

AGRICULTURE
65-00-00

Project Summary Chart

Project Name	STATE CAPITAL FUNDS					
	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015 Request	FY 2015 Recommended	FY 2016 Request	FY 2017 Request
1. Aglands Preservation Program*	\$7,000,000	\$4,200,000	\$7,000,000		\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000
2. Young Farmers Loan Program*	3,000,000	1,800,000	3,000,000		3,000,000	3,000,000
3. Kjeldahl Instrument			110,000			
TOTAL	\$10,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$10,110,000		\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000

*The source of funding is Realty Transfer Tax.

1. Aglands Preservation Program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Funding is requested for the Agricultural Lands Preservation Program. Including the Fiscal Year 2013 funding, the foundation has permanently protected 111,000 acres at a cost of over \$198,000,000 using a combination of state, federal and county funds. Additionally, landowners over the life of the program have donated \$249,000,000 to the foundation - representing a discount of 55 percent of the value of their easements. Interest among landowners has not diminished. In the most recent round of easement selections (Round 17), 103 properties were appraised, 78 owners submitted offers and 65 were selected. This allocation provides sufficient funding to match federal and county contributions, purchase easements on properties that do not qualify for federal funds and operate the program.

CAPITAL REQUEST

FUNDING

	STATE	FEDERAL	OTHER*
FY 2013	\$0	\$0	\$7,000,000
FY 2014	0	0	4,200,000
FY 2015	0	0	7,000,000
FY 2016	0	0	7,000,000
FY 2017	0	0	7,000,000
TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$32,200,000

*The source of Other funds is Realty Transfer Tax.

2. Young Farmers Loan Program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Funding is requested to continue the Young Farmers Loan Program. The funding will help young men and women establish agricultural operations by providing zero-interest loans to assist with the purchase of farmland. Specifically, the program will provide up to 70 percent of the value of the development rights and in return, the State receives a permanent conservation easement on the farm under the parameters and management of the Agricultural Lands Preservation Program. The State's purchase of the development rights allows a young farmer to buy a farm at a lower cost because the seller receives the easement funding from the state, thereby lowering the sale price to the young farmer. The program provides the funds to the young farmer as a loan, and the young farmer repays at no interest over a 30-year term, which helps to replenish the fund. The recipient must maintain an active farming operation on the property over the life of the loan. If the recipient withdraws from the program or sells the property, then he or she must repay the balance of the loan in full, but the conservation easement is perpetual regardless of property ownership. Including the Fiscal Year 2013 funding, the Young Farmers Loan Program has provided 22 loans totaling over \$5,500,000 and helped these recipients purchase farms totaling over 2,000 acres.

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CAPITAL REQUEST

FUNDING

	STATE	FEDERAL	OTHER*
FY 2013	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000
FY 2014	0	0	1,800,000
FY 2015	0	0	3,000,000
FY 2016	0	0	3,000,000
FY 2017	0	0	3,000,000
TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$13,800,000

*The source of Other funds is Realty Transfer Tax.

3. Kjeldahl Instrument

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Funding is requested to purchase a Kjeldahl Instrument in the Agriculture Compliance Laboratory. This instrument performs the analysis for nitrogen and ammonia on manure for farmers. The testing is required for farmers to comply with Nutrient Management laws. The current instrument is 12 years old and parts are wearing out. With the most recent repair, the Department of Agriculture was informed that the company no longer makes replacement parts. The new instrument will be automated, saving analysis and monitoring time of employees for the tests. Additionally, the new instrument will be digital, making it compatible with the new Laboratory Information Management System that will be installed during Fiscal Year 2014.

CAPITAL REQUEST

FUNDING

	STATE	FEDERAL	OTHER
FY 2015	\$110,000	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$110,000	\$0	\$0

FISCAL YEAR 2016

1. Aglands Preservation Program
\$7,000,000

See Project Description for Fiscal Year 2015.

2. Young Farmers Loan Program
\$3,000,000

See Project Description for Fiscal Year 2015.

FISCAL YEAR 2017

1. Aglands Preservation Program
\$7,000,000

See Project Description for Fiscal Year 2015.

2. Young Farmers Loan Program
\$3,000,000

See Project Description for Fiscal Year 2015.