

State Agriculture Development Committee Meeting Summary September 27, 2007

Chairman's Report

Secretary Kuperus noted the Department of Agriculture is working to provide information to farmers to clear up confusion regarding the impact of the Department of Environmental Protection's stormwater management and flood hazard rules on farms, particularly regarding how they impact farm buildings within the 300-foot buffer.

A Rutgers Food Policy Institute funded by the Department of Agriculture found that agritourism contributes a significant \$57.5 million to New Jersey's economy. A total of 2,100 farms in the state offer some type of agritourism activity.

Executive Director's Report

The application deadline for the traditional county easement purchase program was September 7th. Cumberland County was the only county to apply under this program.

The deadline for public comment on the equine rule and commercial nonagricultural activities rule was September 14th. Staff has begun the process of reviewing comments and preparing responses.

Supplemental Code of Ethics

The State Ethics Committee approved the SADC's supplemental code of ethics in July.

Policy Regarding Placement of Septic Systems to Service Structures on Exception Areas

The SADC adopted a policy for placement of septic systems to service structures on exception areas. It pertains only to nonseverable exceptions and provides for septic systems to be located outside the boundary of an exception area to service residential and agricultural uses that are located within the exception area, provided certain conditions are met. (<http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/rules/pol49.pdf>).

Implementation Procedures for New Rules

The SADC adopted implementation procedures for its county and municipal planning incentive grant programs, including review of planning incentive grant plans, the issuance of "green light" approvals and final approvals and encumbrance of funds. <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmpreserve/programs/pigimplementationdetails.pdf>