



SUMMER 2023

NEW JERSEY FARMLAND PRESERVATION NEWS

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



40 Years of Farmland Preservation in New Jersey!

Forty years ago, on January 27, 1983, the Agriculture Retention and Development Act and the Right to Farm (RTF) Act were signed into law, which, together, created the New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program (FPP). The program will reach the extraordinary milestone of 250,000 acres of farmland preserved sometime later in 2023!

This accomplishment would not have been possible without the strong commitment of all the county, municipal, and nonprofit farmland preservation partners, and even more importantly, the decision by farmers and farmland owners to permanently protect their land and leave a conservation legacy forever.

Thanks to these cooperative efforts, New Jersey continues to move closer to the goal of ensuring that agriculture has an adequate land base for the future and that our farms remain an important part of the Garden State's economy, its community, and the everyday lives of all NJ citizens. 250,000 acres left to go!

Preservation Stats (as of August 2023)

Total Farms Preserved: **2,843 Farms**

Total Acres Preserved: **249,855 Acres**

Most Farms Preserved: **Hunterdon County, 466 Farms**

Most Acres Preserved: **Salem County, 43,207 Acres**

500,000
ACRES
PRESERVED

400k Acres -
Preserved

250k Acres
Preserved
2023

100k Acres
Preserved





What is the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC)?

The Right to Farm Act created the State Agriculture Development Committee, which administers the New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program, as well as the Right To Farm program.

The SADC consists of eleven members:

- Six citizens who are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate
 - Four “Farmer” members and one alternate Farmer Member who must be actively engaged in farming
 - Two members who represent the general public
- Five Ex-Officio members representing certain state agencies

Meet the Committee:

Chairman

Joe Atchison, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture

Farmer Members

Martin Bullock, *Monmouth County*

Scott Ellis, *Mercer County*

Peter Johnson, *Burlington 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

Soil Protection Standards



The SADC has completed a multi-year process developing proposed regulations known as “Soil Protection Standards” (SPS), which clarify the terms of the farmland preservation Deed of Easement recorded on preserved farms.

This effort resulted from a 2018 New Jersey Supreme Court case involving soil destruction on a farm. The SPS will define what activities constitute disturbance and clarify how much of a preserved farm can be disturbed. Traditional farm practices such as normal and deep tillage, creation and maintenance of cranberry bogs, temporary coverings (like weed fabric), and livestock areas are considered exempt, as are certain conservation practices like grassed waterways and diversions designed to address water and erosion. The SPS concentrates on soil disturbing activities such as buildings, pavement, soil compaction, parking areas, and cut/fill activities.

All preserved farm owners will receive a package in the mail starting in early August 2023 with a map of their farm and specific details of the proposed SPS, which limit disturbance to 12% or four acres of the farm, whichever is greater, and define the ability to request waivers as needed.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed SPS, or if you are a preserved farm owner and do not receive your package by the first week of September – please contact: Dave Clapp, David.Clapp@ag.nj.gov or (609) 913-6563.



New Farmland Preservation Sign Unveiled In Honor of 40th Anniversary

The Preserved Farmland Sign Program is back on track with an upcoming delivery of brand-new signs and we are excited to introduce a new small sign with a single cedar post! The traditional sign measure 3'x4', nestled inside a frame and 10' cedar posts, the new sign is 18"x24" and hangs on a single 10' post (as pictured below).

There are three ways to request your free preserved farmland sign:

1. Fill out the online application on our website and www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/documents/signorderform.pdf
2. Send Heidi Winzinger an email at Heidi.Winzinger@ag.nj.gov with the type of sign, your contact information, and the farm location information.
3. You can also call our office main number, 609-984-2504, and ask a staff member to take your order over the phone.



Preserved Farmland Owners & Operators are Welcome to Join the SADC Monthly Public Meeting!

The SADC meets most months on the fourth Thursday at 9 AM. The public is welcome to attend. Agendas, presentation graphics, and instructions for in-person and remote viewing are posted on the home page of the SADC's website before the meeting. www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc.

If you have any questions related to the SADC monthly meeting, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Jess Uttal at Jessica.Uttal@ag.nj.gov or call 609-913-6567.

Farmland Preservation Bumper Stickers & Bumper Magnets

Get them while they last! Give them to friends, family, and neighbors! To request additional stickers or magnets, email Heidi.Winzinger@ag.nj.gov or call 609-913-6554 with your name, address, and # of stickers/magnets you'd like!



Left: Bumper Magnets

Right: Bumper Stickers

