

How to apply for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Florida Forest Service will accept applications for review during an application review cycle. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will announce the opening of the application review cycle and specify the application deadline. Applications can be obtained at FreshFromFlorida.com/RFLPP. Please check the website or contact the Florida Forest Service at (850) 681-5828 to find out when the next application review cycle opens.



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Statutory Reference: Sections 259.105, 570.70, and 570.71, Florida Statutes & Rule Chapter 51-7, Florida Administrative Code

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Rural and Family Lands Protection Program

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Program forms and information are available from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Florida Forest Service.



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Rural and Family Lands Protection Program



Protecting Florida's Agricultural Lands
Into the Future



Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services
Nicole "Nikki" Fried, Commissioner

What is the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program?

Created in 2001 by the Florida Legislature, the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program (RFLPP) is administered by the Florida Forest Service, a division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Since its inception, the program has acquired perpetual conservation easements on Florida ranches and farms to protect rural and working agricultural lands threatened by development.



RFLPP easements allow landowners to continue to work the lands, keep the property on the tax role, and remain agriculturally sustainable.

“The Rural and Family Lands Protection Program offers a unique opportunity for Florida’s land owners to preserve agricultural land use while helping to protect our state’s precious natural resources,” said Florida Commissioner of Agriculture, Adam H. Putnam.

What are the benefits of RFLPP conservation easements?



RFLPP conservation easements are designed to meet multiple needs, including:

- Protecting valuable agricultural lands.
- Protecting natural resources.
- Creating easements that work with agricultural production.
- Protecting the environment.
- Promoting the economic viability of agricultural operations.
- Ensuring sustainable agricultural practices.



What are the eligibility requirements for RFLPP projects?

RFLPP projects must protect the integrity and function of working landscapes, ensure opportunities for agricultural activities on lands threatened by conversion to other uses, and meet at least one of the following public purposes:

- Perpetuate open space.
- Protect, restore or enhance water bodies.
- Buffer natural areas, functioning ecosystems, and military installations.
- Promote restoration and enhancement of species habitat.



Differing from well-known Florida acquisition programs, such as Florida Forever, this agricultural easement program recognizes that a thriving rural economy with a strong agricultural base and viable rural communities is essential to Florida’s future.