



# NEWS

## New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee

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Contact: Heidi Winzinger

[Heidi.Winzinger@ag.nj.gov](mailto:Heidi.Winzinger@ag.nj.gov)

(609) 815-6479 (cell)

### State Agriculture Development Committee Preserves Warren County Farm Slated for Warehouse Development

**White Township, New Jersey**—Today, New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Ed Wengryn announced that New Jersey's Farmland Preservation Program purchased a ~566-acre farm in White Township, Warren County. The property, previously owned by Jaindl Land Co. and slated for over 2 million square feet of warehouse development, is bisected by Buckhorn Creek and located along the scenic County Route 519 corridor of Warren County.

The New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC), the agency responsible for administering New Jersey's farmland preservation program, purchased the "Buckhorn Creek Farm" in its entirety, or fee-simple interest, rather than purchasing only an easement on the farm, as is the more typical method of preserving farmland. The SADC anticipates retaining ownership of the property until the land is offered as permanently preserved farmland for sale and returning it to private ownership.

"New Jersey's Farmland Preservation Program is committed to preserving the state's critical farmland resources, and we are pleased this outstanding farmland will remain in agriculture forever," said Ed Wengryn, Secretary of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and Chair of the SADC. "Protecting this farm helps to prevent the destabilization of this important agricultural region of New Jersey and ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Warren County."

The property consists of highly productive farmland and is located in an area designated by Warren County as an Agricultural Development Area (ADA) and within the Environmentally Sensitive Planning Areas of the Highlands Council's comprehensive land use plan.

"This is the first time the SADC has worked to intercept a large-scale industrial development project," said Susan Payne, Executive Director of the SADC. "The farmland preservation program generally steers clear of land zoned for high-density development, but in this case, the proposed development was entirely inconsistent with good planning principles due to the lack of adequate transportation and other public infrastructure needed to support this scale of industrial development. As a result, the proposed development would have an oversized impact on the surrounding community and a substantially negative impact on Warren County's agricultural land base".

"On behalf of the Warren County Board of County Commissioners, we are pleased to see the purchase of the Jaindl property by the State of New Jersey brought to fruition," said Warren County Commissioner Director James R. Kern III. "The Board of County Commissioners is and will continue to be committed to preserving Warren County's farmland and protecting our rural way of life. In advance, we would like to thank the Jaindl family, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the State Agriculture Development Committee, members of New Jersey's Legislature, and County department heads for their efforts in achieving this historic accomplishment."

Joel Schnetzer, Chairman of the Warren County Agricultural Development Board said, "Thank you to the landowner and the SADC. The significance of preserving high quality farmland should always be the most sought-after goal and given the utmost priority."

"The SADC would like to thank Warren County and White Township for their support in coordinating the permanent protection of this farm," said Executive Director Payne.

For more information about the farmland preservation program and the State Agriculture Development Committee, please visit [www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/). Photos and video of the farm and event can be found here: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/news/press/2024/>

The State Agriculture Development Committee administers the State Farmland Preservation Program. To date, more than 2,868 farms covering more than 251,585 acres have been permanently preserved statewide, and the program goal is to protect an additional 250,000 acres of farmland.

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