



NEWS

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Contact: Jeff Beach (609) 292-8896

Agriculture Secretary Announces Craft as New SADC Executive Director *Respected Burlington County Planning Official to Head Farmland Preservation Agency*

TRENTON – The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) has named Susan Craft of Moorestown as its new executive director, Agriculture Secretary Charles M. Kuperus announced today. Craft, a professional planner, has served as coordinator of Burlington County’s farmland preservation and transfer of development rights programs since 1993.



“As coordinator of one of the top-ranked county farmland preservation programs in the nation, Susan Craft is an ideal choice to help us continue to build on New Jersey’s nationally recognized farmland preservation efforts,” said Secretary Kuperus, who chairs the SADC. “Her expertise in farmland preservation, transfer of development rights and planning will be extremely valuable as the SADC continues to work to preserve our farms and keep agriculture strong.”

More than 19,000 acres of farmland have been preserved in Burlington County, more than any other county in New Jersey. Burlington County’s farmland preservation program is one of the top 10 county programs in the country, according to a nationwide survey by the *Farmland Preservation Report*, an independent national publication covering preservation policies, practices and initiatives.

Under Craft’s direction, Burlington County established the first transfer of development rights (TDR) programs in the state in Lumberton and Chesterfield townships. Under Lumberton’s TDR program, approximately 500 new residential units have been developed and more than 840 acres of farmland permanently preserved. Chesterfield Township’s TDR program calls for the development of more than 1,000 new residential units and the preservation of more than 4,000 additional acres of farmland.

Craft, who graduated from Cook College, Rutgers University, with a bachelor’s degree in environmental planning and design, formerly was director of Burlington County’s Land Use Planning office for eight years.

The SADC administers New Jersey’s Farmland Preservation Program and promotes innovative approaches to maintaining the viability of agriculture. It administers the Right to Farm Program, staffs the state Transfer of Development Rights Bank and operates the Farm Link Program, which serves as a resource and referral center for farmers seeking land and assistance on estate and farm transfer plans.

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To date, more than 1,200 farms covering more than 130,935 acres have been permanently preserved in New Jersey. The state leads the nation in farmland preservation, with 16 percent of its available agricultural land base permanently preserved.

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