



# NEWS

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## **SADC Preserves 179-Acre Farm in Hope Township**

Agriculture Secretary Douglas H. Fisher today announced the preservation of the 179-acre Bardon-Goodbody farm in Hope Township, Warren County.

“When we preserve farmland, we’re making an investment in agriculture to ensure we will always have access to locally grown food and other farm products,” said Agriculture Secretary Douglas H. Fisher, who chairs the State Agriculture Development Committee. “We’re also investing in maintaining the character of the community where agriculture thrives. We thank the Goodbody family for their commitment to preserving this farm and ensuring its contributions to agriculture and Hope Township will continue for generations to come.”

The farm on Swayze Mill Road has been in the Bardon-Goodbody family since 1939, when it was purchased by Thomas Bardon. He left the farm to his daughter, Katharine, who with her husband Maurice Goodbody formed the Bardon-Goodbody Farm Company, a family partnership that owns the farm and today consists of the couple’s eight children.

The farm is leased to Howling Wolf Farm, an organic farm operated by Matt Pearson and Tara Bower that boasts a community-supported agriculture (CSA) operation. The CSA strives to meet as close to 100 percent of a family’s daily calorie needs as possible through such offerings as meat, grains, vegetables, fruits and eggs.

Richard Goodbody of Hope Township said his father, who passed away in 2007, as well as he and his siblings, had been interested in preserving the farm for many years.

“We think it’s an important part of New Jersey,” he said. “It has great quality soil, it’s adjacent to other preserved farmland and it’s the responsible stewardship of the land.”

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## Hope Township Farm/Add One

The State Agriculture Development Committee purchased the development rights to the farm for approximately \$1 million. When landowners sell their development rights, they continue to own the land but agree to deed restrictions that permanently protect the land for agricultural use.

The State Agriculture Development Committee administers the state Farmland Preservation Program. To date, more than 1,800 farms covering 177,000 acres have been permanently preserved under the program, including 179 farms covering 17,706 acres in Warren County.

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