

National Resources Conservation Services

Agency Address / Web sites

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101
Phone: 651-602-7900

Web sites:

- [National Resources Conservation Services \(NRCS\); Minnesota](#)
- [National Resources Conservation Services](#)
- [Form AD 1006](#) – Farmland Conversion Impact Rating
- [Form NRCS-CPA-106 -- Farmland Conversion Impact Rating, Corridors](#)

MnDOT Contact

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Authority

- Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) of 1981 (*7 USC 4201 et. seq.)
(See [United States Code: Main Page](#) for viewing above U.S. Code).
- Farmland Protection Policy Act [7 CFR 658](#)

Agency Role(s)

The FPPA is intended to minimize the impact federal programs have on the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. Farmland subject to FPPA requirements does not have to be currently used for cropland. It can be forest land, pastureland, cropland, or other land, but not water or urban built-up land. The NRCS provides USDA technical leadership, working in partnership with local, state, and other

federal conservation agencies and organizations, to help people conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources.

Agency Areas of Concern

When proposed Mn/DOT projects involves irreversibly converting farmland or other agricultural land to nonagricultural uses, the NRCS will use the criteria set forth by the FPPA to identify and take into account any adverse effects on farmland and develop alternative actions that would avoid or mitigate such adverse effects. Activities that may be subject to FPPA include, but are not limited to, state highway construction projects (through the FHWA), airport expansions, and railroad construction projects. Projects planned and completed without the assistance of a federal agency or construction within an existing right-of-way purchased on or before August 4, 1984 are not subject to FPPA.

For additional information see the associated HPDP Guidance:

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Land Use Impacts
- Farmland Impacts

Procedures / Requirements

Federal agencies or their representative with a project that has the potential to convert farmland to non-farmland use should contact the local office of the NRCS. NRCS uses a land evaluation and site assessment (LESA) system to establish a farmland conversion impact rating score on proposed sites of federally funded and assisted projects. The assessment is completed on [Form AD-1006](#), Farmland Conversion Impact Rating which is the form used by Federal agencies who wish to convert farmland to nonagricultural uses.

Farmlands of all types are their major concern -- prime, unique, or other farmlands of statewide importance are of special concern. All EIS documents will be reviewed by the state office of NRCS.

NRCS will, within 45 calendar days after receipt of Form AD-1006 make a determination as to whether the site(s) of the proposed project contains prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland.