



WINTER 2026 NEW JERSEY FARMLAND PRESERVATION NEWS

Newsletter for Owners & Operators of Preserved Farmland
Published by the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC)

254,423 Acres & 2,915 Farms Preserved
Through the SADC Programs as of January 29, 2026

County	Acres	Farms	County	Acres	Farms
Atlantic	5,166	49	Middlesex	4,956	57
Bergen	335	8	Monmouth	15,599	216
Burlington	30,117	252	Morris	7,344	116
Camden	1,103	16	Ocean	3,193	48
Cape May	3,141	51	Passaic	56	2
Cumberland	22,921	246	Salem	43,767	416
Gloucester	16,713	234	Somerset	8,336	117
Hunterdon	36,963	481	Sussex	17,019	162
Mercer	9,139	125	Warren	28,553	319

State Acreage Goal: 500,000 Acres

Preserved Farmland Sign Orders



Small Sign
18" x 24", hanging on a single 10' post



Large Sign
3' x 4', nestled inside a frame and 10' cedar posts

There are two ways to request your FREE preserved farmland sign:

- 1) Fill out the online application on our website at www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/documents/signorderform.pdf and email it to Alyssa Esposito at Alyssa.Esposito@ag.nj.gov
- 2) Contact Alyssa Esposito at Alyssa.Esposito@ag.nj.gov or 609-913-6593 with the type of sign, your contact information, and the farm location information instead of completing an application





Preserved Farmland Auctions - SAVE THE DATES!

Former Schmied Farm, Holland Township, Hunterdon County Farm Tour: Friday, February 20th 10AM-3PM Auction Date: March 5, 2026

This 118-acre preserved farm in Milford, NJ, is a true agricultural gem, ready for its next chapter. Located at 448 Spring Mills Road, the property features a primary residence, a charming Cape Cod cottage, a historic stone spring/smokehouse, and a functional small barn.

The land is as productive as it is beautiful, with approximately 57% tillable acreage and exceptional soil quality (52% Prime, 15% Statewide Important, and 21% Other Productive Soils).

Beyond the fields, a sprawling meadow, a large pond, and mature woodlands create a private oasis perfect for both the modern farmer and the outdoor enthusiast. This is a rare opportunity to own a picturesque slice of Hunterdon County, nestled within the tranquil, rolling hills of Holland Township.



Former Patricelli Farm, Hopewell Township, Mercer County Farm Tours: Thursday, February 19th & Tuesday, March 31st 10AM-3PM Auction Date: April 17, 2026



This premier 27-acre property at 1270 Bear Tavern Road in Titusville, NJ, offers a rare combination of agricultural excellence, a central location within the Hopewell Valley, and proximity to the historic Washington Crossing State Park. The property features extensive road frontage and a spacious ranch-style single-family residence with exceptional views of the farm fields and neighboring preserved

farmland. This is the perfect canvas for your agricultural vision, with the high yield potential of 67% Prime and 33% Statewide Important Soils.

For more information about both auctions, including soils, wetlands maps, infrastructure details, auction guidelines, and more, visit <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmpreserve/auctions/> or contact Timothy Willmott at Timothy.Willmott@ag.nj.gov or 609-913-6577.





Current SADC Members:

Chairman

Edward D. Wengryn, Secretary of Agriculture

Farmer Members

Martin Bullock, *Monmouth County*

Scott Ellis, *Mercer County*

Jess Neiderer, *Mercer County*

Richard Norz, *Somerset County*

Roger Kumpel, *Burlington County* (Alternate Member)

Public Members

Charles Rosen

Tiffany Bohlin

Ex-Officio Members

Julie Krause, *representing the State Treasurer*

Lauren Procida, *representing the Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner*

Gina Fischetti, *representing the Department of Community Affairs Commissioner*

Brian Schilling, *representing the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences Executive Dean*



The SADC meets on the fourth Thursday of most months at 9:00am. For more information, visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Uttal at Jessica.Uttal@ag.nj.gov or (609) 913-6567.

Soil & Water Cost-Share Grants Expanded

The SADC Soil & Water Conservation Grant program (SW Grants), which offers up to 50% cost-share for preserved farms to install conservation practices, was recently amended to provide increased funding and technical assistance. Farms are now eligible for a minimum of \$50,000 plus \$500/acre up to a maximum of \$150,000. This amendment doubles the prior maximum eligibility, increases eligibility for all farms, and provides smaller farms with a meaningful minimum eligibility when compared to the prior formula.

The new rules also provide a pathway for applicants to increase their grant award if the originally approved award is insufficient to cover 50% of actual project costs, by obtaining three estimates that substantiate the shortfall.

A new provision in the rules allows preserved farms to apply for up to an additional \$20,000 for developing conservation and engineering plans necessary to apply for or implement SW Grants.

For more information, visit <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmpreserve/grants/>.

For assistance, please reach out to David Clapp, Resource Conservation Program Manager at David.Clapp@ag.nj.gov or (609) 913-6563 or Erica Rossetti, Resource Conservationist at Erica.Rossetti@ag.nj.gov or (609) 913-6596.



Taxes, Estate, & Succession Planning Workshops



SADC Tax Workshop, D&R Greenway, Princeton

Thank you to all the landowners, farmers, and preservation partners who attended the SADC's Taxes, Estate, & Succession Planning Workshops! These sessions provided educational discussions and important insights for making the most of your preservation dollars by having conversations early in the process with your accountant, lawyer, and/or financial advisor.



For those who were unable to attend, the presentation slides are available on our website at <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/>, and we are working on planning more workshops like this in the future!



SADC Tax Workshop, Salem County Ag Building

Stay Up-to-Date with SADC News!

We frequently send email newsletters and updates about the SADC, Farmland Preservation Program, stewardship grants, events and meeting notices, farm owner/operator resources, job opportunities, and more.

To receive the most up to date information from us, sign up to receive email updates here: <https://forms.office.com/g/H4tXRy6HTY>. Or, reach out to Alyssa Esposito at Alyssa.Esposito@ag.nj.gov to be added to our email list.



Agricultural Resource Pages



Are you seeking suppliers, contractors, professionals, or other businesses to support your farming operation? Check out the SADC Ag Resource Pages for contact information on businesses helpful to your agricultural operation, from contractors and cooperatives to grain buyers. Resources related to legal, financial, and tax planning professionals will be added to the resource pages over time. Visit <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmlink/resources/agresourcepages.html> to learn more.



Statewide Formula Value Brings Record Applications for Preservation

The Statewide Farmland Preservation Formula (“Statewide Formula” or SFV) continues to be very popular with farmland owners as it is generally yielding greater offers. At this time, there are 222 applications in process at the SADC, including 59 County, 1 Donation, 33 Municipal, 12 Nonprofit, 3 Fee Simple, and 114 SADC Direct Easement applications.

The Statewide Formula considers the importance of preserving agricultural lands in the municipality and county, the value of natural resources in the municipality and county in which the land to be acquired is located, and other relevant factors including, but not limited to, the quality of the agricultural soils, the size of the agricultural lands to be preserved, the risk of conversion of the land from productive agriculture to nonagricultural use, wetlands, water quality, and proximity to preserved land.

For more information, visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/publications/guidance/ or please feel free to contact your SADC regional coordinator:



[Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, & Gloucester](#)

Heather Siessel - Heather.Siessel@ag.nj.gov

[Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, & Warren](#)

David Zaback - David.Zaback@ag.nj.gov

[Bergen, Burlington, Hunterdon, Mercer, & Middlesex](#)

Daphne Bacon - Daphne.Bacon@ag.nj.gov

[Monmouth, Ocean, & Salem](#)

Katie Mazzella - Katie.Mazzella@ag.nj.gov

More Values to Choose from When Preserving Farms in the Pinelands

Rules amending the Pinelands Formula by increasing the base values in consideration of the rate of inflation were published in the New Jersey Register on October 6, 2025. The 60-day public comment period on the proposed rules ended on December 5, 2025. There were no comments received. The adjustment is based on the average inflation increase since 2001, when the Pinelands Formula was adopted, calculated from the Consumer Price Index for the Philadelphia Metro Region, of which the Pinelands is a part. Shortly, eligible farms in the Pinelands will be able to benefit from a variety of easement purchase offers based on the updated Pinelands Formula and the SFV.

Woodland Preservation Program

On January 20, 2026, legislation creating a state-run program within the SADC to acquire development easements on private woodlands was signed into law. Requiring active woodland management, this initiative will promote the preservation and stewardship of productive forested lands. More to come as this initiative develops!



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SADC Welcomes New Deputy Executive Director

The SADC welcomes Brian Wilson as the new SADC Deputy Executive Director. Brian is a lifetime resident of Chesterfield Township, Burlington County, and a fifth-generation owner of his preserved family farm, where his deep connection to agriculture was forged from an early age. His first job was grading potatoes, and he continued to work on local farms throughout his youth and early career, providing him with hands-on experience and an authentic understanding of the challenges and rewards of agriculture here in New Jersey.

He earned his B.S. in Biology from Ursinus College, was a high school science teacher at Allentown High School, then a Manager at Princeton Nurseries, and a Natural Resource Specialist with the Burlington County Soil Conservation District.

Brian leaves behind a successful twenty-year career as the County Agricultural Development Board (CADB) Administrator/Assistant Administrator for the Burlington County Farmland Preservation Program. In this multifaceted role, he managed all aspects of the Farmland Preservation Program from the acquisition of easements, conflict resolution through mediation, working to ensure agricultural operations could thrive while maintaining community harmony.



He not only brings extensive experience with the Farmland Preservation Program and processes, but also a strong commitment to supporting the agricultural business community and way of life, and a keen focus on how the SADC can increase communication and customer service across the state of New Jersey.

Farmland Preservation Bumper Stickers & Magnets

Support farmland preservation with a free bumper sticker (L) and/or magnet (R)! Email Alyssa.Esposito@ag.nj.gov with your name, address, and the number of stickers/magnets you would like.

