



**Board of County Commissioners**

County of Hunterdon  
71 Main Street, Building #1  
PO Box 2900  
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

**MEDIA RELEASE**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: January 8, 2021**

**Contact: Shaun C. Van Doren, Commissioner**

[Shaun.vandoren@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:Shaun.vandoren@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

## **Hunterdon Works Through Pandemic Obstacles To Preserve Farmland and Open Space In 2020**

Hunterdon County substantially added to its open space and farmland preservation inventories during 2020, overcoming the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, continuing the County’s record of having preserved the most farms in the state, and reserving additional open space acreage in municipalities around the County, Board Director Shaun C. Van Doren reported at the final Freeholder meeting, in December.

Van Doren, in a wrap up report on the County’s land preservation program, stated, “Through funding the preservation of over 287 acres of farmland and over 562 acres of open space properties across the County, the Freeholder Board, working with our volunteers serving on the County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) and the Parks Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC), continued the county’s commitment to the preservation of open space and farmland.

Both the CADB and POSAC members overcame the hurdles of needing to social distance, while continuing to meet, telephonically, via the internet or even in person while social distancing, to review proposed preservation projects. Their perseverance throughout the year is appreciated.”

Funding for the preservation of properties comes from a number of sources, including the County Open Space Trust Fund, the state’s Green Acres program and Agriculture Development Committee, federal U.S.D.A, municipal contributions, and non-profit land preservation groups.

Van Doren pointed out, “Funding partners assist not only to gain the preservation of properties, but also by providing additional monies they help to stretch the County’s Open Space Fund further.”

Open space properties that were approved for preservation included;

Cisek property in Delaware Township	60.16 acres
Etsel property in Raritan Township	42 acres
Saums property in Readington	50 acres
Brownstein property in Raritan Township	32.6 acres
Culbertson property in Bethlehem	178 acres
Maritan property in Kingwood	105 acres
Curtis (Easement) property in Delaware Twp.	64 acres
Fitzgerald property in Readington	31 acres



## Board of County Commissioners

County of Hunterdon  
71 Main Street, Building #1  
PO Box 2900  
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

## MEDIA RELEASE

---

Farmland preserved included:

Thomas farm in East Amwell 34 acres  
Onuschak farm in Franklin 20.6 acres  
Kollmer farm in Kingwood 24.2 acres  
DeSapio farm in Kingwood 45.6 acres  
Bowlby farm in Raritan Twp. 162.8 acres

“The County will continue to follow the Open Space Preservation Strategic Plan adopted in 2018, particularly where it comes to protecting stream corridors and connecting properties to enhance trail ways. Additionally, the CADB continues to accept farmland preservation submissions on a rolling basis,” Van Doren concluded.