

Farmland Protection Policy Act

What is the Farmland Protection Policy Act?

The Farmland Protection and Policy Act (FPPA), 7 U.S.C. 4201, was enacted in 1981 in order to minimize the loss of prime farmland and unique farmlands as a result of Federal actions by converting these lands to nonagricultural uses. It assures that federal programs are compatible with state and local governments, and private programs and policies to protect farmland.

What are prime and unique farmlands?

As defined by FPPA, prime farmland is farmland that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses. A unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops; it has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high quality or high yields of specific crops.



FEMA

Who is responsible for compliance with the FPPA?

Federal agencies that authorize actions that result in the conversion of prime or unique farmland not already committed to urban development or water storage are responsible for compliance with the FPPA. Compliance is to be coordinated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Do HRSA projects have to comply with the FPPA?

Yes. All federal actions including federal funding such as funding grants or other programs; issuance of federal permits; construction or purchase of federal facilities; use of federal lands; and agency rulemaking are subject to the FPPA. Because FPPA applies to all expenditures of federal funds, grants funded by HRSA must comply with the FPPA.

How do grantees conduct the FPPA review?

Any grant awarded by HRSA is reviewed for its potential to impact prime or unique farmland, to determine if it is subject to the FPPA. Grantees must take the following steps:

1. Grantees must access the NRCS soil survey and/or Census maps for information about the area their project is located. If there are no prime farmland soils in the area in question or if census maps designate the area as *urban area*, the review is complete.
2. Where there are farmland soils identified at a proposed site, the applicant must complete Section I and III of the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form (AD1006) (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/fppa/pdf_files/AD1006.PDF) and submit it to the NRCS for review. Local NRCS offices can be found at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.



3. The NRCS will complete Section II of the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form and return it to the grantee or they will make the determination that the project will not affect prime farmland soils and notify the grantee.
4. The grantee will then return the completed AD1006 form that has been reviewed by the NRCS to HRSA or provide HRSA with the notification from the NRCS that prime farmlands will not be affected.
5. If the combined score from Sections I, II, and III is below 160 or the NRCS has determined the project would not impact prime farmland soils, then review under the FPPA is complete. If the combined score of Sections I, II, and III is 160 or greater, HRSA will assist the grantee to avoid, minimize or mitigate for the conversion of prime farmland.

HRSA can provide technical assistance to grantee for compliance with Federal laws and regulations affecting their projects when and as applicable. However, grantees are fully responsible for providing complete, accurate and timely documentation to satisfy all such compliance obligations, and to closely coordinate their activities and receive authorization from HRSA before undertaking their projects.

