



NEWS

New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 11.02.2023

Contact: Heidi Winzinger Heidi.Winzinger@ag.nj.gov
(609)815-6479 (cell)

New Jersey's Farmland Preservation Program Plans To Purchase Warren County Farm slated for Warehouse Development

White Township - The New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee has reached an agreement to purchase approximately 570 acres of farmland owned by Jaindl Land Co. that was proposed for a large-scale warehouse development in Warren County. This project is part of the SADC's recent efforts to target the preservation of high-quality, strategically located farms to prevent significant adverse impacts on the surrounding agricultural area and host communities that could have been caused by development.

"The Jaindl property is a prime example of this initiative," said Susan Payne, SADC's Executive Director. "The property consists of a large tract of highly productive farmland located within Warren County's designated Agricultural Development Area (ADA) and the environmentally sensitive planning areas of the Highlands. In addition, the lack of adequate transportation and other public infrastructure needed to properly support large-scale industrial development ensured the development would have an outsized impact on the surrounding community."

New Jersey farmland is typically preserved through the sale of a development easement on farmland, in which the landowner is paid to restrict the land to only agricultural uses in the future, and the landowner retains ownership of the farm. Some landowners prefer to sell the farmland outright, rather than selling an easement, as is the case on the Jaindl property. In such cases, the SADC purchases farmland from a willing landowner and then resells the farmland at public auctions with deed restrictions in place that permanently protect the land for agricultural use.

"This is a big win for agriculture, White Township and Warren County," said Joe Atchison, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. "We are very pleased the SADC was able to come to an agreement with the landowner to protect this important property. We look forward to acquiring the property, preserving it, and then offering it back to the agricultural community as preserved farmland through a farm auction to be held in the near future."

Warren County Commissioners Lori Ciesla, James R. Kern III, and Jason J. Sarnoski have endorsed the State's proposed acquisition of the White Township property solidifying their commitment to protecting Warren County's rural landscape with farmland preservation continuing to be a cornerstone of the Board's vision for Warren County.

For more information about the farmland preservation program and the State Agriculture Development Committee, please visit <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/>

The State Agriculture Development Committee administers the State Farmland Preservation Program. To date, more than 2,850 farms covering more than 250,100 acres have been permanently preserved statewide with a program goal of protecting an additional 250,000 acres of farmland.

###