



NEWS

New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee

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Agriculture Secretary to Interested Farm Owners: No Better Time to Consider Farmland Preservation

Agriculture Secretary Douglas H. Fisher today encouraged interested landowners to explore farmland preservation opportunities following Governor signature of legislation that provides \$ million for farmland preservation.

“With the Governor’s action to make available new funding, there is no better time for interested landowners to consider farmland preservation – whether to realize capital to reinvest in the farming operation, meet other financial goals or simply ensure that the land always will be protected for agriculture,” said Secretary Fisher.

Governor on signed A4580-4582 and A4584 that appropriate new funding to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) for farmland preservation, including:

- \$21 million in grants to assist counties in preserving farmland under the County Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) program. A participating county is eligible for a base grant of up to \$2 million under this program. A county that spend downs its base grant is eligible to compete for up to \$2 million in additional funding from a \$22 million competitive grant fund while it lasts;
- \$5 million in grants to help municipalities preserve farms under the Municipal PIG program. Eleven municipalities are each eligible for a grant of up to \$500,000 and the remaining eight municipalities are each eligible for up to \$250,000, with maximum grant eligibility based on prior spending levels;

- \$14.3 million for the SADC to directly preserve farms statewide under its State Acquisition Program;
- \$2.9 million in grants to assist four nonprofits in preserving farmland under the Nonprofit Program;
- \$1.5 million for stewardship activities on preserved farms, including a new program that provides cost-share grants to owners of preserved farms to install deer fencing to protect their crops; and
- \$6.6 million for administrative, legal and appraisal review costs.

The State Agriculture Development Committee administers New Jersey's Farmland Preservation Program. To date, more than 2,600 farms totaling more than 236,000 acres have been preserved under the program.

For listings of eligible county, municipal and nonprofit grant recipients, visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/news/press/2017/.

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