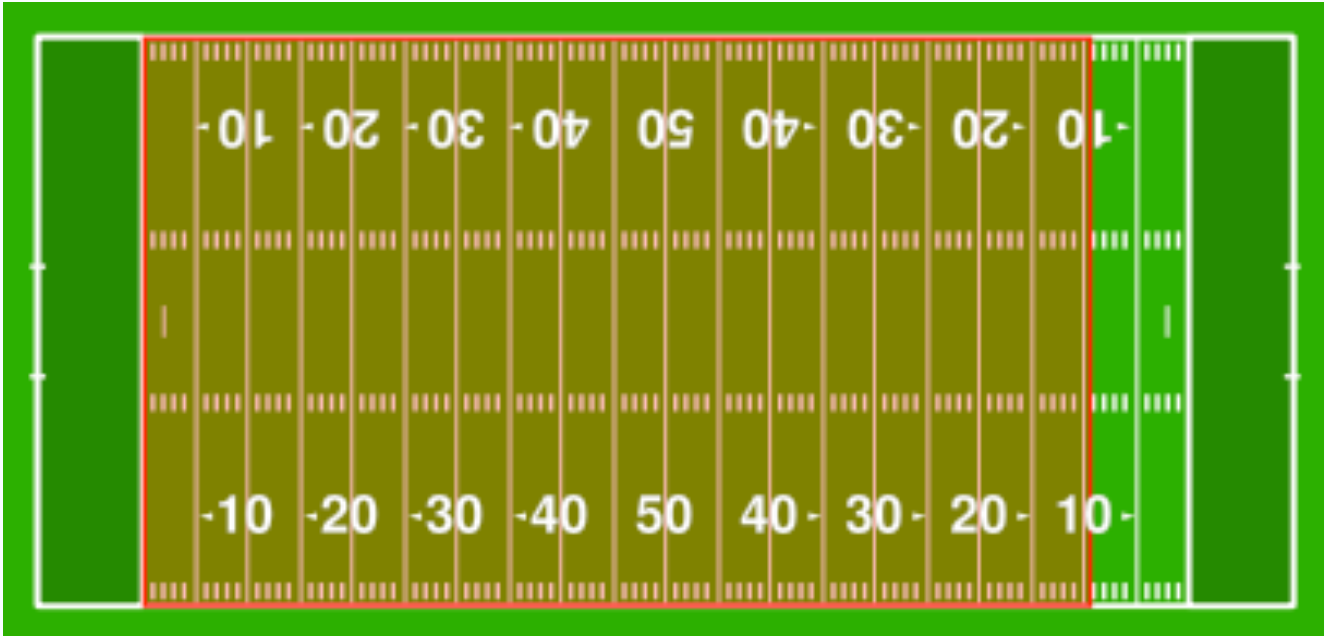# WHAT ABOUT AN ACRE?

An **acre** is the name of a [unit](#) of [area](#) in a number of different systems, including [Imperial units](#) and [United States customary units](#). The most commonly used acres today are the international acre and, in the [United States](#), the survey acre.

One acre comprises 4,840 [square yards](#) or 43,560 [square feet](#). Because of alternative definitions of a yard or a foot, the exact size of an acre also varies slightly. Related units of [length](#) are the acre's length of one [furlong](#) (220 yards) and the acre's breadth of one [chain](#) (4 rods or 66 feet).

The acre is often used to express areas of land. In the [metric system](#), the [hectare](#) is commonly used for the same purpose. An acre is approximately 0.4 hectares.

The area of one acre (red) overlaid on an American football field

One acre is slightly less than 91 yards of a 53.33 yard wide [American football](#) field. The full field, including the end zones, covers approximately 1.32 acres.

There are 33 billion acres of land on the earth – Only less than 470 million acres are arable.

A square Acre = 208.71' x 208.71' = 43,560 sq ft. There are 640 acres in a square mile.

> ARABLE: Capable of producing crops; suitable or farming or land that can be or is cultivated.

Currently, 80% of U.S. croplands lose an inch of topsoil every 33 years; this is twenty times faster than the natural rate of soil gain.

One acre of natural habitat or farmland is converted to built-up space or highway for each person added to the U.S. population. If present population growth and other trends continue, over the next 60 ears, our arable land base of 470 million acres will diminish by 120 million acres. That is one quarter of the present total of arable land. Of land that is now in cultivation in the U.S., more than **1 million acres** are lost each year due to urbanization and an additional **2 million** acres of prime cropland are lost due to degradation.

To see what an acre of land looks like: Form a circle with a diameter of approx. 235.5' by using the radius rope (117.75')