

**DEED OF EASEMENT  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
AGRICULTURE RETENTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

This Deed is made \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

BETWEEN \_\_\_\_\_, whose address is \_\_\_\_\_ and is referred to as the Grantor;

AND \_\_\_\_\_, whose address is \_\_\_\_\_ and is referred to as the Grantee and/or Board.

The Grantor, Grantor's heirs, executors, administrators, personal or legal representatives, successors and assigns grants and conveys to the Grantee a development easement and all of the nonagricultural development rights and credits on the Premises, located in the Township of \_\_\_\_\_, County of \_\_\_\_\_ described in the attached Schedule A, incorporated by reference in this Deed of Easement, for and in consideration of the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars (\$\_\_\_\_\_). Any reference in this Deed of Easement to "Premises" refers to the property described in Schedule A.

The tax map reference for the Premises is:

Township of \_\_\_\_\_

Block \_\_\_\_\_, Lot \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, the legislature of the State of New Jersey has declared that the development of agriculture and the retention of farmlands are important to the present and future economy of the State and the welfare of the citizens of the State; and

WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_ County Board of Chosen Freeholders has endorsed the aforesaid declaration of policy by the State legislature and has established an Agriculture Retention and Development Program in a manner entirely consistent with State statutes, State administrative regulations and the policies and practices of the State Agriculture Development Committee; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Board of Chosen Freeholders to acquire a development easement from Grantor in a fashion consistent with, and pursuant to, terms which will reserve a right and opportunity on the part of the Grantee to enroll the development easement in the State of New Jersey Agriculture Retention and Development Program at some future time according to rules, regulations and policies of the State Agriculture Development Committee then appertaining; and

WHEREAS, this Deed of Easement presently recites that the State Agriculture Development Committee ("Committee") may exercise certain rights and prerogatives with respect to the within easement in anticipation of, and solely in order to facilitate, the possible enrollment of this easement at a future date in the State of New Jersey Agriculture Retention and Development Program, it being explicitly understood that any such rights and prerogatives of said Committee are inchoate and shall not actually be exercised until such time as this Deed of Easement is in fact enrolled in the aforesaid State Program by: (1) the Committee providing a cost share grant to the Grantee for the acquisition of the Deed of Easement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:1C-11 et seq.; and (2) the Committee and Grantee entering into a cost sharing grant agreement;

NOW THEREFORE, THE GRANTOR, GRANTOR'S HEIRS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, PERSONAL OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS PROMISES that the Premises will be owned, used and conveyed subject to, and not in violation of the following restrictions:

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name and title

1. Any development of the Premises for nonagricultural purposes is expressly prohibited.

2. The Premises shall be retained for agricultural use and production in compliance with N.J.S.A. 4:1C-11 et seq., P.L. 1983, c.32, and all other rules promulgated by the State Agriculture Development Committee, (hereinafter Committee). Agricultural use shall mean the use of the Premises for common farmsite activities including, but not limited to: production, harvesting, storage, grading, packaging, processing and the wholesale and retail marketing of crops, plants, animals and other related commodities and the use and application of techniques and methods of soil preparation and management, fertilization, weed, disease and pest control, disposal of farm waste, irrigation, drainage and water management and grazing.

3. Grantor certifies that at the time of the application to sell the development easement to the Grantee and at the time of the execution of this Deed of Easement the nonagricultural uses indicated on attached Schedule (B) existed on the Premises. All other nonagricultural uses are prohibited except as expressly provided in this Deed of Easement.

4. All nonagricultural uses, if any, existing on the Premises at the time of the landowner's application to the Grantee as set forth in Section 3 above may be continued and any structure may be restored or repaired in the event of partial destruction thereof, subject to the following:

- i. No new structures or the expansion of pre-existing structures for nonagricultural use are permitted;
- ii. No change in the pre-existing nonagricultural use is permitted;
- iii. No expansion of the pre-existing nonagricultural use is permitted; and
- iv. In the event that the Grantor abandons the pre-existing nonagricultural use, the right of the Grantor to continue the use is extinguished.

5. No sand, gravel, loam, rock, or other minerals shall be deposited on or removed from the Premises excepting only those materials required for the agricultural purpose for which the land is being used.

6. No dumping or placing of trash or waste material shall be permitted on the Premises unless expressly recommended by the Committee as an agricultural management practice.

7. No activity shall be permitted on the Premises which would be detrimental to drainage, flood control, water conservation, erosion control, or soil conservation, nor shall any other activity be permitted which would be detrimental to the continued agricultural use of the Premises.

- i. Grantor shall obtain within one year of the date of this Deed of Easement, a farm conservation plan approved by the local soil conservation district.
- ii. Grantor's long term objectives shall conform with the provisions of the farm conservation plan.

8. Grantee and Committee and their agents shall be permitted access to, and to enter upon, the Premises at all reasonable times, but solely for the purpose of inspection in order to enforce and assure compliance with the terms and conditions of this Deed of Easement. Grantee agrees to give Grantor, at least 24 hours advance notice of its intention to enter the Premises, and further, to limit such times of entry to the daylight hours on regular business days of the week.

9. Grantor may use the Premises to derive income from certain recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, cross country skiing and ecological tours, only if such activities do not interfere with the actual use of the land for agricultural production and that the activities only utilize the Premises in its existing condition. Other recreational activities from which income is derived and which alter the Premises, such as golf courses and athletic fields, are prohibited.

10. Nothing shall be construed to convey a right to the public of access to or use of the

Premises except as stated in this Deed of Easement or as otherwise provided by law.

11. Nothing shall impose upon the Grantor any duty to maintain the Premises in any particular state, or condition, except as provided for in this Deed of Easement.

12. Nothing in this Deed of Easement shall be deemed to restrict the right of Grantor, to maintain all roads and trails existing upon the Premises as of the date of this Deed of Easement. Grantor shall be permitted to construct, improve or reconstruct any roadway necessary to service crops, bogs, agricultural buildings, or reservoirs as may be necessary.

13. At the time of this conveyance, Grantor has \_\_\_\_ (\_\_) existing single family residential buildings on the Premises and \_\_\_\_ (\_\_) residential buildings used for agricultural labor purposes. Grantor may use, maintain, and improve existing buildings on the Premises subject to the following conditions:

- i. Improvements to agricultural buildings shall be consistent with agricultural uses;
- ii. Improvements to residential buildings shall be consistent with agricultural or single and extended family residential uses. Improvements to residential buildings for the purpose of housing agricultural labor are permitted only if the housed agricultural labor is employed on the Premises; and
- iii. Improvements to recreational buildings shall be consistent with agricultural or recreational uses.

14. Grantor may construct any new buildings for agricultural purposes. The construction of any new buildings for residential use, regardless of its purpose, shall be prohibited except as follows:

- i. To provide structures for housing of agricultural labor employed on the Premises but only with the approval of the Grantee and the Committee. If Grantee and the Committee grant approval for the construction of agricultural labor housing, such housing shall not be used as a residence for Grantor, Grantor's spouse, Grantor's parents, Grantor's lineal descendants, adopted or natural, Grantor's spouse's parents, Grantor's spouse's lineal descendants, adopted or natural; and
- ii. To construct a single family residential building anywhere on the Premises in order to replace any single family residential building in existence at the time of conveyance of this Deed of Easement but only with the approval of the Grantee and Committee.
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_ residual dwelling site opportunity(ies) have been allocated to the Premises pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 2:76-6.17, "Residual Dwelling Site Opportunity". The Grantor's request to exercise a residual dwelling site opportunity shall comply with the rules promulgated by the Committee in effect at the time the request is initiated.

In the event a division of the Premises occurs in compliance with deed restriction No. 15 below, the Grantor shall prepare or cause to be prepared a Corrective Deed of Easement reflecting the reallocation of the residual dwelling site opportunities to the respective divided lots. The Corrective Deed shall be recorded with the County Clerk. A copy of the recorded Corrective Deed shall be provided to the Grantee and Committee.

In the event a residual dwelling site opportunity has been approved by the Grantee, the Grantor shall prepare or cause to be prepared a Corrective Deed of Easement at the time of Grantee's approval. The Corrective Deed of Easement shall reflect the reduction of residual dwelling site opportunities allocated to the Premises. The Corrective Deed shall be recorded with the County Clerk. A copy of the recorded Corrective Deed shall be provided to the Grantee and Committee.

**(OR)**

- iii. No residual dwelling site opportunities have been allocated pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 2:76-6.17. No residential buildings are permitted on the Premises except as provided in this Deed of Easement.

For the purpose of this Deed of Easement:

"Residual dwelling site opportunity" means the potential to construct a residential unit and other appurtenant structures on the Premises in accordance with N.J.A.C. 2:76-6.17.

"Residual dwelling site" means the location of the residential unit and other appurtenant structures.

"Residential unit" means the residential building to be used for single family residential housing and its appurtenant uses. The construction and use of the residential unit shall be for agricultural purposes.

"Use for agricultural purposes" as related to the exercise of a residual dwelling site opportunity and the continued use of the residential unit constructed thereto, means at least one person residing in the residential unit shall be regularly engaged in common farmsite activities on the Premises including, but not limited to: production, harvesting, storage, grading, packaging, processing and the wholesale and retail marketing of crops, plants, animals and other related commodities and the use and application of techniques and methods of soil preparation and management, fertilization, weed, disease and pest control, disposal of farm waste, irrigation, drainage, water management and grazing.

15. The land and its buildings which are affected may be sold collectively or individually for continued agricultural use as defined in Section 2 of this Deed of Easement. However, no division of the land shall be permitted without the joint approval in writing of the Grantee and the Committee. In order for the Grantor to receive approval, the Grantee and Committee must find that the division shall be for an agricultural purpose and result in agriculturally viable parcels. Division means any division of the Premises, for any purpose, subsequent to the effective date of this Deed of Easement.

- i. For purposes of this Deed of Easement, "Agriculturally viable parcel" means that each parcel is capable of sustaining a variety of agricultural operations that yield a reasonable economic return under normal conditions, solely from each parcel's agricultural output.

16. In the event of any violation of the terms and conditions of this Deed of Easement, Grantee or the Committee may institute, in the name of the State of New Jersey, any proceedings to enforce these terms and conditions including the institution of suit to enjoin such violations and to require restoration of the Premises to its prior condition. Grantee or the Committee do not waive or forfeit the right to take any other legal action necessary to insure compliance with the terms, conditions, and purpose of this Deed of Easement by a prior failure to act.

17. This Deed of Easement imposes no obligation or restriction on the Grantor's use of the Premises except as specifically set forth in this Deed of Easement.

18. This Deed of Easement is binding upon the Grantor, the Grantor's heirs, executors, administrators, personal or legal representatives, successors and assigns and the Grantee; it shall be construed as a restriction running with the land and shall be binding upon any person to whom title to the Premises is transferred as well as upon the heirs, executors, administrators, personal or legal representatives, successors, and assigns of all such persons.

19. Throughout this Deed of Easement, the singular shall include the plural, and the masculine shall include the feminine, unless the text indicates otherwise.

20. The word 'Grantor' shall mean any and all persons who lawfully succeed to the rights and responsibilities of the Grantor, including but not limited to the Grantor's heirs, executors, administrators, personal or legal representatives, successors and assigns.

21. Wherever in this Deed of Easement any party shall be designated or referred to by name or general reference, such designation shall have the same effect as if the words, 'heirs, executors, administrators, personal or legal representatives, successors and assigns' have been inserted after each and every designation.

22. Grantor, Grantor's heirs, executors, administrators, personal or legal representatives, successors and assigns further transfers and conveys to Grantee all of the

nonagricultural development rights and development credits appurtenant to the lands and Premises described herein. Nothing contained herein shall preclude the conveyance or retention of said rights by the Grantee as may be permitted by the laws of the State of New Jersey in the future. In the event that the law permits the conveyance of said development rights, Grantee agrees to reimburse the Committee at a certain percentage of the value of the development rights as determined at the time of the subsequent conveyance. The percentage of reimbursement shall be based on the respective funding contributions of the Grantee and Committee as set forth in the cost-sharing grant agreement entered into by Grantee and the Committee when these development rights are enrolled in the New Jersey Agriculture Retention and Development Program.

23. That portion of the net proceeds, representing the value of the land only (and not the value of the improvements), of a condemnation award or other disposition of the Premises following termination of this Deed of Easement, as permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:1C-11 et seq., P.L. 1983, c.32, shall be distributed among the Grantor and the Grantee in shares in proportion to the fair market value of their interests in the Premises on the date of execution of this Deed of Easement. For this purpose, the Grantee's allocable share of the proceeds shall be the net proceeds multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the fair market value of the development easement as certified by the Grantee at the time of the initial acquisition and the denominator of which is the full fair market value of the unrestricted Premises as certified by the Grantee at the time of the initial acquisition, which is identified as (         /         ).

Furthermore, in the event that this Deed of Easement is enrolled in the New Jersey Agriculture Retention and Development Program by the Committee providing the Grantee with a cost share grant for the acquisition of this Deed of Easement, the Grantee's proceeds shall be distributed among the Grantee and the Committee in shares in proportion to their respective cost share grants as set forth in the aforementioned cost sharing grant agreement. The Grantee shall use its share of the proceeds in a manner consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 4:1C-11 et seq., P.L. 1983, c.32.

24. Grantor understands and accepts that Grantee may, at its sole option, apply to have this easement enrolled for participation in the State of New Jersey Agriculture Retention and Development Program as administered by the State Agriculture Development Committee. It is the intention of Grantor to convey to Grantee, by this present instrument, all of the rights which would have to be conveyed under N.J.S.A. 4:1C-11, et seq. and under N.J.A.C. 2:76-1.1, et seq. in order to qualify this easement for participation in the State Program. Grantor hereby agrees and undertakes to cooperate with Grantee in any appropriate aspect of the State application process and to execute any necessary papers presented by the State or by Grantee in connection therewith. Grantor hereby consents to the participation in or exercise of any of Grantee's rights and obligations hereunder by the State Agriculture Development Committee or any other State agency or political subdivision of the State of New Jersey. Grantee stipulates that any rights and prerogatives that this Deed of Easement extends to the Committee (which entity is neither a party to this conveyance nor to any of the negotiations and agreements leading up to same) are inchoate and shall not be exercised unless and until the Committee provides a cost share grant to the County for the acquisition of the Deed of Easement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:1C-11 et seq. and enters into a cost sharing grant agreement with the County.

25. No historic building or structure located on the Premises may be demolished by the grantor or any other person without the prior approval of the State Agriculture Development Committee. Historic building or structure is a building or structure that, as of the date of this Deed of Easement, has been included in the New Jersey Register of Historic Places established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1B-15.128 et seq.

The Grantor signs this Deed of Easement as of the date of the top of the first page. If the Grantor is a corporation, this Deed of Easement is signed and attested to by its proper corporate officers, and its corporate seal, if any, is affixed.

\_\_\_\_\_(L.S.)

\_\_\_\_\_(L.S.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

(Corporate Seal)  
(For use by corporations only)

**(INDIVIDUAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT)**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ SS.:

I CERTIFY that on \_\_\_\_\_, 2008,

\_\_\_\_\_ personally came before me and acknowledged under oath, to my satisfaction, that this person (or if more than one, each person):

- (a) is named in and personally signed this DEED OF EASEMENT;
- (b) signed, sealed and delivered this DEED OF EASEMENT as his or her act and deed;
- (c) made this DEED OF EASEMENT for and in consideration of mutual obligations and benefits to each party; and
- (d) the actual and true consideration paid for this instrument is \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name and title below signature

**(CORPORATE ACKNOWLEDGMENT)**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ SS.:

I CERTIFY that on \_\_\_\_\_ 2008, the subscriber(s) \_\_\_\_\_, personally appeared before me, who, being by me duly sworn on his or her oath, deposes and makes proof to my satisfaction, that he or she is the Secretary of \_\_\_\_\_, the Corporation named in the within Instrument; that \_\_\_\_\_ is the President of said Corporation; that the execution, as well as the making of this Instrument, has been duly authorized by a proper resolution of the Board of Directors of the said Corporation, that deponent well knows the corporate seal of said Corporation; and that the seal affixed to said Instrument is the proper corporate seal and was thereto affixed and said Instrument signed and delivered by said President as and for the voluntary act and deed of said Corporation, in presence of deponent, who thereupon subscribed his or her name thereto as attesting witness; and that the full and actual consideration paid to purchase a development easement as evidenced by the DEED OF EASEMENT is \$\_\_\_\_\_ and the mutual obligations and benefits contained herein.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the date aforesaid

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name and title below signature

**(LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ACKNOWLEDGMENT)**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ SS.:

I CERTIFY that on \_\_\_\_\_, 2008, the subscriber(s) \_\_\_\_\_ personally came before me and acknowledged under oath, to my satisfaction, that this person (or if more than one, each person):

- (a) are the managing member(s) of \_\_\_\_\_, the Limited Liability Company named in the within Deed of Easement;
- (b) are the managing members of said company;
- (c) that the execution, as well as the making of this Deed of Easement, have been duly authorized by the Operating Agreement of the said Company, that said Deed of Easement was signed and delivered by \_\_\_\_\_, as and for the voluntary act and deed of said Company; and
- (d) the actual and true consideration paid for this instrument is \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name and title below signature

**(COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD)**

THE UNDERSIGNED, being Chairperson of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Agriculture Development Board, hereby accepts and approves the foregoing restrictions, benefits and covenants.

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson  
\_\_\_\_\_ County Agriculture Development Board

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ SS.:

I CERTIFY that on \_\_\_\_\_, 2008, \_\_\_\_\_ personally came before me and acknowledged under oath, to my satisfaction that this person: (a) is named in and personally signed this DEED OF EASEMENT, (b) signed, sealed and delivered this DEED OF EASEMENT as the Board's act and deed; and (c) is the Chairperson of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Agriculture Development Board.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name and title below signature

**(COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS)**

THE UNDERSIGNED, being \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Board of Chosen Freeholders, hereby accepts and approves the foregoing restrictions, benefits and covenants.

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name and title below signature  
\_\_\_\_\_ County Board of Chosen Freeholders

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ SS.:

I CERTIFY that on \_\_\_\_\_, 2008,

\_\_\_\_\_ personally came before me and acknowledged under oath, to my satisfaction that this person:

- (a) is named in and personally signed this Deed of Easement;
- (b) signed, sealed and delivered this Deed of Easement as the Freeholder Board's act and deed; and
- (c) Is the Administrator / Freeholder Clerk of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Signed and sworn to before me on \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name and title below signature  
\_\_\_\_\_ County Board of Chosen Freeholders