

**STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**POLICY**

**SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM  
STATE COST SHARE FUNDING AND APPLICATION PRIORITIZATION**

**I. PURPOSE**

In order to respond to declining short-term funding availability and increasing program demand, the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) finds it necessary to change the percentage of state cost share funding provided for approved soil and water conservation projects to no greater than 50% under the Soil and Water Conservation Cost Share Program. Further, given the increased competition for funds, it is necessary to clarify how soil and water program applications are prioritized for funding by the SADC in any given month.

**II. AUTHORITY**

N.J.S.A. 4:1C-24  
N.J.A.C. 2:76-5.7  
N.J.S.A. 40:55D-128

**III. POLICY**

1. At the current time, the SADC shall provide cost-share grants not to exceed 50% of the actual cost for a project approved by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture State Soil Conservation Committee pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:90-2 and 3, subject to available funds.
2. The SADC shall prioritize applications for soil and water conservation grants for the receipt of limited funding by granting priority as follows:
  - a. **First priority (Priority 1)** shall be given to farms that are permanently preserved through enrollment in one of the following programs:
    - (1) The SADC's farmland preservation programs (SADC fee simple, county easement purchase, direct easement purchase, or planning incentive grant).
    - (2) The Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program pursuant to

N.J.S.A. 40:55D-128.

- (3) The eight-year farmland preservation programs (N.J.A.C. 2:76-3 and 4) if Pinelands Development Credits allocated to the property have been severed and deed restrictions recorded pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:50-5.47.
  - b. **Second priority (Priority 2)** shall be given to farms that are preserved through enrollment in the eight-year farmland preservation programs (N.J.A.C. 2:76-3 and 4).
  - c. Enrollment in the programs listed in a and b above shall be deemed valid and complete upon the following:
    - (1) for the SADC fee simple program, the SADC has acquired fee simple title;
    - (2) for the county easement purchase and planning incentive grant program, the SADC has issued a grant and the deed of easement or cost-sharing grant agreement has been recorded;
    - (3) for the direct easement purchase program, the SADC has acquired and recorded a deed of easement;
    - (4) for the TDR program, the SADC has approved the instrument of transfer pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:77 and the instrument of transfer has been recorded;
    - (5) for the eight-year program, all requirements in N.J.A.C. 2:76-3 or 4 have been met, including recording of an agreement.
3. Within both Priority 1 and Priority 2 categories, individual project applications may be further prioritized should program demand be greater than available funding. In such cases, the SADC shall further prioritize projects according to the following operative dates:
  - a. Date of State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) approval;
  - b. Date SSCC received the application;
  - c. Date of local Soil Conservation District (SCD) approval; and
  - d. Date of local United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service approval.