

ACEP-ALE National Ranking Criteria
Percent of prime, unique, and important soils in the parcel to be protected
Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the parcel to be protected
Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel to be protected to average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture
Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture
Decrease in the percentage of acreage of permanent grassland, pasture, and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pasture, in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of
Percent population growth in the county as documented by the most recent United States Census
Population density (population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census
Existence of a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations
Percent of fair market value of the agricultural land easement compensation that is the eligible entity's own cash resources for payment of easement compensation to the landowner and comes from sources other than the landowner
Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, such as compatible military installations; land owned in fee title by the United States or an Indian Tribe, State or local government, or by a nongovernmental organization whose purpose is to protect agricultural use and related conservation values; or land that is already subject to an easement or deed restriction that limits the conversion of the land to nonagricultural use or protects grazing uses and related conservation values.
Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure
Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous or proximal acres devoted to agricultural use
Currently enrolled in CRP in a contract that is set to expire within a year and is grassland that would benefit from protection under a long-term easement
The parcel is a grassland of special environmental significance that will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement
ACEP-ALE State Ranking Criteria
The parcel is located in an area zoned for agricultural use
The parcel is located in a Certified Agricultural District (per KRS 262.850)
Eligible entity has demonstrated performance in managing and enforcing easements by monitoring 80 percent or more of its easements each year
Parcel contains habitat for species of interest
Parcel is in a geographic region where enrollment achieves landscape, regional, or other conservation goals and objectives, or enhances existing private or government projects
Parcel contains historical or archaeological resources that will be protected by the easement area