



# NEWS

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## **SADC Approves \$6.45M to Assist Nonprofits in Preserving Farmland**

The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) has approved \$6.45 million in grants to assist nine nonprofits seeking to preserve farms in Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, Somerset, Monmouth and Salem counties.

“We’re pleased to partner this year with a record number of nonprofit organizations that are working to preserve farms across the state to maintain the character and environmental quality of our communities, and ensure that agriculture will have the land it needs to continue delivering locally grown food and other agricultural products to our future generations,” said Agriculture Secretary Charles M. Kuperus, who chairs the SADC.

The nine nonprofits initially submitted 45 eligible applications representing a total funding request of more than \$40 million. Because of the high demand, the SADC requested that each nonprofit resubmit no more than their three highest ranked applications, which resulted in 19 applications.

The SADC approved \$825,000 for each of the following: the New Jersey Agriculture Land Trust, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance, Upper Raritan Watershed Association, and Ridge and Valley Conservancy.

Grants of \$500,000 each were approved for the Lamington Conservancy, Morris Land Conservancy, and South Jersey Land and Water Trust.

Nonprofit organizations approved for the higher funding submitted at least one higher-ranking application. Ranking is based on the farm quality score determined by an evaluation of farm size, soil type, amount of tillable acreage and other factors that affect the long-term ability of the farm to contribute to agriculture.

Each nonprofit with multiple applications is required to pursue farms for preservation in order of ranking, from highest to lowest, until their grants have been expended. A listing of farms eligible for nonprofit grant funding is available on the SADC’s website at [www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/news/press/2008/index.html](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/news/press/2008/index.html).

The SADC administers New Jersey’s Farmland Preservation Program. To date, more than 1,600 farms covering more than 165,000 acres have been permanently preserved.

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