conduct a hazardous materials search and carefully review and approve easement language to ensure that USDA legal and program requirements are met.

NRCS Proposed Easement Application Ranking Process

As part of the ranking and eligibility process, NRCS will complete a pre-acquisition database search for hazardous materials on or near the proposed easement. In addition, NRCS will conduct an on-site visit to determine the condition of the land. NRCS will also interview the landowner to ensure that all FRPP requirements are understood and that any information collected is accurate and complete.

As a condition for participation, a conservation plan for all Highly Erodible land on the farm must exist or be developed. To ensure compliance with the plan, the easement shall grant to the United States, through NRCS and its successor or assigns, a right of access to the easement area.

Timeline

After an application is received -

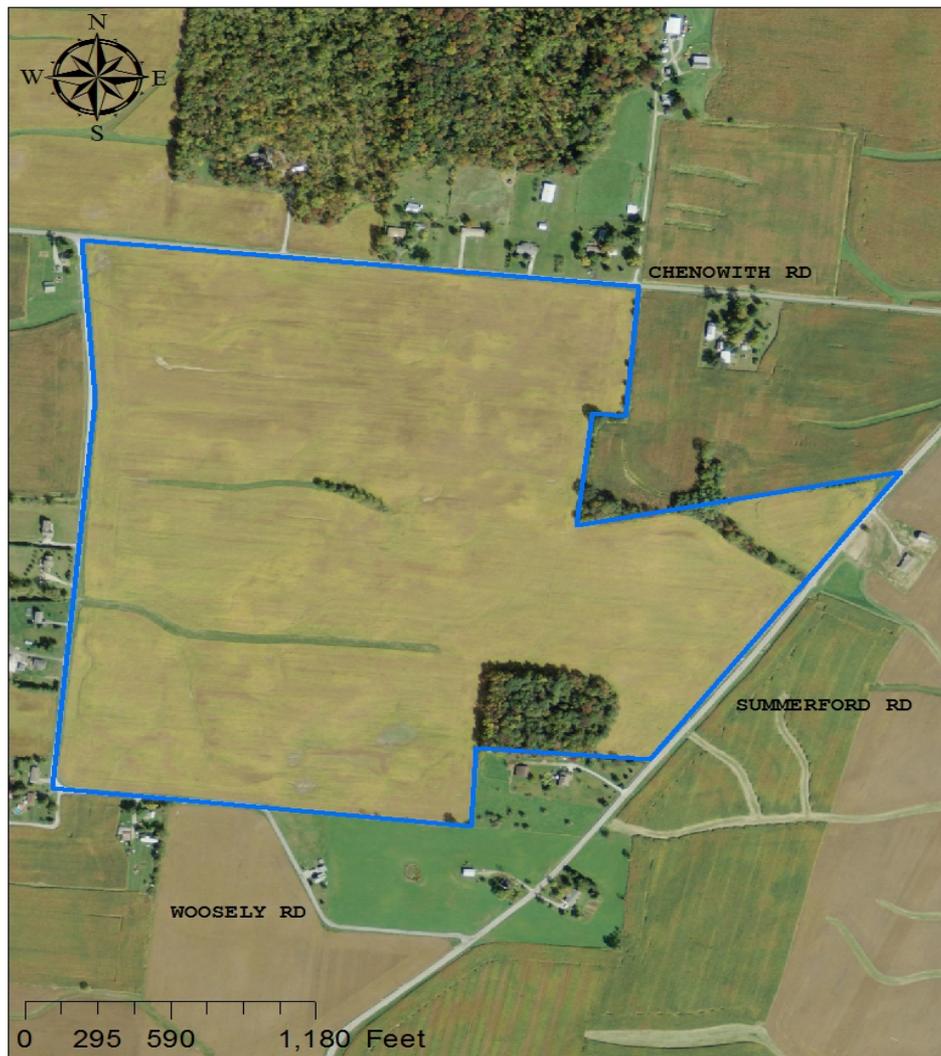
2 - 5 Weeks: Application and eligibility review will begin immediately after sign-up begins. Applicants may continue to update their applications and submit additional materials up until the ranking date. Applicants may be contacted with requests for clarification or additional information.

5 - 6 Weeks: Applications are ranked and entities will be notified of funding decisions via letter after each ranking period.

6 - 10 Weeks: Once selections are made the entity and NRCS work toward creating a cooperative agreement or executing an amendment to the existing cooperative agreement.

10 - 40 Weeks: The entity and NRCS work toward securing a closing by reviewing title work, securing title insurance, reviewing appraisal and reviewing final deed language

High Scoring Parcel



- ❑ Lots of road frontage on three roads
- ❑ All prime land
- ❑ Within 15 minutes of urban sprawl

Low Scoring Parcel



- little road frontage
- Land in floodplain
- 2 hours from urban sprawl





Contact information

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FRPP webpage:
http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp/frpp_2013.html



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