



# NEWS

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## **SADC Purchases 129-Acre Clinton Twp. Farm for Permanent Preservation**

The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) has purchased a 129-acre farm in Clinton Township, Hunterdon County, with plans to resell it at public auction this spring as a permanently preserved farm, Agriculture Secretary Charles M. Kuperus announced today.

“Farmland for sale on the open market is the most vulnerable for development, so we are always pleased when landowners choose to sell their farms for preservation,” said Secretary Kuperus, who chairs the SADC. “We look forward to returning this farm to private hands with the assurance it forever will remain part of this community and the agricultural working landscape that supports both the economy and quality of life in the Garden State.”

The Romano/Chiovitti farm, owned by Gildo and Anna Romano and John and Irma Chiovitti, is located on Spencer Lane in Clinton Township. It is adjacent to the Spencer farm, which was preserved in February. The Spencers currently lease the Romano/Chiovitti farm for field crop production.

The SADC purchased the Romano/Chiovitti farm under the SADC’s fee simple program. Under this program, the SADC purchases farmland outright, deed restricts the land to permanently preserve it for agricultural use and resells the farm at auction to the highest bidder. The farm was purchased on October 26<sup>th</sup> for \$1,929,195. The auction date for the resale of the farm and the minimum bid have yet to be determined.

“I applaud the State Agriculture Development Committee for its purchase of the Romano/Chiovitti farm in Clinton Township,” said Senator Leonard Lance. “Current Hunterdon County residents and future generations will continue to benefit from this permanently preserved farmland.”

The SADC administers New Jersey’s Farmland Preservation Program. To date, 1,449 farms covering 150,314 acres have been permanently preserved.

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