



# NEWS

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Contact: Hope Gruzlovic, SADC (609) 984-2504

## **Agriculture Secretary Joins Local Officials to Mark Preservation of Last Remaining Farm in Sayreville**

SAYREVILLE -- Agriculture Secretary Charles M. Kuperus joined other state, county and local leaders today in celebrating the preservation of the Dieker Farm, the last remaining farm in Sayreville.

“As the only farm in Sayreville, the Dieker Farm is highly valued in this community as a source of locally grown fruits, vegetables and flowers,” said Agriculture Secretary Charles M. Kuperus. “We often talk about the importance of agriculture close to where people live, and this farm is a great example of that dynamic. The preservation of this farm underscores Governor Corzine's commitment to preserving farmland and open space, and keeping New Jersey's farmland working for everyone who benefits from it, now and in the future.”

Sayreville Borough purchased the development rights to the 17-acre farm on November 6<sup>th</sup> for approximately \$3.468 million. The State Agriculture Development Committee provided 75 percent toward the purchase price and Middlesex County contributed the remaining 25 percent. Sayreville structured an installment purchase agreement that provides payments to the landowner, Margaret Dieker, over a 15-year period. The farm, established in 1903, is operated by her son Jim Dieker.

“I want to thank the Dieker family who made today's purchase possible,” said Middlesex County Freeholder Director David B. Crabiel. “Because of their love for the land and of farming, the rest of us have beautiful open lands, the opportunity to buy locally grown flowers, fruits and vegetables, and the ability to share with our children and grandchildren a special part of Middlesex County's history.”

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## Dieker Farm/Add One

“I am extremely pleased the Dieker family has preserved this farm into perpetuity, as it is the last remaining farm in our community,” said Sayreville Mayor Kennedy O’Brien. “The Dieker farm is an important part of Sayreville’s history and reminds us all that this was once a sleepy, rural community, dotted by farms. I want to thank Jim Dieker and his mother, both of whom are committed to ensuring the farm will always remain a local source for fresh produce, as well as Renny Travisano, a friend of the Dieker family for generations who sparked the dialogue that led to the preservation of this farm.”

“Protecting the last farm in the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative District was a team effort that involved every level of government,” said Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski (D-Middlesex). “The successful preservation of the Dieker farm ensures that another small piece of New Jersey’s agricultural heritage will not be paved over and will remain farmland for generations to come.”

The State Agriculture Development Committee administers New Jersey’s Farmland Preservation Program. More than 1,700 farms covering approximately 170,000 acres have been preserved under the state Farmland Preservation Program, including 46 farms covering approximately 4,500 acres in Middlesex County.

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