



NEWS

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Colts Neck Farm With Deep Roots in Thoroughbred Industry Permanently Preserved

Agriculture Secretary Charles M. Kuperus today announced the preservation of the 108-acre Greenfields farm through a partnership with Colts Neck Township and Monmouth County.

“We’re pleased to partner in the preservation of this thoroughbred farm, which furthers our efforts to strengthen New Jersey’s equine industry and will be appreciated by generations of Colts Neck residents to come,” said Secretary Kuperus. “Colts Neck Township deserves a great deal of credit for initiating the preservation of this farm and shepherding it through the preservation process.”

“Colts Neck has been active in farmland preservation for many years, and we’re very happy the state and county worked with us to expedite this acquisition to make sure we didn’t lose this prominent property,” said Mayor Kenneth Florek.

“In addition to its agricultural merit, the farm has significant environmental value – abutting Willow Brook, which drains directly into the Swimming River Reservoir,” said Joseph McCarthy, chair of the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board. McCarthy credited Freeholder and former Colts Neck mayor Lillian Burry for her support of the project at both the township and county levels.

Greenfields is owned by Frances Purdey, who runs a thoroughbred breeding operation. After the death of her husband, William, in 2002, she took over management of the farm, which had been in her husband’s family since the 1930s and has deep roots in the thoroughbred industry. The maternal grand dam – or maternal grandmother to Triple Crown-winner Secretariat – was born at the farm in 1938.

Mrs. Purdey says her appreciation for the history of the farm led to her decision to preserve it. “I couldn’t imagine dividing it up,” she says. “It’s just such a jewel. I feel like I’m just a caretaker here for awhile.”

Susan E. Craft, executive director of the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC), pointed to the preservation of the farm as an example of the recently streamlined process under the state acquisition program. “Within about a year from application – and within two months of a signed agreement – we were able to close on the purchase of the development rights,” she said.

Of the nearly \$6.7 million purchase price for the development easement, the SADC contributed \$3.83 million, Colts Neck approximately \$1.7 million and Monmouth County \$1.16 million.

The State Agriculture Development Committee administers the state Farmland Preservation Program. To date, more than 1,400 farms covering more than 148,000 acres have been preserved statewide.

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