

# AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

(ACEP)



## What Incentives Does ACEP Offer?

**Agricultural Land Easements:** protect the long-term viability of food production by preventing the conversion of productive agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses.

-NRCS will contribute up to 50% of the fair market value for the agricultural land easement.

**Wetland Reserve Easements:** provide habitat for fish and wildlife, improve water quality by filtering sediment, reduce flooding, recharge groundwater, protect biological diversity, and more.

-NRCS will pay 100% of the easement value for permanent wetland easements.

## -How Does ACEP Work?-

ACEP, administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is intended to help private landowners, land trusts, and other entities obtain federal support to preserve working farms and ranches as well as wetlands and grasslands through long-term easements. ACEP is competitive. Applications are ranked based on criteria developed by the NRCS and selected for funding based on that rank. NRCS may contribute up to 50% of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement. The ACEP can help achieve the goals of the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Strategy by conserving agricultural land and wetlands, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions and sequesters carbon, and can support groundwater recharge.

## Who Is Eligible?

### Eligibility for Agricultural Easements:

-Land eligible for agricultural easements includes cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland and nonindustrial private forest land.

### Eligibility for Wetland Reserve Easements:

-Land eligible for wetland reserve easements includes farmed or converted wetland that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored.

### For More Information:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/>

5

## Steps to NRCS Assistance

1

### PLANNING

Visit your local NRCS office to discuss your goals and work with staff on a conservation plan.

2

### APPLICATION

With the help of NRCS, complete an application for financial assistance programs.

3

### ELIGIBILITY

As part of applying, NRCS will file paperwork to ensure your eligibility for assistance.

4

### RANKING

NRCS ranks applications according to local resource concerns.

5

### IMPLEMENTING

Put conservation to work by signing a contract and implementing conservation practices.



# BUTTE COUNTY

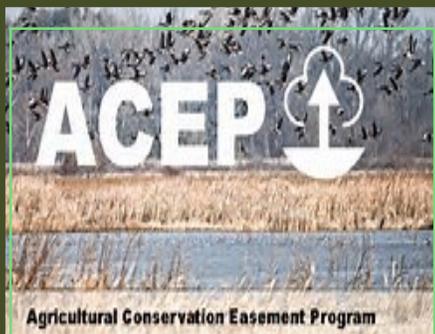
## Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation



# AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

## (ACEP)

### -How To Apply For ACEP-



Sign-ups for ACEP occur annually. To learn about upcoming deadlines and apply for ACEP, visit your local NRCS office in your local USDA Service Center.

**Oroville Service Center**  
150 Chuck Yeager Way  
Oroville, CA 95965-9215  
Phone: (530) 534-0112



Email: [Daniel.taverner@ca.usda.gov](mailto:Daniel.taverner@ca.usda.gov)

Website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

### -ACEP Resources and Information-

-Learn more about the NRCS **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program**: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/acep/>

-Get started with NRCS:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/newsroom/features/?cid=stelprdb1193811>

-The SALC Strategy is a set of tools and information intended to assist farmers, ranchers, and other members of the public in voluntarily conserving agricultural lands, and in implementing farming and ranching practices that will help achieve the key sustainability goals of carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, water conservation, and groundwater recharge.

-Learn more about the Butte County **Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Strategy**:

<https://www.buttecounty.net/dds/planning/grants/SALC>

#### **Butte County Department of Development Services**

##### ***SALC Strategy***

7 County Center Drive

Oroville, CA 95965

Phone: 530.538.7601

Website: <http://www.buttecounty.net/dds/home.aspx>



## BUTTE COUNTY

*Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation*

