

May 29, 2007

To: County Agriculture Development Board Administrators  
County Board of Agriculture Presidents  
Non Profit Organizations

From: Susan E. Craft, Executive Director

Re: Your Input Sought on How to Make Farmland More Available to  
Farmers

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As you know, the viability of New Jersey's agricultural industry depends on ensuring that farmland is available to new and established farmers.

In 2004, Secretary Kuperus convened a working group to recommend ways to make farmland more available and tenure-secure to New Jersey farmers. This working group developed a package of initial recommendations for the agricultural community to consider. Since then, we have heard from an increasing number of farmers and agricultural boards concerned about this issue. Therefore, we would like to continue this discussion and solicit your ideas.

Do you think access to land is a serious problem for New Jersey farmers? What can be done to make farmland more available?

To further the discussion, we have developed a short presentation that outlines some of the issues and trends we have observed. We would welcome the opportunity to make this presentation to your county agriculture development board, county board of agriculture and any other interested farmers and others, and then listen to your thoughts and ideas.

Please let us know if we could schedule a time for this presentation and discussion in your county. We have already been in touch with a few counties to set up joint meetings between the county agriculture development board and county board of agriculture.

If you have any questions, or to discuss scheduling, please contact David Kimmel at (609) 984-6323. We look forward to meeting with you soon and hearing your ideas on these important issues.

Enclosures

c: Gary Mount  
SADC Members  
Farmland Affordability/Availability Working Group Members  
N.J. Department of Agriculture, Division Directors  
State Board of Agriculture  
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station  
Rutgers Cooperative Extension  
State Soil Conservation Committee  
U.S.D.A., Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S.D.A., Farm Service Agency  
First Pioneer Farm Credit  
New Jersey Farm Bureau  
Northeast Organic Farmers Association-NJ  
New Jersey Conservation Foundation