



SADC Partner Update

NEW JERSEY
State Agriculture Development Committee

December 2019



Kevin Brown — Mobile Farm Equipment Mechanic



Judy Jannuzzelli, Owner

Birch Creek Farm, Monmouth County

SADC Issues 1st Permit Under Rural Microenterprise Law

Kevin Brown enjoys a thriving business fixing farm equipment in and around Monmouth County with his mobile mechanic services. If your tractor broke down in the middle of the field, Kevin will get it running no matter the location or the weather.

Although he is set up to work anywhere, there was just one thing missing. A warm dry shop where customers drop off equipment and Kevin tackles more complex or long term repairs.

One of Kevin’s customers, Judy Jannuzzelli, owner of Birch Creek Farm in Monmouth County had an underutilized barn on her preserved horse farm which looked perfect for Kevin. However, there was one big obstacle. Kevin’s equipment repair business is considered a nonagricultural use and is not permitted on a preserved farm unless it takes place in an exception area, or, if it was in existence and defined in the deed of easement when the farm was preserved.

However, all was not lost because farms preserved prior to January 12, 2006 without an exception area, benefit from provisions of the New Jersey Rural Microenterprise (RME) Act (P.L. 2015, c. 275) which allowed Kevin and Judy to obtain a permit to operate Kevin’s business in Judy’s barn because it is considered an RME and compatible with the agricultural operation.

The SADC developed and adopted the rules, pursuant to the RME Law in 2018. The law permits two categories of microenterprises – customary rural activities and agricultural support services. Customary rural activities include businesses such as snow plowing, bed and breakfasts, bakeries, woodworking and craft-based businesses. Agricultural support services include businesses such as veterinary practices, seed suppliers and tractor equipment repair shops.

If you know a preserved farm with an existing barn, but no exception areas which may be interested in an RME permit contact Gillian Armstrong at Gillian.Armstrong@ag.nj.gov or 609-984-2504.

SADC Announces Staff Changes

The SADC is pleased to announce that Jeff Everett, our Chief of Agricultural Resources and Deputy Executive Director will be assuming the position of Chief of Acquisition, previously held by Heidi Winzinger. During the next few months Heidi, Jeff and the Acquisition staff will coordinate this transition as Jeff continues to be responsible for managing the SADC's ongoing efforts related to developing soil protection standards. Jeff will also remain as the SADC's Deputy Executive Director.



Jeff Everett—Deputy Executive Director & Chief of Acquisition

With Jeff moving to the Chief of Acquisition position, the SADC is also announcing the promotion of Chuck Roohr from the Stewardship Manager to the Chief of Agricultural Resources position. The SADC has started the search for a new Stewardship Manager to take over this position. Gillian Armstrong will remain as the Stewardship Specialist and will receive and process all stewardship applications including agricultural labor housing, division of premises, rural microenterprise permits, solar installation and house replacements and all stewardship application inquiries should be directed to her.



Chuck Roohr—Chief of Agricultural Development & Jessica Uttal - Assistant to the Executive Director

In addition, Jessica Uttal, SADC's former Acquisition/Outreach & Training Assistant has moved into the SADC's Assistant to the Executive Director position to fill that vacancy. The SADC is currently in the process of hiring a new assistant for Acquisition/Outreach & Training.

Please welcome Jeff, Chuck and Jess to their new roles here at the SADC!

Employment Opportunity

Farmland Preservation Stewardship Manager

The SADC seeks an experienced professional to serve as the Stewardship Manager who will oversee all requests for activities on, and monitoring of, preserved farms across the state of New Jersey to assure compliance with the State Farmland Preservation Program deed of easement. The successful candidate will be a creative thinker able to develop and implement strategies and programmatic initiatives, successfully manage staff and contractors, coordinate with government agencies and the public to ensure agricultural resources are protected, build positive relationships with preserved farmland landowners, maintain diligent records, coordinate the development of resource restoration plans and projects to address and resolve potential deed of easement violations.

Preferred candidates will possess knowledge of best practices related to farmland easement stewardship, demonstrate the ability to coordinate and oversee the stewardship program in accordance with the SADC's goals and policies, supervise employees, contractors, and interns, advise on policy and programmatic initiatives and efficiencies, develop and implement education and outreach activities, maintain excellent interpersonal, writing, and organizational skills, the ability to communicate and work effectively with a broad range of stakeholders, have the ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously while maintaining attention to detail and be proficient with Microsoft Office suite.

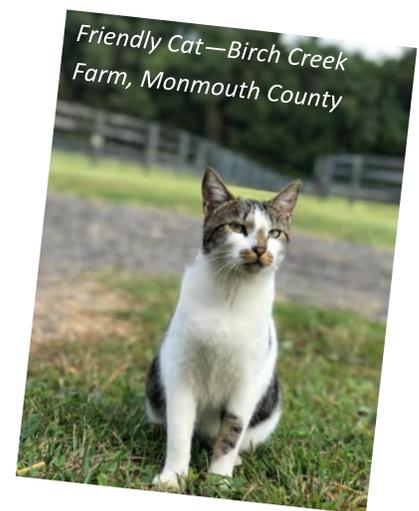
Full job description & requirements on the SADC website <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/about/jobs.html> or contact Heidi.Winzinger@ag.nj.gov

CLOSING DATE: January 16, 2020

Farms Preserved through the Highlands & Pinelands Development Credit Programs Now Eligible for SADC Stewardship Funding



Due to recent amendments to the Preserve New Jersey Act (P.L. 2019, Chapter 136), farms preserved through the Pinelands and Highlands development credit programs may automatically qualify for SADC stewardship grants, including Soil & Water Grants and Deer Fencing Grants. Examples of projects eligible for Soil and Water grants include but are not limited to the following: irrigation systems, wells, surface and subsurface drainage system repair, soil erosion and sediment damage repairs, manure management facilities, and riparian forest buffers. For an updated copy of SADC Policy P-48 (Soil and Water Grants) or Policy P-53 (Deer Fencing Grants), visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/rules/. For more detailed information, please contact Dave Kimmel at David.Kimmel@ag.nj.gov or Dave Clapp at David.Clapp@ag.nj.gov. Both can be reached through SADC's main number 609-984-2504.



Amended Planning Incentive Grant Rules Published & Ready for Comments

The SADC's amendments to the Municipal Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) Program rules (N.J.A.C. 2:76-17A) were published in the New Jersey Register on 12/03/19 and the sixty day window for comments ends on January 31, 2020. The proposed changes include creation of a competitive municipal grant fund, mirroring the County PIG Program to enable municipalities with greater funding needs to compete for additional funding beyond their annual base grants. In preparation for the Municipal competitive grant fund the SADC has requested \$5 million in its 2020 appropriation to provide eligible municipalities access to this funding immediately once the rule amendments are adopted.

In addition, the amendments simplify the annual planning application requirements by reducing unnecessary paperwork and clarify the role of the municipal Agricultural Advisory Committee involvement in the Municipal PIG process.

For a full copy of the rule amendments visit the SADC's website <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/ruleprop/> or call the office 609-984-2504 to have the document emailed or mailed. Comments may be submitted by January 31, 2020, electronically sadc@ag.state.nj.us or by regular mail to Brian D. Smith, Esq., Chief of Legal Affairs, State Agriculture Development Committee, PO Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625-0330.

SADC Accepting Applications for Farmland Preservation

The SADC Direct Easement (DE) program is accepting applications for the DE Purchase Program. Through the DE program the SADC purchases easements directly from farmland owners rather than farmland owners applying to a county, municipality or nonprofit organization. In addition to the SADC standard “quality score” criteria, a farm’s acreage is the primary indicator a farm may meet the DE criteria. If a farm exceeds 75% of the average farm size by county according to the most recent US census then it may meet SADC’s “Priority” farm criteria.

Minimum Farm Size for DE Program (acres)

Atlantic	48
Bergen	10
Burlington	78
Camden	35
Cape May	37
Cumberland	88
Gloucester	63
Hunterdon	47
Mercer	58
Middlesex	55
Monmouth	35
Morris	26
Ocean	24
Passaic	15
Salem	94
Somerset	59
Sussex	44
Warren	60

Regardless of size and quality score all farms over 10 acres must have at least 50% or a minimum of 25 acres of tillable land to be eligible



Susan Payne presenting SOE Draft proposal at the Gloucester County Agricultural Development Board meeting

Special Occasion Event Proposal Informational Sessions Come to a Close

The Winery Special Occasion Events Law (P.L. 2014, ch.16) enacted in July 2014 allowing preserved farm wineries to conduct special occasion events (SOEs) under certain conditions through a pilot program which is scheduled to expire in May 2020. As required by the law the SADC will be making recommendations early in 2020 based on the findings of the pilot program, comments received and the Special Occasion Events Working Group created in consultation with New Jersey Farm Bureau .

The SOE Working Group’s draft proposal has been presented across the state in recent months by the SADC Executive Director, Susan Payne where preservation partners, farmers and the general public have had the opportunity to learn about the proposal, ask questions and give feedback.

County Agriculture Development Boards (CADBs) and other interested parties are encouraged to submit written comments regarding the SOE draft proposal by late December in order for the SADC to consider the comments in developing its recommendations to the legislature and Governor.

The draft documents for Special Occasion Events are on the SADC website <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/> at the bottom of the page under “Hot Topics” or contact our office for a copy to be emailed or mailed 609-984-2504.

