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APPENDIX A: FLORIDA FARMLAND BY COUNTIES

County	Number Farms	Cropland Acres	Pastureland Acres	Total Farmland	% of Total Land
Alachua	1,086	31,132	126,966	198,193	35.4
Baker	157	3,032	6,633	13,035	3.5
Bay	70	2,176	3,258	6,732	1.4
Bradford	274	4,866	30,706	43,579	23.2
Brevard	470	23,116	238,619	276,573	42.4
Broward	347	6,569	23,805	30,897	4.0
Calhoun	130	27,223	5,266	43,799	12.1
Charlotte	209	44,577	181,571	290,340	65.4
Citrus	294	20,661	35,091	49,192	13.2
Clay	211	7,863	47,211	70,834	18.4
Collier	235	69,212	51,877	277,279	21.4
Columbia	600	46,268	54,016	97,968	19.0
Dade	1,576	67,550	895	83,681	6.8
DeSoto	715	126,633	189,864	322,402	79.0
Dixie	155	6,371	25,926	33,508	7.4
Duval	320	11,127	15,801	35,531	7.2

Escambia	466	34,942	11,801	54,617	12.9
Flagler	91	12,656	59,550	87,737	28.3
Franklin	19	D	D	5,125	1.5
Gadsden	290	23,827	13,487	57,933	17.5
Gilchrist	365	43,552	32,939	78,090	35.0
Glades	189	41,361	314,047	380,377	76.8
Gulf	33	968	1,824	3,823	1.1
Hamilton	256	25,398	25,994	66,379	20.1
Hardee	1,045	1,041	257,198	345,643	84.7
Hendry	403	204,996	333,231	604,677	82.0
Hernando	432	21,024	40,698	52,999	17.3
Highlands	779	121,762	361,449	489,579	74.4
Hillsborough	2,639	103,266	150,983	247,502	36.8
Holmes	578	41,243	30,335	87,582	28.4
Indian River	437	85,820	52,090	168,399	52.3
Jackson	844	136,123	58,908	244,552	41.7
Jefferson	342	33,477	48,426	126,590	33.1
Lafayette	221	22,221	43,974	93,434	26.9
Lake	1,389	80,063	99,765	185,311	30.4
Lee	509	34,155	89,842	129,081	25.1
Leon	243	16,467	10,332	67,539	15.8
Levy	549	68,488	95,843	157,376	22.0
Liberty	47	1,179	4,280	7,238	1.4
Madison	486	54,254	46,035	131,577	29.7

Manatee	697	105,743	178,836	267,993	56.5
Marion	1,669	100,264	186,788	265,572	26.3
Martin	305	75,180	91,382	183,724	51.7
Monroe	13	D	D	D	0.2
Nassau	238	6,131	14,652	35,165	8.4

Okaloosa	342	21,161	16,485	50,822	8.5
Okeechobee	459	72,659	320,266	391,871	79.1
Orange	862	44,266	114,697	175,017	30.1
Osceola	485	50,505	554,270	610,825	72.2
Palm Beach	855	529,138	19,588	604,703	46.4
Pasco	951	58,038	115,261	161,939	34.0
Pinellas	129	902	716	1,895	1.1
Polk	2,464	186,878	427,881	621,489	51.8
Putnam	391	17,218	43,660	85,794	18.6
St. Johns	149	24,597	12,750	49,631	12.7
St. Lucie	500	136,131	84,614	227,414	62.1
Santa Rosa	438	59,263	18,960	87,971	13.5
Sarasota	315	18,781	117,251	128,655	35.2
Seminole	344	6,599	30,450	37,222	18.9
Sumter	718	54,692	135,832	183,374	52.5
Suwannee	840	86,524	57,529	158,406	36.0
Taylor	126	6,027	43,751	56,784	8.5
Union	213	15,504	27,171	62,503	40.6
Volusia	910	30,134	73,037	111,502	15.8
Wakulla	88	3,640	4,983	11,426	2.9

Walton	476	35,304	27,865	78,844	11.6
Washington	322	25,583	15,376	55,268	14.9
State	34,799	3,639,850	6,056,777	10,454,217	30.3

Source: USDA Census, 1997

Florida Farm Facts

- Florida has 1,862,404 acres of its 3,639,850 crop land acres under irrigation.
- Florida farmland and buildings are valued at \$23 billion, \$662,538 per farm and \$2,241 per acre.
- Florida farmers paid more than \$1.306 billion to contracted and hired farm workers in 1998.
- Florida farmers spent more than 1.322 billion on feed, seed, fertilizer and pesticides in 1998.
- Total Florida production expenses were \$4.80 billion in 1998.

APPENDIX B: CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Conservation Easements

Conservation Update

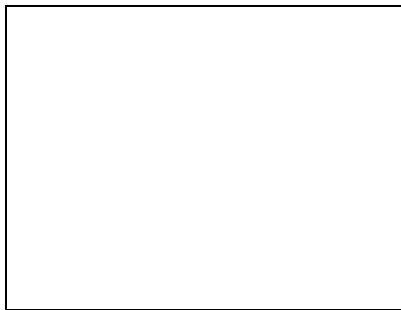


What is a Conservation Easement?

A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and an easement holder that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect scenic or wildlife resources. Each easement is tailored to fit the owner's personal management objectives and goals for the property.

Conservation Easements in the United States

Saving land through conservation easements is the fastest growing movement to protect land in the United States. There are 1,213 nonprofit land trusts operating throughout the country (63 percent more than a decade ago). As of 1998, approximately 4.7 million acres of land have been protected by local and regional land trusts, an area larger than the states of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. The [Land Trust Alliance](#) serves as the national clearinghouse and information center for land trusts and easements.



Click on map to view larger version.

How Conservation Easements Work

To understand the easement concept, think of owning land as holding a bundle of rights. A landowner may sell or give away the whole bundle, or just one or two of those rights. These may include, for example, the right to construct buildings, to subdivide the land, to restrict access, or to harvest timber. To give away certain rights while retaining others, a property owner grants an easement to an appropriate third party.

Other Conservation Easement Information:

[Conservation Easements in the Red Hills Region](#)



[Tall Timbers Home Page](#)

For more information about the Red Hills Conservation Program at Tall Timbers contact Kevin McGorty at kmcgorty@ttrs.org.



The specific rights a property owner foregoes when granting a conservation easement are spelled out in each easement document. The owner and the prospective easement holder identify the rights and restrictions on use that are necessary to protect the property - what can and cannot be done to it. The owner then conveys the rights to enforce those restrictions to a qualified conservation recipient, such as a land trust organization or public agency.

Benefits of Conservation Easements

Conservation easements offer several benefits to landowners:

- Landowners retain title to their property and continue to live on it, sell it, or pass it on to heirs, knowing that it will always be protected.
- Easements may eliminate or greatly reduce estate taxes, preventing the forced sale of properties. Easements can also provide landowners with substantial federal income tax reductions.
- Easements are flexible, adapted to the particular needs of the landowner and the resources of the property.
- Easements can reduce the potential for disagreement among family members when lands are passed on to the next generation.
- Easements offer permanent protection, applying to all future landowners.

Tax Benefits of Conservation Easements

The donation of a conservation easement is a tax-deductible charitable gift. The amount of the income tax deduction is equal to the difference between the fair market value of the property without the easement and its value with the easement.



In addition, many Red Hills landowners take advantage of estate tax relief offered by easements. Under the *Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997*, heirs can exclude an additional 40 percent of the value of the land, over and above the charitable gift value, for lands under easement.

APPENDIX C: INFORMATION RESOURCES

- *1000 Friends of Florida*: <http://www.1000fof.org/> Mission is to protect and improve Florida's quality of life by advocating responsible planning for the state's population growth, and to protect natural areas, fight urban sprawl, promote sensible development patterns, and provide affordable housing. Site contains links to other non-profit growth management organizations, with information on greenways, affordable housing, community developments, legal issues and publications among other things. Site also contains substantial links to various press releases and news stories relating to these issues.
- *A New Look at Agriculture*: <http://us-farm.com/> Explains why agriculture is important to each of us Describes the obstacles faced by agriculture, Suggests more than 250 ways to overcome these obstacles, Proposes 20 priority actions for immediate attention, Can be used to develop policy actions on a county, state and national basis. Site contains many pertinent links too numerous to list, but general topics include: overview, background, economics, environment, downloads, and a link for creating your own community action plan.
- *Agricultural Research Service*: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/>. The principal research agency of the USDA, mission include: ensure high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products, assess the nutritional needs of Americans, sustain a competitive agricultural economy, enhance the natural resource base and the environment, and provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole. The site basically contains information for the public on anything from aquaculture to plant diseases.
- *American Farmland Trust, Farmland Information Library*: <http://www.farmlandinfo.org/fic/home.html>. Contains farmland protection updates, state by state info, literature and law sections, and a frequently requested documents resource.
- *American Heritage Rivers Initiative*: <http://www.epa.gov/rivers/initiative.html>. The American Heritage Rivers initiative is an innovative response to help river communities that seek federal assistance and other resources to meet some tough challenges. Contains an archive section with FAQ's, various testimonies, and examples of how this initiative can help river communities revitalize their rivers.
- *American Planning Association*: <http://www.planning.org/>. The American Planning Association and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, are organized to advance the art and science of planning and to foster the activity of planning -- physical, economic, and social -- at the local, regional, state, and national levels. The objective of the Association is to encourage planning that will contribute to public well-being by developing communities and environments that meet the needs of people and society more effectively. The web site contains invaluable information on growth management laws and policies throughout the country. APA also has a list of publications

through the Planning Advisory Service that are pertinent to rural policy. APA also sponsors a Small Town & Rural Planning Division and publishes bimonthly newsletters on its behalf.

- *Center for Agriculture and the Environment:* <http://www.farmlandinfo.org/cae/>. Specializes in farmland protection, conservation practices, and integrated pest management. Site contains links to current research (and publications relating to it), project centers, and contact info.
- *Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service:* <http://www.reeusda.gov/>. Provides the focus to advance a global system of research, extension and higher education in the food and agricultural sciences and related environmental and human sciences to benefit people, communities, and the Nation. Site contains program information, state partners, a calendar, and a FAQ section.
- *Defenders of Wildlife:* <http://www.defenders.org/>. Defenders of Wildlife is dedicated to the protection of all native wild animals and plants in their natural communities. Its scientists consider two of the most serious environmental threats to the planet: the accelerating rate of extinction of species and the associated loss of biological diversity, and habitat alteration and destruction. Long known for our leadership on endangered species issues, Defenders of Wildlife also advocates new approaches to wildlife conservation that will help keep species from becoming endangered. Programs encourage protection of entire ecosystems and interconnected habitats while protecting predators that serve as *indicator* species for ecosystem health. Site contains links for taking action, news, and information on wildlife for the specific area you live in.
- *Department of Community Affairs:* <http://www.dca.state.fl.us/>. The State's land planning agency, responsible for local planning reviews and growth management administration. Administers Florida Communities Trust program and the State's emergency management functions, among other duties. Site contains a directory of programs and divisions, copies of governing statutes and rules, and links to media and resource centers.
- *Department of Forestry, Virginia Tech:* <http://www.fw.vt.edu/forestry/>. Site basically contains information about the school's Forestry program, a unique program with timely information of interest for Florida.
- *Enterprise Florida:* <http://www.floridabusiness.com/>. Enterprise Florida's mission is to increase economic opportunities for all Floridians, by supporting the creation of quality jobs, a well-trained workforce, and globally competitive businesses. It pursues this mission in cooperation with its statewide network of economic development partners. Site contains links to news, reports and publications, and a search engine.
- *Farm Service Agency:* <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/default.asp>. Stabilizing farm income, helping farmers conserve land and water resources, providing credit to new or disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and helping farm operations recover from the effects of disaster are the missions of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA). Site contains a list of services, a search engine, and an organizational chart.

- Farm*A*Syst: <http://www.uwex.edu/farmasyst>. Partnership between government agencies and private business that enables you to prevent pollution on farms, ranches, and in homes using confidential environmental assessments. Farm*A*Syst can help you determine what risks -- whether from livestock waste disposal, pesticide management or petroleum storage -- could threaten your family's health and financial security. A system of step-by-step fact sheets and worksheets helps you to identify the behaviors and practices that are creating those risks. This is a voluntary program and the assessment can be done by the landowner or by local agencies. Site contains contact information and general program info.
- *Florida Association of Counties*: <http://www.fl-counties.com/>. Site does not contain a summary of what this organization does, but does contain links to communications/publications, governmental relations, enterprise programs, etc. Site also contains a utility to allow the user to go to each individual county's page.
- *Florida Chapter of American Planning Association*: <http://www.floridaplanning.org/>. Site contains information about the state association of professional planners and the concerns of its members. Includes links to other organization and planning information.
- *Florida Cooperative Extension Service-Wildlife*: <http://www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/>. Part of the mission of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service is to disseminate and provide access to science-based information that will contribute to the solution of natural resource problems of concern to the people of Florida. Wildlife Extension specialists in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation serve, advise, and develop educational programs for Florida citizens in conjunction with county extension agents and other state, county, and local organizations interested in wildlife issues. Site contains links to wildlife information, educational resources, landscaping for wildlife, and info for extension agents.
- *Florida Department of Agriculture*: <http://www.fl-ag.com/>. The purpose of this web site is essentially twofold: to provide information to Florida agricultural producers, as well as to the consuming public. And, since those who grow food and those who eat food includes *everyone*, we've tried to design this site so that there is something of interest here for everyone. This site contains information and materials that help Florida farmers more effectively market their commodities. These marketing tools include trade leads, market prices, information about export assistance programs, agricultural statistics, weather reports, license and bond requirements, agricultural classified ads, and more. Helping Florida producers sell their commodities is the primary responsibility of the Division of Marketing and Development. This site also helps inform the general public — consumers — about the wholesomeness, variety and availability of Florida agricultural products. We do this by providing nutritional data, recipes, seasonal availability information, food safety tips, and more. We believe that the more consumers know about the many agricultural commodities grown here in Florida, the more they will choose to buy products that are "Fresh from Florida." Site contains main links to development/information,

education/communication, and Florida agriculture statistics. Smaller links include everything from radio to wineries.

- *Florida Department of Environmental Protection:* <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/>. Agency protects air quality, waste management, water quality, and state parks. It is also involved in buying land for the Florida Forever program. Site contains a link for each distinct agency within the department, a link for locating offices, and an extensive news and events section.
- *Florida Farm Bureau:* <http://www.fb.org/flfb/>. Site contains links to issues and news releases, and also contains a calendar containing dates for symposiums and meetings. The main link on the page is entitled "Dealing with Drought".
- *Florida Forest Protection Bureau:* <http://flame.doacs.state.fl.us/General/>. Site contains daily reports on field activity, wildfire statistics, and information on wildfire season and history.
- *Florida State Horticultural Society:* <http://valencia.lal.ufl.edu/jkbu/fshs/index.html>. FSHS serves as an open forum for growers, researchers, producers, urban gardeners, landscapers and associated industries to discuss, debate and resolve current problems of mutual concern. FSHS distributes this information at its annual meeting, and publishes the information in the *Proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society*. Site contains last year's meeting program, links to the National Horticultural Society, and many citrus related links.
- *Florida Stewardship Foundation:* <http://www.fl-stewardship.com/index.htm>. Creating a new environmental ethic based on rewarding private landowners for the responsible care of our natural resources. Site contains links to publications, both public and private lands, the everglades, forests, etc. Links of interest include economic studies and regulatory issues.
- *Florida's Trails Guide:* <http://www.state.fl.us/gfc/fltrails/index.html>. Site is basically indicative of its title—a guide for hiking, canoeing, etc on the trails.
- *Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture:* <http://www.fao.org/gIEWS/>. Site contains a link to publications and reports containing documents on food outlook and food crops and shortages. Site also has link to online databases containing info on vast regions (not local or even state level).
- *League of Cities:* <http://flcities.com/default2.asp>. Created in 1922 by city officials who wished to unite the municipal governments in Florida, the League has become one of the largest state municipal leagues in the nation. The League is governed by a Board of Directors, comprised of elected city, town and village officials. There are a variety of committees, conferences and programs for officials to participate in each year. We recognize that our League is strong because our members are active! Site contains numerous links including publications, financial/insurance/legislative/legal services, and a calendar of events.
- *Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations:* <http://fcn.state.fl.us/lcir/>. A public entity that facilitates the development of intergovernmental policies and

practices. Site contains lists of staff and members, a link to publications and interim projects, and a link to federal and state summits.

- *National Association of Conservation Districts:* <http://www.nacdnet.org/>. Site contains current events, a meeting calendar, and a link to government affairs.
- *National Association of State Departments of Agriculture:* <http://www.nasdaq.org/>. Site contains a member list, NASDA's 2002 Farm Policy Initiative, and state by state environmental guides.
- *Online Sunshine:* <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/>. Welcome/index.cfm. This is the Web site for Florida's Legislature and contains bills and statutes.
- *Policy Statement on Agricultural Preservation,* the American Planning Association, 1999. Addresses numerous rural policy issues and provides pertinent background information.
- *Rural Business-Cooperative Service:* <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/index.html>. The mission is to enhance the quality of life for all rural Americans by providing leadership in building competitive businesses and sustainable cooperatives that can prosper in the global marketplace." RBS accomplishes this mission by investing its financial resources and technical assistance in businesses and communities, and by building partnerships that leverage public and private, cooperative resources to create jobs and stimulate rural economic activity. The site contains information on both business and cooperative programs, and a publication library.
- *Rural Development:* <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>. The site contains info on business and cooperative programs, housing and community programs, and utility programs. There is also a news and information link along with a listing of all field offices.
- *Service Center Initiative Team:* <http://www.sci.usda.gov/sci/>. USDA's Service Centers deliver programs from one or more of the following major partner agencies: the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Rural Development. Other USDA agencies, such as the Extension Service and Forest Service, are also present in some USDA Service Centers as appropriate. The site contains a utility to locate these centers, info on modernization plans, and info on program management.
- *Society of American Foresters:* <http://www.safnet.org/>. Mission is to advance the science, education, technology and practice of forestry; and to use the knowledge, skills and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health of forests and the availability of forest resources to benefit society. Site contains a link to general forestry info, an interface to get the latest forestry related news, and a link to online journals.
- *Soil and Water Conservation Service:* <http://www.swcs.org/>. The Soil and Water Conservation Service fosters the science and the art of soil, water and related natural resource management to achieve sustainability. We promote and practice an ethic recognizing the interdependence of people and the environment. Site

contains links to advocacy and publications, as well as links to conservation with an emphasis on the science involved.

- *Southern Appalachian Man and Biosphere Program:* <http://sunsite.utk.edu/neighborhoods/SAMAB/samab/index.html>. A public/private partnership that focuses its attention on the Southern Appalachian Biosphere Reserve. The program encourages the utilization of ecosystem and adaptive management principles. Site contains a strategic plan and organizational chart for the program, along with links to both initiatives and projects.
- *Successful Farming Agriculture Online:* <http://www.agriculture.com/index.html>. Site contains extensive links relating to news and technology, as well as a significant amount of grass-roots comments from farmers all over the country.
- *Sustainable Agricultural Network:* <http://www.sare.org/>. SAN is the communications and outreach arm of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program. SARE is a U.S. Department of Agriculture-funded initiative that sponsors competitive grants for sustainable agriculture research and education in a regional process nationwide. SAN is dedicated to the exchange of scientific and practical information on sustainable agriculture systems using a variety of printed and electronic communications tools. Site contains links to publications, funded projects, and news. Site also contains a “what’s new” section.
- *The Nature Conservancy:* <http://nature.org/>. The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Site contains links to every state, a press release link, and a daily news link as well.
- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:* <http://www.fws.gov/>. Working with others, to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Major responsibilities: migratory birds, endangered species, freshwater and anadromous fish, the National Wildlife Refuge System, wetlands, protecting habitat, conserving coastal areas, environmental contaminants. Site contains an FAQ section, news link, and sections on conservation and education.
- *University of Florida-Institute of Food and Agriculture:* <http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/>. Site is basically dedicated to the program of study at UF, but it does contain FAQ and publication links, as well as a search engine.
- *USDA Forest Service:* <http://www.fs.fed.us/>. A federal agency that manages public lands in national forests and grasslands. Site contains a directory of offices, an online discussion group, and many other links to forest related legislation.
- *USDA National Agroforestry Center:* <http://www.unl.edu/nac/>. Combines agriculture and forestry technologies to create more integrated, diverse, productive, profitable, healthy and sustainable land-use systems. Site contains general agroforestry information, an interface for online publications, and a news section.

