

# Farmland Protection

## Checklist for HUD or Responsible Entity

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
The Farmland Protection Policy Act discourages Federal activities that would convert farmland to nonagricultural purposes.	Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.)	7 CFR Part 658

**1. Does your project include new construction, acquisition of undeveloped land or change in use of land or property.**

- Yes: PROCEED to #2
- No: STOP here. The Farmland Protection Policy Act does not apply. Record your determination

Maintain, in your ERR, a determination that the project does not include new construction, acquisition of undeveloped land or change in use of a property

**2. Does your project meet one of the following exemptions?**

- Construction limited to on-farm structures needed for farm operations.
- Construction limited to new minor secondary (accessory) structures such as a garage or storage shed
- Project on land used for water storage or already in or committed urban development (this includes land with a density of 30 structures per 40 acre area. It also includes lands identified as “urbanized area” (UA) on the Census Bureau Map, or as urban area mapped with a “tint overprint” on the USGS topographical maps, or as “urban built-up” on the USDA Important Farmland Maps. Please note that land “zoned” for development, i.e. non-agricultural use, does not exempt a project from compliance with the FPPA).

- Yes: STOP here. The Farmland Protection Policy Act does not apply. Record your determination

Maintain, in your ERR, documentation to evidence the project meets one of the exemptions. If the project is already in urban development provide a map as described above with your site marked or documentation from another credible source.

- No: PROCEED to #3

**3. Does “important farmland” regulated under the Farmland Protection Policy Act occur on the project site? This includes prime farmland, unique farmland and/or land of statewide or local importance**

**You may use the links below to determine if important farmland occurs on the project site:**

- Utilize USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) Web Soil Survey <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>

- Check with your city or county’s planning department and ask them to document if the project is on land regulated by the FPPA (zoning important farmland as non-agricultural does not exempt it from FPPA requirements)
- Contact NRCS at the local USDA service center  
<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs> for assistance

No: STOP here. The project does not convert farmland to nonagricultural purposes. Record your determination on the Statutory Worksheet and attach documentation used to make your determination

Yes: PROCEED to #4

**4. Consider alternatives to completing the project on important farmland and means of avoiding impacts to important farmland.**

Complete form [AD-1006, “Farmland Conversion Impact Rating”](#) and contact the state soil scientist before sending it to the local NRCS District Conservationist. Work with NRCS to minimize the impact of the project on the protected farmland.

Return a copy of Form 1006 to the USDA-NRCS State Soil Scientist or his/her designee informing them of your determination once you have finished the analysis.

Record your determination on the Statutory Worksheet and attach documentation used to make your determination. Include any mitigation required in the review.

**DISCLAIMER:** This document is intended as a tool to help Region X HUD grantees and HUD staff complete environmental requirements. This document is subject to change. This is not a policy statement, and the Farmland Protection Legislation and Regulations take precedence over any information found in this document.