



**COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
Cooperative Extension  
Agriculture, Open Space and Farmland Preservation**

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July 9, 1999

Mr. Gregory Romano  
Executive Director  
State Agriculture Development Committee  
PO Box 330  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0330

Dear Mr. Romano:

The following site specific agricultural management practice on educational and entertainment farming is recommended by the Gloucester County Agricultural Development Board for the Creamy Acres Farm and Greenhouse, Lincoln Mill Road, South Harrison Township, Mullica Hill, New Jersey. The site and farming operation is a partnership owned by Larry and Jeanne Ambruster and their son Ron and his spouse Kim Ambruster.

Creamy Acres consists of approximately 215 acres of farmland including buildings and parking lot. Of this, 72 acres is owned and 143 rented. Crops grown are hay and field corn for feeding 55 milking cows. Twenty-seven greenhouses and similar structures produce: bedding and vegetable plants; perennial plants; hanging flowering plants; other flowering varieties; and garden items. The structures also serve as customer sales and service center for marketing these products and the associated education, entertainment, and offer site-landscaping service that go with the farm.

The Gloucester County Agricultural Development Board believes marketing this farm entertainment and education is necessary for the viability of the farm and desirable to educate most consumers and citizens that have little understanding or knowledge of agriculture. The target audience is:

- School trips (educational);
- Girl/Boy Scout outings (qualify for badges);
- Businesspersons (stress relief);
- Youth/church groups ("good - clean - fun" activity);
- Families (birthday parties - reunions - "get-togethers").



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The goals of the farm are to:

- Provide activities that everyone can enjoy;
- Provide the opportunity for folks to experience "country living";
- Provide an educational opportunity for folks to learn something about agriculture and dairy business;
- Provide an introduction for people to come to Creamy Acres to purchase "Creamy Acres" products and services through our "Entertainment" activities.

The general details of the PROPOSED FARM ENTERTAINMENT & EDUCATION IN THE SPRING) are:

- Play ground for children including "petting area" of farm animals;
- Playground area consists of giant sandbox, swingset/junglejim and straw jump and cutout wooden animal figures; Petting area is a covered greenhouse structure with individual pens for the calves, goats, ducks, rabbits and chickens.

Butterfly Garden house; The Butterfly Garden is a shaded greenhouse landscaped with a variety of plants that attract butterflies.

Party "barn" -- designated area under cover for special occasions (i.e. birthday parties)

The "party barn" is a shaded covered greenhouse structure with picnic tables and straw bail seats. The "party barn" provides a private place for gatherings. It is next to the play area especially for the children.

Dairy Days in June - hayrides, agricultural give-a-ways, farm tours;

Dairy Days are two Saturdays in June when folks can "tour" the farm. A wagon ride takes a trip around the farm by the barn, through a pasture, along the cornfield and past the pumpkin patch. People can see the actual process of "milking cows."

Games and contests are setup for the children. Agricultural information and promotional items and ice cream are free to those who come for the fun.

THE PROPOSED FARM ENTERTAINMENT & EDUCATION IN THE FALL are:

Hayrides to Pumpkin Patch;

During the fall we have wagon rides to the pumpkin patch where the children can pick out a pumpkin. We have mums, pumpkins, cornstalks, straw bails and other fall items for sale.

10 acre Cornfield Maze;

Our 10-acre "Cornfield Maze" is a field of corn with trails cut to create a design. Aerial pictures have proven that the maze was our "Cow" logo in 1997 and a "Barn-silo" design in 1998. There will be a new design for 1999. The object of the Maze is to find your way through the trails to locate numbered wooden posts hidden

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within the maze. By completing a dot-to-dot picture of the maze, people can navigate their way through.

There is also a covered shaded greenhouse with picnic tables and snack bar in which to relax.

Haunted Attractions and Hayrides;

Our haunted attractions are nighttime events during the month of October. The haunted hayride takes a route around the perimeter of the farm passing by different haunting scenes. There are 10 wagons continuously running each holding about 25 people. Riders depart from the wagon then walk through a haunted cornfield. We transform our acre of greenhouses into a walk through maze with different "haunted" rooms. This year we will be adding a new haunted attraction – a "3-D" haunted house. Mums, pumpkins, cornstalks, straw and other fall items for sale  
Play/petting area; Party "barn."

We hope the New Jersey State Agricultural Development Board can expeditiously act on this site-specific recommendation for the "Creamy Acres" agricultural management practice.

Sincerely,

James A. Yates, ~~C~~oordinator  
Farmland Preservation Program

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