



NEWS

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4 New Members Appointed to State Agriculture Development Committee

New Members from Sussex, Middlesex, Burlington and Mercer Counties

Two farmers from Sussex and Middlesex counties, a Burlington County land use attorney and the executive director of a watershed association in Pennington have been appointed to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) – the agency that administers New Jersey’s Farmland Preservation Program and related programs to maintain a strong and viable agricultural industry.

“I’m pleased to welcome these new members and am certain that their diverse backgrounds and experience will prove to be a tremendous asset as the Committee continues to work to preserve our productive farmland, help our farmers be successful and ensure that our farms continue to be an important part of our communities for generations to come,” said Secretary Charles M. Kuperus, who chairs the SADC.

Jane Brodhecker of Hampton Township, Sussex County, has been a grain and cattle farmer since she and her husband purchased their farm in 1969. Chairperson of the Sussex County Agriculture Development Board, she has held numerous other agricultural posts, including leadership positions with the Sussex County Board of Agriculture and serving as a delegate to the State Agriculture Convention and State Farm Bureau Convention. She is serving as a farmer member of the SADC whose term expires in June 2010.

Alan Danser of Cranbury, Middlesex County, is a 35-year grain farmer who served for 12 years as mayor. He also has been a member of the Middlesex County Agriculture Development Board since it was established in 1985, currently serving as Chairman. He is serving as a farmer member of the SADC whose term expires in June 2010.

Denis Germano of Medford Lakes, Burlington County, is a land use attorney who has assisted local governments in planning/zoning and farmland preservation initiatives. A past member of the Burlington County Open Space Committee, he is serving as a public member of the SADC whose term expires in June 2009.

James Waltman of Hopewell, Mercer County, is Executive Director of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association where he supervises administration of an independently operated organic farm, an 860-acre nature reserve and a variety of environmental and educational programs. He is serving as a public member of the SADC whose term expires in June 2011.

The SADC consists of 11 members: the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the Commissioner of Community Affairs, the State Treasurer and the Dean of the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, or their designees, as well as six citizens – four farmer members and two representing the general public – appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Farmer candidates are recommended to the Governor by the State Board of Agriculture.

The SADC administers the state Farmland Preservation Program, the Right to Farm Program and the Farm Link Program, which matches farm sellers with potential buyers. To date, more than 1,600 farms covering 163,000 acres have been preserved statewide.

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