



## Board of Chosen Freeholders

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DATE: February 25, 2019**

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## County Agriculture Development Board Announces Spring Round For Farmland Preservation Projects

The Hunterdon County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) has announced a spring grant round for Farmland Preservation Planning Incentive Grants. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2019. Farms are considered by the CADB on an individual basis with an emphasis on soil quality and long term agricultural viability. The CADB typically reviews application in the spring and fall.

Freeholder Matt Holt, the Freeholder Board's liaison for the CADB said, "Hunterdon County has a long history of preserving farmland. It is integral to our economic growth and stability and with these grants, our county's farms are given security and longevity. We fully support this program and will continue to work towards increasing preserved farmland here in the county."

The popular program recently received increased support from the Hunterdon County Freeholders. Countywide over 33,000 acres and 431 farms have been preserved using a combination of Federal, State, County, Municipal and Non-profit funding amounting to over \$280 million dollars since the first family farm in New Jersey was preserved in 1985. About 70% of the funding has come from the State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC). A quarter of the funds have been split between municipal and county Open Space tax receipts. The remainder of the money has been provided through an increasingly important partnership of non-profit and federal funding.

The long running program has allowed farmers in Hunterdon county and across the state the opportunity for a cash infusion into operations, a chance to pay down debt, or as a vehicle to settle estate situations. Preserved land stays in private ownership and may be sold on the open market with the provision it stays in agricultural usage. Preserved farms are a step toward the continuation of agriculture as an important part of the economy of Hunterdon County.

For more information contact:

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The application form is available on the Hunterdon CADB website at <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/cadb.htm>.