

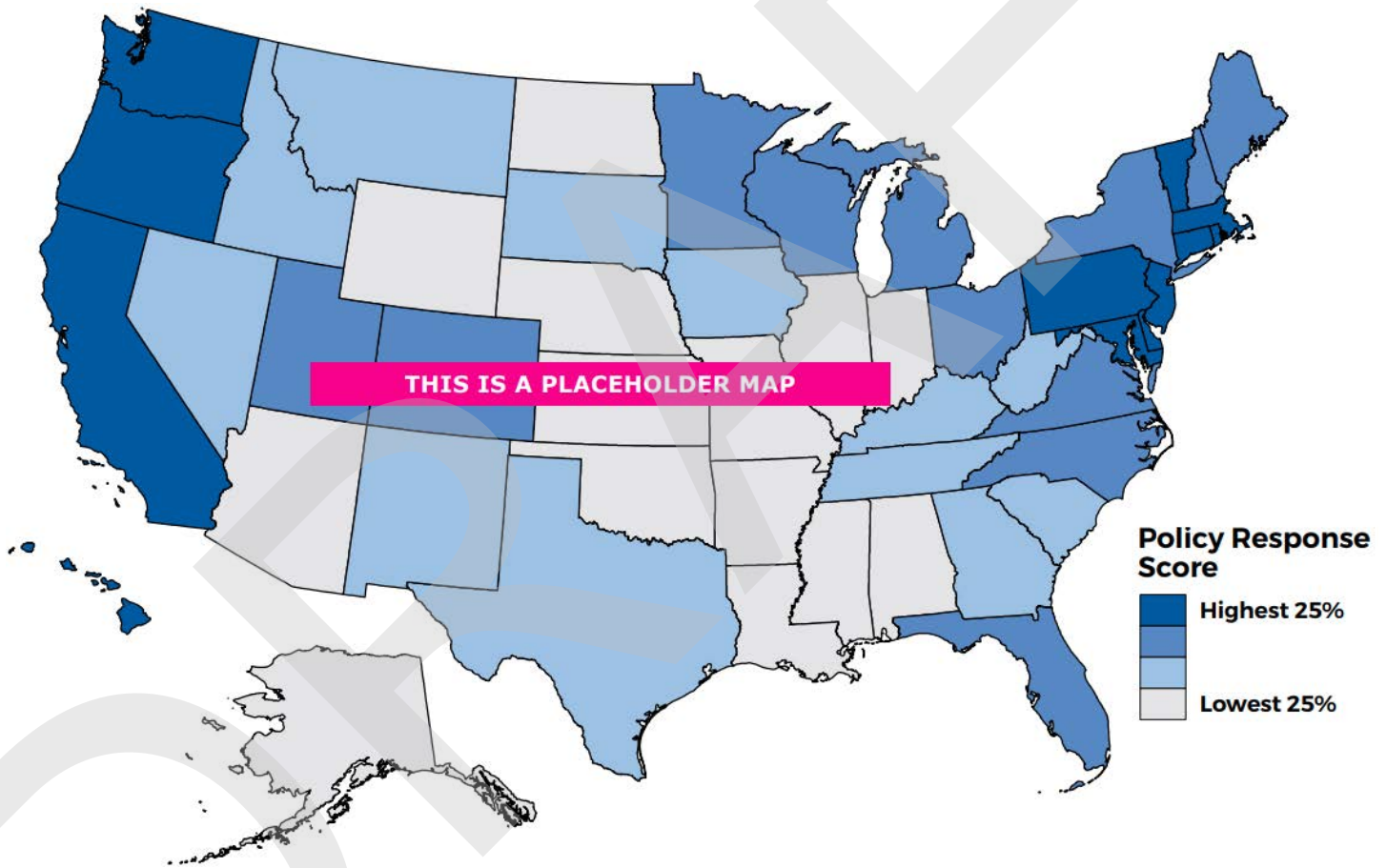
# THE STATE OF THE STATES

## Agricultural Land Protection Scorecard Highlight Summary

# Florida

**Farms Under Threat: The State of the States** mapped agricultural land conversion and evaluated state policy responses. The Agricultural Land Protection Scorecard evaluated six policies and programs that protect agricultural land from development, promote farm viability, and facilitate the transfer of agricultural land. AFT combined these scores to generate an overall Policy Response Score, which indicates how each state has addressed the threat of development.

### EXTENT OF STATE POLICY RESPONSES TO THE THREAT OF CONVERSION



#### CONVERSION THREAT

# HIGH

Florida scored among the top states for the conversion of agricultural land to urban and highly developed (UHD) and low-density residential (LDR) uses.

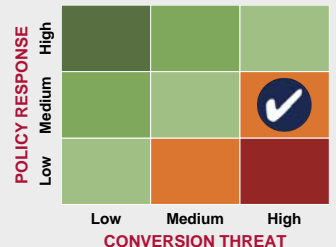
#### POLICY RESPONSE

# MEDIUM

Florida scored in the middle of all states for policies and programs that address the threat.

#### HOW IS YOUR STATE DOING?

Florida is in an orange box because its conversion threat is higher than its policy response, relative to other states. Learn more at [www.farmland.org/farmsunderthreat](http://www.farmland.org/farmsunderthreat)

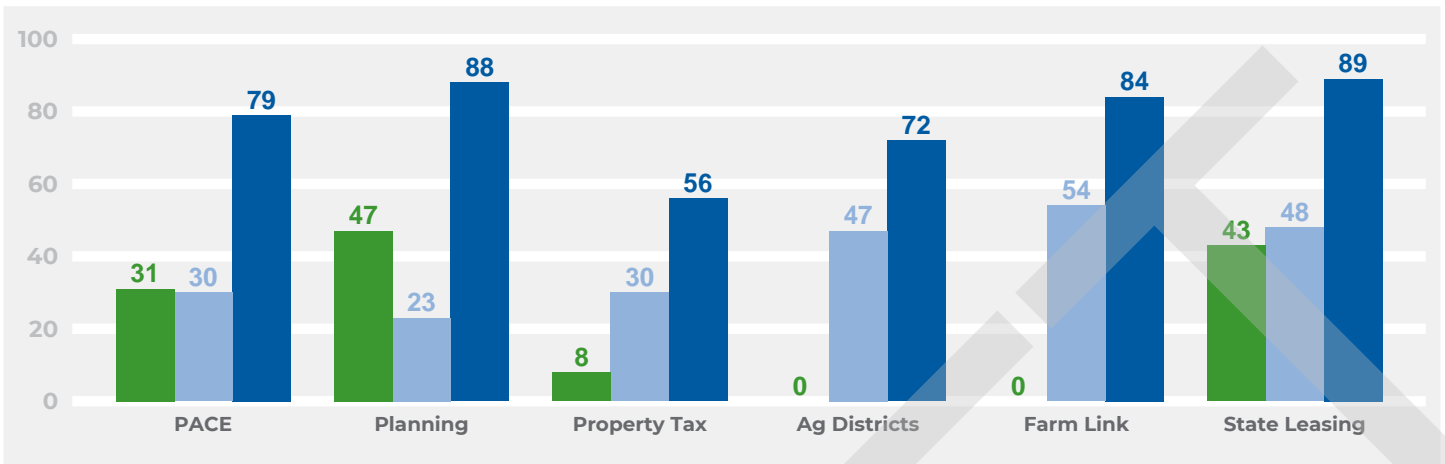


## HOW FLORIDA STACKS UP

Florida Score 

Median Score 

Top Score 



Final policy score compare to the median and the highest scores achieved by all states that have implemented this policy.

## ABOUT THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

### PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Purchase of agricultural conservation easements (PACE) programs permanently protect farmland and ranchland from non-farm development. PACE programs pay property owners to sell agricultural conservation easements to a government agency or private conservation organization. Florida administers the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program.

### PLANNING AND LAND USE

Land use planning policies manage growth and stabilize the land base. Most states delegate planning authority to local governments, but some play a more active role, requiring localities to develop comprehensive plans, identify agricultural resources and adopt policies to protect them. Florida requires local comprehensive planning.

### PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Property tax relief (PTR) programs reduce property taxes paid on agricultural land. The most common approach is use-value assessment (UVA), which assesses farmland and ranchland at its current use value. Florida's program is known as its Greenbelt law. It does not require verification that land is in active agricultural use in order to be eligible.

### AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

Agricultural district programs encourage landowners to form special areas to support agriculture. Farmers receive protections and incentives ranging from limits on annexation, eminent domain, and public facility and infrastructure siting to tax incentives and exemptions. Less common is requiring district enrollment to participate in state-administered PACE programs.

### FARM LINK

Farm Link programs connect land seekers with landowners who want their land to stay in agriculture. Administered by public or private entities, they offer a range of services and resources, from online real estate postings to technical assistance, trainings, and educational resources. We only investigated publicly supported programs.

### LEASING PROGRAMS

State leasing programs make state-owned land available to farmers and ranchers for agriculture. Sometimes their primary purpose is to make land available for agriculture. More often, agricultural use is secondary to generating income for a public purpose or protecting wildlife habitat.

## FLORIDA: KEY FACTS

**\$0.17**

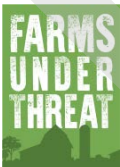
AMOUNT INVESTED PER CAPITA IN PERMANENTLY PROTECTING FARMLAND

**0.2**

ACRES OF AG LAND DEVELOPED PER NEW PERSON

**X NO**

PENALTY IMPOSED WHEN LAND IS WITHDRAWN FROM PTR PROGRAM



**Farms Under Threat** is American Farmland Trust's multi-year initiative to document the status of and threats to U.S. farm and ranch land and to identify policy solutions to ensure the protection and conservation of America's diverse agricultural landscape. For more information about the initiative, visit AFT's website: [www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org). For a copy of the full report and information on methods and analyses, contact AFT's Farmland Information Center: [www.farmlandinfo.org](http://www.farmlandinfo.org) or (800) 370-4879.



Explore our interactive maps at [farmland.org/placeholder](http://farmland.org/placeholder)