



# New Jersey Farmland Preservation Update

May 20, 2025

## SADC Executive Director Charles "Chuck" Roohr

*As the SADC's new Executive Director, I am excited to use my practical experience farming and knowledge of government and policy to support all of the SADC's programs and goals. I want to ensure we are providing the best customer service to our landowners and preservation partners, from processing farmland preservation applications to communicating with our County, Municipal, and Nonprofit colleagues, facilitating the Right To Farm program, processing grants for preserved farms, and finding ways to help the next generation of farmers.*



*During the last year, one of my main priorities has been working with staff and the Committee to draft the 'Statewide Formula Value' (SFV) regulations. By visiting and listening to stakeholders across the state, our intent was to ensure the SFV incorporates as many suggestions as possible to benefit farmland preservation in each county. The SFV became effective on April 7, 2025, and I think it will have substantial impact on the Farmland Preservation Program. We are already seeing improvements to easement offers and a significant uptick in preservation applications.*

*For the remainder of 2025, in addition to promoting the benefits of the SFV, I also want to focus on how the SADC can assist the viability of existing preserved farms. As an example, we are currently amending the regulations of our longstanding Soil & Water cost share program to allow for grants to hire private*

professionals to develop conservation plans as well as improved cost share eligibility and reimbursement options. Program rules are in the process of being revised as we speak and should be effective this fall. My hope is that this is the first in a number of adjustments the SADC will take toward helping New Jersey's preserved farmers to be as successful as possible.

-Chuck Roohr



### **New Statewide Formula Value Adopted**

The formula is now active! Farmland owners who have been in the process of preserving their farms and waiting for the formula offer can now anticipate moving forward. SADC staff will coordinate all necessary updates to prior agreements, survey, title, and other documents in preparation for closing!

For interested landowners, the SADC has issued a new [Guide & Resource Booklet for Farmland Preservation](#), which contains a section on the SFV (pages 5-10).

If you have questions about SFV or are interested in farmland preservation, contact Cindy Roberts at [cindy.roberts@ag.nj.gov](mailto:cindy.roberts@ag.nj.gov) or call



### **"Next Generation of Farming" Report Available**

The SADC recently published the Next Gen Program report based on extensive outreach to and feedback from the agricultural community.

The report summarizes the challenges faced by the next generation of farmers and farm businesses, and it provides recommendations for addressing the challenges, filling gaps in programming, and enhancing support. The recommendations are intended to help create a strategic path forward for supporting the next generation of farming in the Garden State.

[Click here to read the full report or 4 page summary](#)

609-913-6582.

Read More

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## Employment Opportunities

### **Farmland Preservation Real Estate Attorney**

**The SADC will soon be posting a job notice for a new attorney to backfill a vacancy! Although this is not an official notice of vacancy, if you are interested in being notified when the job is formally posted, please send your resume to [Heidi.Winzinger@ag.nj.gov](mailto:Heidi.Winzinger@ag.nj.gov).**

This position will be a full-time legal position focused on farmland preservation easement purchase and fee simple real estate transactions, and will work directly in support of our acquisition and legal staff. Currently, it is slated to utilize the Regulatory Specialist title with a salary range of \$80,547 - \$124,365. This is an excellent opportunity for someone who loves complex real estate transactions and is interested in land preservation.

#### **Primary Responsibilities:**

Conducts thorough reviews of applications and closing documents for acquiring development easements on farmland directly by the SADC and through grants provided to counties, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations. This includes preparing and reviewing deeds of easement and agreements, reviewing surveys, title work, title commitments, and title policies, and working with SADC staff, county counsel, municipal counsel, nonprofit organization counsel, title companies, landowners and their professionals, and others as needed to resolve issues. Identifies and handles complex legal questions to improve SADC legal review, identifies recurring issues, and recommends policy or regulatory solutions to expedite the farmland preservation application and closing process.

### **Regional Farmland Preservation Coordinator**

**(Part-Time, Temporary Position, open for applications through June 15th)**

Under the direction of SADC supervisory staff, manages and coordinates farmland preservation initiatives, outreach, and easement and/or fee simple applications for preservation through multiple funding programs and in coordination with County Agricultural Development Boards, Municipal Agriculture Advisory Committees, Nonprofit entities, and with farmland owners directly.

The successful candidate will have a strong ability to manage multifaceted acquisition projects, a solid ability to communicate effectively, maintain and share accurate information, utilize Microsoft SharePoint, One Note, Word, Excel and Outlook effectively; be familiar with farmland preservation closing related documents including title work,

surveys, deeds and deeds of easement; have the ability to understand and apply rules, policies and precedence; meeting with farmland owners and operators and assisting with processing applications and performing outdoor field work on farms during all seasons and in varying weather conditions.

The assigned regions in New Jersey will be determined based on the successful candidate's location and regional knowledge.

Education: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree.

\$35 to \$45 per hour, dependent upon experience, knowledge, and skills meeting the desired requirements. Click the link below for the full job notice and how to apply!

[Click Here to View All NJDA & SADC Current Job Openings](#)

### Next SADC Public Meeting Notice

The SADC's next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, May 22nd at 9:00 am. The meeting is open to the public and held in person at 200 Riverview Plaza, 1st Floor, Trenton, NJ 08611, or you can join via Microsoft Teams. Visit [www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc) the week of the meeting to view the agenda and the link to join virtually.



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## Helpful Links



### Order Your Farmland Preservation Sign Today

All preserved farmland owners can order a FREE new or replacement farmland preservation sign regardless of what program the farm was preserved through (County, Municipal, Nonprofit).

[Order a Sign](#)

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**NJ Land Link**



Looking for land to farm? Have land available, looking for a farmer? Search the listings, create a listing at [www.njlandlink.org](http://www.njlandlink.org).

## Receive Updates from the SADC

Want to receive email updates and news from the SADC about farmland preservation programs, stewardship grants, preserved and unpreserved farm owner resources, meeting notices, and more?

[Sign Up Here](#)

New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC)  
[www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc)  
[sadc@ag.nj.gov](mailto:sadc@ag.nj.gov)  
609-984-2504



State Agriculture Development Committee | 200 Riverview Plaza P.O. Box 330 | Trenton, NJ 08625 US

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