

11/3/05 SADC Meeting Highlights

Executive Director's Report

Comments on the agritourism agricultural management practice (AMP) are due to the SADC by November 17th, although county agriculture development boards not meeting by that date still are encouraged to submit comments as soon as possible prior to the December 15th meeting when a rule is expected to be proposed. The SADC has received many comments on the equine AMP and is hoping to have a rule proposal ready for the SADC's consideration in January. In January, staff will begin developing AMPs for farm markets and greenhouses.

Comments on the Process Review Committee's recommendations on streamlining and simplifying farmland preservation regulatory and administrative procedures are due to the SADC by November 16th.

Pinelands County Easement Purchase Round

The SADC will hold another Pinelands County Easement Purchase Round next spring, with an expected deadline of early March for applications to be submitted to the SADC. The decision to offer another round reflects interest on the part of counties and the recognition that some landowners would prefer to preserve their land through the Farmland Preservation Program despite the improved market for Pinelands Development Credits (PDCs).

Impact on Agricultural Development Area, Montville Township Eminent Domain Action

The SADC held a public hearing regarding planned action by Montville Township, Morris County, to exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire ownership of an existing monitoring well and an access easement on the Lotta Lettuce farm. Testimony was heard from Montville Township, farm owner Todd Kuehm and two-dozen members of the public. The SADC will issue a report later in the month detailing its findings and recommendations.