

Hunterdon County Agriculture Development Board

Hunterdon County Administration Building #1
Route 12 County Complex
PO Box 2900
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-2900

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County Agriculture Development Board Announces Fall Round for Farmland Preservation Projects

The Hunterdon County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) invites interested landowners to apply for the Fall Round of Farmland Preservation Planning Incentive Grants, as announced at their July meeting. The deadline for applications is October 1, 2019. The CADB considers farms on an individual basis with an emphasis on soil quality and long term agricultural viability. While 40 acres is the preferred minimum for preservation, all applicants are urged to contact CADB Administrator Bob Hornby for details.

The Hunterdon County Freeholders generously fund this popular program. Using a combination of funding totaling \$285 million, more than 33,000 acres (~11% of the county) and 433 farms (the most farms of any county in NJ) have been preserved in Hunterdon County since its first farm in 1985. About 70% of the funding to date has come from the State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC). The remainder has been provided through municipal and County Open Space Tax receipts, and through increasingly important partnerships with non-profit and federal funding sources. Nearly 600 acres have been permanently preserved in 2019.

The Farmland Preservation Program provides landowners with opportunities to infuse cash into farm operations, 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 that it remains in agricultural usage. Farmland preservation plays an important role in keeping agriculture a viable sector of the economy; both in making land affordable for farming, and by protecting the rural nature of Hunterdon County.

The application form and additional information is available on the Hunterdon CADB website at <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/cadb.htm>. Potential applicants are encouraged to schedule staff site visits ahead of submission.

For more information contact:

Bob Hornby
CADB Administrator
(908) 788-1490
BHornby@co.hunterdon.nj.us



Telephone: (908) 788-1490 / Telecopier: (908) 806-4149
<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/cadb.html>