



SADC Partner Update



NEW JERSEY
State Agriculture Development Committee

February 2019

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Beginning Farmer Workshop “Leasing and Purchasing Land”

The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) will offer a second workshop focused on beginning and aspiring farmers through The American Farmland Trust’s “Farmland for the Next Generation” project. The first workshop, “Assessing Your Financial Readiness to Access Land,” held in October 2018 focused on evaluating finances. For those not able to attend, a video of the workshop, worksheets and checklists can be found on our website:

<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmlink/resources/landaccessproject.html>

The upcoming workshop focused on leasing and purchasing land will be held

Thursday, February 28, 2019

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

NJ Department of Agriculture

369 South Warren St., Trenton, NJ

To register for the workshop electronically please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/land-access-training-leasing-and-purchasing-land-tickets-54354122644> or register directly by sending an email to Gillian Armstrong, Gillian.Armstrong@ag.nj.gov or call her at (609) 984-2504.



Assessing your financial goals workshop attendees—photo by Gillian Armstrong

New Farm Bill Supports New Jersey Agricultural Mediation Program

Changes in the 2018 Farm Bill have enabled the SADC to use its United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) mediation grant funds on a greater variety of cases. The SADC, which receives an annual mediation cost-share grant from the USDA, now can use the grant on mediations related to all RTF matters, not just on USDA program disputes and agricultural credit issues. Lease issues (including land leases and equipment leases) and family farm transition issues are now included in the list of acceptable mediation subjects.

To learn more about the Agricultural Mediation Program or to request mediation, contact Dave Kimmel at the SADC at (609) 984-2504 or visit <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/agmediation/>. The Program is designed to help farmers and others resolve agriculture-related disputes quickly, amicably, and in a cost-effective manner. Mediation is voluntary, confidential, free, and generally only takes a meeting or two to complete.

FY19 Farmland Preservation Funds Now Available

On January 31, 2019 Governor Murphy signed the SADC's FY19 appropriation bills into law. \$15,000,000 is now available Farmland Preservation applications submitted through the municipal planning incentive grant program; \$1,591,000 for the FY19 nonprofit program and approximately \$660,000 for the SADC stewardship and agricultural development programs, including grant funds for both the Soil and Water Cost Share and Deer Fencing programs.

Farmland Preservation Milestone

Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County has recently surpassed 10,000 acres of preserved farmland! They now join Upper Pittsgrove Township, Salem County, the only other Municipality in New Jersey to have passed this preservation threshold.

Congratulations to all the preservation partners, farmland owners and SADC staff who worked together to achieve this goal!

