

Fiscal Year 2010 FRPP Program Funding Announcement

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will accept applications for the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) on a continuous basis in 2010 and following years. Applications must be received on or before December 31, 2009 to receive consideration for the first round of funding in fiscal year (FY) 2010. After the December 31st deadline, NRCS will accept and rank applications quarterly until funds are expended.

Eligible entities for FRPP funding are State, Tribal, or local governments and non-government organizations that meet specific requirements. The entities must have an established farm and ranch land protection program; have the authority to acquire, manage, and enforce the easements; and have funds to match the Federal contribution. Entities can apply for an eligibility determination to NRCS at any time, using the attached Entity Application form and providing the information requested therein.

Land proposed for funding in FRPP must contain at least 50 percent prime and unique farmland soils and soils of Statewide and local importance; contain historic or archeological resources; or contain land that supports the farm and ranch land protection policies of state or local programs. The individual parcels will be evaluated for eligibility and quality; the highest quality parcels for which the NRCS state office has funding will be selected for funding.

FRPP can provide up to 50 percent of the appraised fair market value of the easement. However, landowners may accept less than the appraised fair market value of the easement; the difference between the appraised value and the purchase price the landowners are willing to accept is considered a landowner donation. If the amount of landowner donation is greater than 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent of the appraised fair market value, the eligible entity must provide at least 25 percent of the purchase price in cash.

The entity must support the value of the easement with an appraisal that meets NRCS specifications (see attached NRCS policy and appraisal information), must provide a title search/commitment, prepare the conservation easement deed, and pay for the closing.

Owners of the parcels must have an adjusted gross income of less than one million dollars and be in compliance with the USDA highly erodible land and wetland compliance requirements.

Application for farmland parcels in Pennsylvania should be submitted to the Pennsylvania NRCS State Office at: One Credit Union Place, Suite 340, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993.

Please include, at a minimum, the following information in your application packet:

- Entity Eligibility form and associated information, if not previously submitted (completed by the entity)

- Parcel Information form (completed by the entity)
- Location Map (with scale) illustrating the proximity of the proposed easement and other preserved properties
- Location Map (with scale) illustrating the proximity of the proposed easement and adjacent agricultural operations.
- Soils Map of the property with soils descriptions
- Percentage of Prime, Unique or Statewide/Local Soils of importance
- NRCS-CPA-1200 form completed and signed by the parcel landowner(s)
- AGI and AD-1026 forms completed and signed by each landowner on the parcel deed
- FRPP funding requested, Easement Purchase Price, Easement Fair Market Value (completed by the entity)
- Copy of a pending offer with the landowner

NRCS will obligate funding for the selected parcels in a cooperative agreement with the eligible entities that submitted the selected parcel.