

Hunterdon County Agriculture Development Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County Agriculture Development Board Announces Spring Round for Farmland Preservation Projects

The Hunterdon County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) has announced a spring round for Farmland Preservation Planning Incentive Grants. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2019. Farms are considered by the CADB on an individual basis with an emphasis on soil quality and long term agricultural viability. The CADB typically reviews applications in the spring and fall.

This popular program recently received increased funding allocations from the Hunterdon County Freeholders. Over 33,000 acres and 431 farms (the most of any county in the state) have been preserved in Hunterdon County using a combination of Federal, State, County, Municipal and Non-profit funding amounting to over \$280 million since the first farm was preserved in Hunterdon in 1985. About 70% of the funding has come from the State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC). A quarter of the funds have been split between municipal and County Open Space tax receipts. The remainder of the money has been provided through an increasingly important partnership of non-profit and federal funding.

The Farmland Preservation Program has allowed farmers in Hunterdon county and across the state the opportunity for a cash infusion into operations, a chance to pay down debt, or as a vehicle to settle estate situations. Preserved land stays in private ownership and may be sold on the open market with the provision it stays in agricultural usage. Preserved farms are an important step toward the continuation of agriculture as a sector of the Hunterdon County economy.

For more information contact:

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The application form is available on the Hunterdon CADB website at
<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/cadb.htm>



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