

National Bulletin: 300-24-33

Date: 05/21/2024

LTP–Soliciting Proposals for Inflation Reduction  
**Subject:** Act Agricultural Conservation Easement Program  
Priorities

**Action Requested By: August 2, 2024**

**Purpose:** This national bulletin requests NRCS state conservationists and area directors, in consultation with their state technical committees, to provide information for expanding priority areas with Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2024.

**Background:** The Easement Programs Division (EPD) is gathering information to identify high-priority opportunities for easement acquisition that offer maximum reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission and carbon sequestration, as well as areas with a significant risk of land use conversion that, if avoided, would minimize GHG emissions.

Currently, the nationwide IRA priorities for ACEP Agricultural Land Easements include:

1. Program-eligible agricultural lands currently classified as grassland or native vegetation (e.g., sagebrush, tall grass prairie) where NRCS has identified a high threat of conversion to a non-grassland use.
2. Program-eligible cropland or grassland where NRCS has identified a high threat of conversion to a non-agricultural use.
3. Active agricultural rice cultivation on subsiding highly organic soils.

The nationwide IRA priorities for ACEP Wetland Reserve Easements include:

1. Highly organic soils that will optimize the soil carbon sequestration potential and prevent increased GHG emissions through the maintenance of existing non-cultivated areas, restoration of previously cultivated areas to perennial vegetative cover, and restoration of the natural hydrology to keep the soils saturated and anaerobic.
2. Prior converted or degraded wetlands that will be restored to native (adapted or alternative) forests (e.g., bottomland hardwood forests).
3. Program-eligible, existing forest habitat that will be maintained as forest habitat through an NRCS-approved forest management plan.
4. Approved localized priorities includes:
  - a. Restorable cranberry bogs
  - b. Montane wet meadows
  - c. Ephemeral wetlands

NRCS requests scientific input from NRCS state conservationists and directors, in consultation with their state technical committees, on additional geographically specific enrollment areas and

land types that would reduce, capture, avoid, or sequester carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions. This data will be used to expand the national IRA ACEP priorities for fiscal year 2025.

**Explanation:** By August 2, 2024, submit the following information to the [EPD SharePoint](#):

1. A one- or two-page summary that describes where your state IRA funds for ACEP should be targeted and why. Include any management requirements necessary to maximize benefits. Include a description of existing coordination within NRCS or efforts with partners that may benefit ACEP prioritization in certain areas.
2. Maps of the proposed areas.
3. Peer-reviewed scientific literature that supports consideration of the proposed area.

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