

**RESOLUTION OF THE
MONMOUTH COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
RECOMMENDING SITE-SPECIFIC
AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE
UNDER THE NEW JERSEY RIGHT TO FARM ACT**

Pyle offered the following motion and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Puglisi Farms, Inc. ["Puglisi"] has applied to the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board ["the Board"] pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-2.3, requesting a determination as to whether the manure management program, hen house management and processing facility at the egg production and packaging operation being conducted at Block , Lots in the Township of Howell, commonly known as Easy Street ["the Property"], constitutes a generally accepted agricultural operation or practice; and

WHEREAS, the Board conducted a hearing on Puglisi's application on May 2, 2001, at which Puglisi was represented by its principal Michael Puglisi; and

WHEREAS, a site visit was conducted on April 2, 2001, with the site visit team comprised of Karen Fedosh, Board Staff Member, Richard Obal, Monmouth County Agricultural Agent, Eileen Miller, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, Robert Mickel, Hunterdon County Agricultural Agent and Ryan Merritt, AmeriCorps Area 12 Watershed representative; and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the application, the applicant's certification, the testimony presented on behalf of the applicant and the reports of the site visit.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board makes the following findings:

1. The Property is located at Block , Lots in the Township of Howell and is commonly known as Easy Street;
2. Puglisi Farms, Inc. is the operator of the Property;
3. The Property consists of approximately 17 acres and is operated as an egg production and packaging facility;
4. The Property produces agricultural/horticultural products worth more per year than \$2,500.00;
5. The Property meets the eligibility criteria for differential property taxation pursuant to the Farmland Assessment Act of 1964, P.L. 1964, c. 48 (N.J.S.A. 54:23.1, *et seq.*)
6. The Property is located in an area in which, as of December 31, 1997, or thereafter, agriculture has been a permitted use under the municipal zoning ordinance and is consistent with the municipal master plan;
7. The Property was in operation and conducting operations substantially the same as current operations as of July 2, 1998;
8. Puglisi is engaged in the business of producing and packaging eggs for the fresh shell egg market and the on-site disposal of organic agricultural wastes, which are eligible activities under the Right to Farm Act;
9. The operations conducted at the Property meet the definition of a commercial farm in N.J.S.A. 4:1C-3;
10. The farm is well-kept and neat, is managed very efficiently, and the management inside the poultry houses reflect excellent management and rigorous standards of inspection;
11. There are 135,000 layers in residence, in two poultry houses;

12. Facilities also include an egg packaging facility, office building and four small agricultural labor houses;

13. The farm operation exceeds generally accepted management practices in numerous respects, including the following:

- A. Wastewater from the egg processing facility is collected in holding tanks and held until transported to a sewage treatment plant, approximately three to four times per month and grassy buffer strips have been installed to help eliminate the possibility of runoff to surface or ground water;
- B. Dead chickens are refrigerated until taken to a renderer for processing;
- C. Egg spills are collected and stored until removed for proper disposal;
- D. The manure pit is optimally designed and operated to maintain the manure at its driest level of 30 to 35 percent moisture content, utilizing in-pit fans, exterior wall fans and positive and negative airflow systems for drying the manure and keeping the house temperature constant;
- E. The manure pits are emptied approximately twice per year;
- F. Particular care is used to decrease water waste and residual odors by the use of free nipple type waterers;
- G. Equipment is used for extra care in egg collection and assists in keeping eggs from dropping into the manure pit, thus avoiding other potential odor problems;
- H. Extra scrapers and attachments are used to assist in moving manure into the manure pit thus avoiding excess manure build-up in and around the staggered cage design;

- I. The rodent and predator control system employs sound, proven contemporary practices in and around the poultry houses;
- J. The location of fans and configuration of the buildings serve to keep odors away from the front of the property and adjacent dwellings;
- 14. The scope of the farm management reflects current and up-to-date management practices;
- 15. The Puglisi operation does not pose a threat to public health or safety;
- 16. The Puglisi operation is in apparent compliance with all applicable state and federal requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, based on the aforesaid findings of fact, the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board finds that the operation of the Property by Puglisi constitutes a generally accepted agricultural operation or practice.

Seconded by McCarthy and adopted on a roll call by the following vote:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Buscaglia	X			
Mr. Hom				X
Mr. Illmensee	X			
Mr. McCarthy	X			
Mr. McCormack	X			
Mr. Potter	X			
Mr. Pyle	X			
Mr. Rifkin				X
Mr. Stuart	X			

I certify that foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution of the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Board on October 3, 2001.

Dated:

Richard Obal, Secretary