



**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP**  
**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**&**  
**OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL**  
**FALL 2018**



**STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**(SADC )**

**AWARDS MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP \$1,000,000 FOR FARMLAND**



**The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC)** which is one of our major funding partners for farmland preservation has approved a \$23.8 million for FY19 that would direct much of \$19.9 million in anticipated acquisition funding municipalities through the **Municipal Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) Program**.

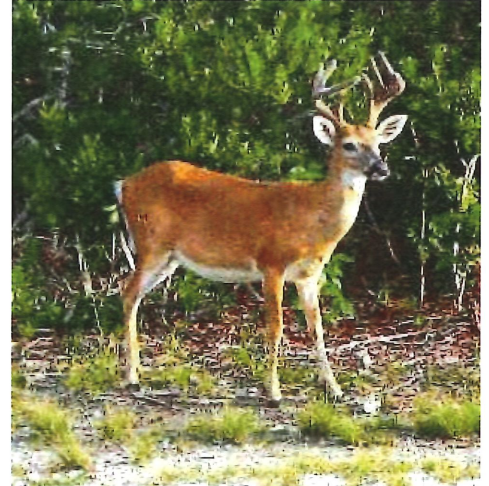
The grant amounts ranging from \$0 to \$1,000,000 under the Municipal PIG Program would be awarded to municipalities dependent upon what they have expended or obligated (through securing of SADC final approvals). Currently Millstone has two farmland preservation applications that have received approvals from SADC and are being processed, and two more applications that are being submitted for review and consideration. **One of only six municipalities statewide**, Millstone Township received notification that **SADC is allocating Millstone \$1,000,000 for FY19** subject to approval by the **Garden State Preservation Trust** and appropriation through the typical legislative process.

In 2007, the state modified its rules designating the **Agricultural Advisory Councils** in each municipality to take the lead on farmland preservation projects in municipalities. Currently, there are additional modifications strengthening that mandate which has been beneficial for the farmland community. In addition, SADC staff has attended and plans on attending as many Ag Advisory Council meetings as possible during the year to further strengthen our working relationship.

**Millstone Township Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council** and the **Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council** work very well together. Although the funding partners and requirements may differ, the overlap and interaction of the members of both councils has been rewarding and a great benefit to the Township.

## Letter from the Chair

A recent survey was sent out to all residents of Millstone Township with their tax bill to gather information regarding the impact of our **Whitetail Deer population** on the community. There are many ways in which deer are impacting our lives. Many of us find them enjoyable to watch but they have also caused many problems throughout the community. Deer can destroy your landscape, flower and vegetable gardens; carry ticks which have increased the incidence of Lyme's Disease in humans, dogs and horses; and avoiding deer crossing the roads becomes an art. As an agricultural community, our farmers are truly feeling the effects as their entire fields are being eaten away by the hungry animals. The survey will be an important component in developing our educational base to help address this important issue.



**The Millstone Agricultural Advisory Council** has been holding meetings with local, county, and state officials including the **New Jersey Farm Bureau** to discuss the issue of our deer population and its impact on our community as well as possible solutions to the existing problems it has caused. During these strategy sessions, it was determined that first we need to count or assess the number of deer per square mile in our town so we can define a starting point. This can be done in several ways, e.g. spotlight counts, infrared surveys, as well as drones. **The Millstone Agricultural Advisory Council** along with the **Open Space Farmland Preservation Council** will be working with **New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife** to perform spotlight counts this winter and it is our hope that a drone will be utilized in order to achieve more accurate counts. In addition, studies of the wooded areas will be made to assess the impact of the deer on the vegetative growth to establish a baseline for comparison. This would make a great project for our youngsters in the community.

The current acceptable sustainable number of deer per square mile is around **15-20**. We suspect however that in our town there is an unhealthy level of **well over 100**. Once these counts are performed, the health of deer, the forest, and concerns the residents will be addressed and discussed. We have learned how many other communities have dealt with their deer population by adopting a number of unique methods and at our last forum, various techniques utilized in **Mercer County Park** were considered.

In order to help our community coexist with our deer population, we are striving to find a sensible, viable wildlife management plan to prevent the devastation of our forests and parks, prevent the spread of Lyme's disease, reduce the threat to motorists, stop the destruction of farm fields and stop the starvation of young, vulnerable deer during the harsh cold winters.

Be advised, it is currently the mating season (the rut), of the Whitetail Deer which makes them more of a threat to motorists. Once again be vigilant and careful when driving on our roads during this time.

*George Asprocolas* **Agricultural Advisory Council Chair**

## Revolutionizing Agriculture With the Use of Drones



The use of drones is revolutionizing the field of agricultural. This technology helps safely monitor and capture images during extreme weather conditions, unsafe ground conditions, and are also able to scan areas using infrared light. The **Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council** will be introducing the use of a drone to assist in the mapping and photographing of areas. This tool not only provides broader coverage for stewardship but promises the safety of our stewards who walk the vast properties. In addition, the **Millstone Agricultural Advisory Council** will also use drones to determine our deer population as well as monitor the health/impact our wild-life is having on our local vegetation and farm crops. In the future, aerial and ground-based drones will be used throughout the crop cycle for soil and field analysis, planting, spraying, and monitoring.

## “Truly No Place Like Home” at Wolf’s Den Nursery



“I’ve always had a flair for horticulture,” states **Bruce Wolf, of Wolf’s Den Nursery** on Back Bone Hill Road. If you meet him, you’ll know immediately he’s speaking the truth. His passion for details of his land is hard to contain as he rides a Gator around, pointing out the several unique varieties of **Japanese maples, umbrella pine, sugar maples, azaleas, rhododendrons, lavender** and more on the nearly 8-



spring when everything is in bloom.

What started as a small business with a focus on slow-growing, rare trees, the Wolf property has evolved to a diverse and expanding local producer. In the coming years they expect to offer **food-grade lavender, chestnuts, maple syrup** from a super sweet variety of the sugar maple, **berries and jams**, in addition to the trees that continue to represent a staple of their business. Local shoppers aren’t their only customers. They take care to plan and plant their land with wildlife in mind, giving back to nature by planting for all forms of nature, from box turtles and butterflies, to bees and bluebirds. Their success as a local business is a true testament to the mentality that has preserved Millstone Township as a hidden gem in New Jersey, despite decades of surrounding development and expansion.



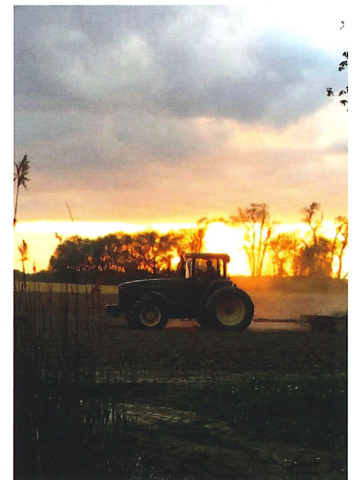
Conversations with the Wolfs, much like those with any local farmers and landowners, reinforces the importance of preservation – once developed, we can never return our land to what it originally was. In this, we need to remember how special it truly is to live in a town like ours. “I’ve been lucky to travel all around the world, and can say there is truly no place like home,” Bruce says.

Debbie adds, “It’s so refreshing to walk outside and say **‘thank God I live in Millstone.’**”

*Keep up to date and share your thoughts and photographs through our committee Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Millstone Open Space And Farm Land Preservation](http://www.facebook.com/Millstone Open Space And Farm Land Preservation).*

## The Future of Farming in Millstone is in Good Hands

**Jay Hyland, 21 of Hyland Farms** located on Windsor Road in Millstone has been farming since he has been a freshman in High School and absolutely loves it. Jay has been around farming for most of his life. He started by helping his father work farms in Monroe and the **Hom Farms** here in Millstone. He says there are challenges every year but these challenges keep things interesting. One thing for sure is that every day and every growing season there is always something different going on. Jay farms several parcels of land on Windsor Road and is always keeping his eyes out for more parcels in order to continue to grow his business. His crops consist of **tomatoes, eggplant, a variety of peppers, watermelon, honeydew, cucumbers, cantaloupe and pumpkins**. Every year he tries something new. This year he tried an **orange watermelon** where the pulp is orange instead of red and tasted the same as a “regular” watermelon. Last year he successfully planted **honeydew melons** and decided to continue planting them this season. Jay markets his fruits and vegetables at his own small farm stand and at the **Whole Sale Tri County Market** in Hightstown, NJ. Located at **1042 Windsor Road in Millstone**, Jay’s farm stand is open to the public from 9:00 am to sundown 5 days a week from June-October. Jay is proud of what he has accomplished in his young life so far. Starting with nothing, Jay borrowed his father’s tractor and other farming equipment to follow his passion and every year his efforts have paid off. At times, he will just stand in front of the properties and is proud of what he has achieved. His mom and sister help out with marketing the farm on Facebook and Jay has a really supportive group of friends and neighbors that are always willing to help out during harvest season. He feels very blessed and his Dad is so proud and smiling down on him.



Every year when planning his crop he takes into consideration how best to use the parcels of land. He thinks about how the weather and deer will affect the crops he wants to grow and what new experiment he’s going to try. He’s already started planning for next year’s crop where in February he will order the seeds for the crop he’s going to grow. Depending on the weather, these seeds will be planted around March/April and once planted they are ready to harvest around June.

Right now he’s planning for this year’s fall crop of **pumpkins, gourds and decorative corn**. If you are interested in learning more about Jay and Hyland Farms visit him on Facebook and “like” him. Also, don’t forget to visit and support his farm stand.

**Is it too late for those orange watermelons?**

**Millstone Township  
Committee**

Gary Dorfman, Mayor  
Nancy A. Grbelja, Deputy Mayor  
Al Ferro  
Michael Kuczinski  
Fiore Masci

**Open Space &  
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Pat Butch, Vice Chairperson  
George Asprocolas  
Mark Blackwell  
Nancy A. Grbelja  
Gene Madearn  
Anthony Marra  
Rose Oxley  
Randi Rosenfeld  
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**Agricultural Advisory Council**

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Randy Peck, Vice Chairperson  
Pat Butch  
Tom Dancer  
Shirley Pinhas  
Kate Posten  
  
Nancy A. Grbelja,  
Township Committee Liaison

# HARVEST FEST

SATURDAY

October 6, 2018 12:30 – 3:30 PM

The Baird Homestead  
24 Baird Road  
Millstone Township, NJ 08535

**Hay Rides  
Pumpkin Patch  
Petting Zoo  
Face Art**

**Arts & Crafts  
Mini Pie Eating Contest  
Blacksmith Demos  
Games & Prizes**

## HISTORIC HOUSE TOURS

Music Provided by the Cornerstone Music Players  
&  
Free Pumpkin & House Tour with \$5 Admission

Sponsored by the Friends of Millstone Historic Registered Properties  
More information at:

[www.mtfriendsofhistory.org](http://www.mtfriendsofhistory.org)

## TOWNSHIP OF MILLSTONE

Agricultural Advisory Council  
Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council  
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