



# HUNTERDON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **HUNTERDON COUNTY AND HOLLAND TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE FUNDS FULLY REIMBURSED THROUGH CLOSING ON THE PRESERVED HOFFMAN FARMS**

The County of Hunterdon, in conjunction with Holland Township, closed on the sale of three permanently preserved farms, known as the Hoffman Farms, on May 2, 2017, gaining back a total of \$1.675 million for the County's and Township's Open Space funds.

The County and Township had previously received reimbursement of \$1.473 million from the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) towards the preservation of the farms. The farm sale price means that the County's and Holland Township's Open Space funds have been fully reimbursed for the original \$2.8 million property purchase.

"With this sale, the County and Holland Township has purchased, preserved from development, and resold 327 acres of farmland that contributes to more than 31,000 acres of preserved farmland within the County. And what is better, with the sale and the SADC grant, the preservation of the properties comes at no cost to both the Township and the County," said Freeholder Director John Lanza.

The farms, located along Spring Mills-Little York Road in Holland Township, were sold at public auction on June 9, 2016. The three farm parcels, which together total over 327 acres, were sold to one winning bidder.

The winning bid to purchase the three tracts of land, the former Hoffman farm, was \$1,675,000.00. The original Hoffman farm consisted of 414 acres, and was purchased jointly by the County of Hunterdon and the Township of Holland in 2002 for \$2,800,000.00. In 2012, the County reserved as public open space an 87-acre portion of the property and the remaining 327 acres of farmland were subdivided and permanently preserved as farmland through the State Agriculture Development Committee.

Hunterdon County and Holland Township congratulate William Vetter, Margaret Vetter and George Vetter of Mountainside, NJ, and welcome them to Hunterdon County. Proceeds from the auction sale are returned to the County's Open Space Trust Fund and used to acquire and/or preserve additional open space and farmland in Hunterdon County.



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