

Farmland Stewardship Wildlife Fencing Grants

How They Work

The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) provides cost-share grants for the installation of wildlife fencing (high-tensile woven wire deer fencing, electric bear fencing, or other wildlife fencing) on permanently-preserved farms. Applicants can receive a grant for up to 50% of the costs of materials and installation, not to exceed a total grant of \$50,000.

Application

Owners, operators, and lessees of preserved farms may apply to the SADC at any time. The application form and program policy, P-53, are available on the SADC website.

Criteria

The applicant must be an owner, operator, or lessee of permanently preserved farmland who regularly engages in the operation and management of the farming operation on the preserved farmland. If the applicant is an operator or lessee, they must have written approval to install the wildlife fencing from the owner.

The farmland on which the fencing is to be constructed must be permanently preserved, i.e., enrolled in a permanent Farmland Preservation Program as defined in Policy P-53. Farms preserved through the Agriculture Retention and Development Act are eligible. Some independently-preserved (non-SADC-preserved) farms, e.g., farms preserved through cluster development, transfer of development rights, or severing of Pinelands or Highlands development credits/rights, also may be eligible if certain criteria are met.

Wildlife Fencing Projects

The fenced area must be completely enclosed by fencing that meets the specifications outlined in Policy P-53. Projects must be commenced within six months and completed within three years. The fencing also must be maintained for and have a lifespan of at least ten years.

Special Considerations

If deer fencing is to be installed, the applicant must attend an SADC deer fence training installation session or watch the SADC deer fence installation training video prior to installing the fence. Once a fence project is completed, the applicant submits a reimbursement form, and the SADC inspects the fence.



For More Information

Established farmers should contact the SADC at (609) 984-2504 and ask for David Kimmel or David Clapp. More information also is available at <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmpreserve/postpres/>.



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