

Are you eligible for FRPP?

FRPP participants must:

- have an average adjusted gross income of \$1 million dollars or less annually.
- be in compliance with the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, on all parcels in your control, not just the offered parcel.

Land enrolled in FRPP & APR must:

- be privately owned.
- be cropland, grassland, and pastureland. Forestland that contributes to an agricultural operation is also eligible.
- be covered by a conservation plan for any highly erodible land.
- be at least 50 percent prime, statewide, or locally important farmland.

Other things you should know:

As an APR/FRPP participant, you enter into a partnership with NRCS and MDAR. Your easement will be monitored annually to document stewardship compliance and address your concerns.

Demand for FRPP project funding far exceeds available dollars, so the program is extremely competitive.

The FRPP manager determines the land and applicant eligibility and ranks the proposals for possible FRPP funding using national criteria. As federal funds become available, money is set aside for projects according to the ranking list, and pending acceptance to the APR Program.

Contact us

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- **Barnstable Field Office: NRCS only**
Serving Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket counties
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- **Greenfield Field Office: NRCS & FSA**
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55 Federal St., Greenfield, MA 01301
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- **Hadley Field Office: NRCS & FSA**
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413-585-1000
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Serving Worcester County
52 Boyden Rd., Holden, MA 01520
508-829-4477
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Massachusetts

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

for the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Applicant



Helping People Help the Land

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) for APR Applicants

Congratulations! By applying for the Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program, you are taking the first step towards preserving your land for future generations. If your application is accepted, the federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) will most likely be a partner in helping you protect your valuable farmland.

What is FRPP?

FRPP is a voluntary conservation program that helps Massachusetts farmers preserve their valuable farmland for active agricultural use. Working together, FRPP and APR keep land in agriculture permanently. FRPP provides federal matching funds to state, tribal, local governments, and other organizations with existing farmland protection programs. These funds help these groups purchase development rights—or easements—on active agricultural land.

How does FRPP work with APR?

NRCS provides the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) with federal funds to match the state's funds. MDAR buys and manages easements on farmland to protect it from non-agricultural development. Because of this partnership, the APR Program is able to protect twice as many acres as it could on its own and fund applications more quickly.

You won't receive funds directly from NRCS. Instead, NRCS will reimburse the APR Program for up to 50 percent of the fair market value of an approved conservation easement.

What's in it for you?

You can protect your land for your livelihood, your family, and for future generations while maintaining private ownership and control.

When you enroll in APR, you'll complete a real estate transaction with MDAR. Using FRPP and APR funds, MDAR buys a conservation easement on your land. In exchange for payment, you agree to keep your land in agriculture and comply with the terms of the conservation easement.

You'll still own and control the use of the land. Land can be transferred, deeded, or sold at its agricultural value, just as with any other property. The land must remain in agriculture permanently, however.

These are just a few types of land eligible for FRPP funding:



pastureland



forestland



cropland



grassland

Massachusetts was the first state in the nation to establish a statewide farmland protection program. The APR Program was created in 1977 and has since been a model upon which many other states have built their programs.

How to apply:

1 Contact MDAR for an APR application.

- Call 617-626-1720 or visit the APR website: www.mass.gov/agr/landuse/APR/contact.

2 Contact your local NRCS office.

- You'll need the following items from NRCS to complete your APR application for MDAR:
 - a USGS Topographic Quadrangle Map showing a general outline of your farm.
 - a soils map for your farm, indicating prime, state, and locally important soils.
 - a conservation plan for your farm. This is required for highly erodible land.
 - a forest management plan if you have 40 acres of contiguous forestland or if 20 percent of your land is forested (whichever is greater).
- Complete an FRPP application (CCC-1200) and submit it to your local NRCS office.

3 Contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

- To be eligible for FRPP, several forms must be on file at your local FSA office:
 - **form CCC-931:** *Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information*, for the year your application is funded.
 - **form AD-1026:** Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland Conservation (WC).
 - **form CCC-901:** *Member's Information*, if applicable.
- If you have questions about the FSA forms, contact your local FSA office.

4 Submit your completed APR application to MDAR.

- Forms are available on the NRCS website: www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp.