

Equine Rescue Clinic

The Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council hosted an Equine Rescue Clinic on February 5, 2007, at the Millstone Township Fire House. Dr. Daniel Keenan, DVM, and Dr. Anne Pierok, DVM, discussed Barn Rescue, Trailer Rescue, Equine Behavior and First Aid. More than 75 members of the Fire Department, State Police, and public attended this event. A discussion between the speakers, police, firemen, and public provided valuable insight into these topics.

Council members are planning to visit a barn with a smoke and heat alarm. An e-mail invitation to visit the barn will be sent to the Council's mailing list if the Council feels the system is viable for local barns.

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

The Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council is an advisory council consisting of volunteers appointed by the Township Committee. Our goals are as follows:

- ✓ Encourage and promote farming activity and farmland preservation within the Township
- ✓ Promote the Right to Farm Act including educating the community about the Act and assisting in mediating farm issues
- ✓ Analyze how the Township can best protect the continuance and preservation of farmland
- ✓ Determine existing and future problems facing farmers and recommend solutions to the Township Committee
- ✓ Distribute educational and legislative information to farm owners and operators

Join Our Mailing List

Please send an e-mail to ***K-Naagle@Millstone.nj.us*** with "AAC Mailing List" in the subject line. Include the block and lot number(s) of your property in the text. We will add your e-mail address to our database and include you in informational mailings. ***Please be assured that your e-mail information will not be shared with anyone.***



For more information on the Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council or the Agricultural Advisory Council, contact Kathy Naugle
732.446.4249 x103
K-Naagle@Millstone.nj.us

We're on the Web!
<http://www.millstone.nj.us/osfp.btm>

Millstone Township Committee

Mayor Nancy Grbelja
Deputy Mayor Robert Kinsey
Committeemen
Elias Abilheira
Ray Dulfanian
Steven Sico

Millstone Township Open Space & Farmland Preservation

Pat Butch, Chairwoman	Diane Morelli
Cory G. Wingerter, Vice Chairman	Rich Mullarkey
Tony Alves	Tony Romano
Manny Blanco	Kristin Schloss
Charlie Denardo	Merrill Siedman

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Anthony Romano, Chairman
Chet Halka, Vice Chairman
Pat Butch
Shirley Pinhas
Gary Wilson

**Millstone Township
Open Space & Farmland
Preservation Council**



THANK YOU to all who voted for the Open Space referendum. Your tax dollars will be invested wisely. Special thanks to 4th graders, the Middle School Art Club, Mrs. Judy Mazzucco, and Mr. Frank Iglesias for creating the amazing signs that were displayed all over town.

Thank you to all the advertisers of the Street, Open Space & Parks Map. The Council netted \$8,000+ profit to be used for future preservations.

What does farmland preservation mean?

Farms or development easements that are acquired through the Farmland Preservation Program will forever be protected for agricultural use. Landowners who have sold their development rights still can sell their land at any time. Deed restrictions prohibiting non-agricultural development run with the land, so future owners of preserved farms would be required to comply with the deed restrictions.



For farm landowners, participation in the Farmland Preservation Program means a stronger land base to support New Jersey's agricultural industry, the satisfaction of knowing their land will forever be preserved as farmland, and access to the resources that can help them achieve their personal and financial goals.

For all of us, farmland preservation is an important part of keeping New Jersey green and prosperous.

The sale of development rights does not make farmland public property. The public has no right to access or use a deed-restricted farm without the landowner's consent.

Preserved farmland limits urban sprawl, protects our water and soils, provides us with an abundance of locally grown farm products and maintains our connection to the land and the longstanding agricultural traditions that earned our reputation as the Garden State.

Conservation Easement Donations

For a short time, you can make a gift of a lifetime

Act now to protect your land and rural livelihood forever!

If you own land with important natural or historic resources, donating a conservation easement can be one of the smartest ways to conserve the land you love, protect our natural heritage, maintain your private property rights and realize significant tax benefits. The new benefits make it easier for the average American, especially working family farmers, to donate land right now.

To learn more about this important federal tax code change, visit our website for the link to the full article.
<http://www.millstone.nj.us/osfp.btm>

The new laws, which may sunset at the end of 2007 offer the following benefits:

1. Raises the deduction a landowner can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income in any year to 50%.
2. Allows qualifying farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners to deduct up to 100% of their taxable income (e.g. pay no federal income tax); and
3. Extends the carry-forward period for a donor to take tax deductions for a conservation easement from 5 to 15 years.

How Do We Fund Farmland Preservation?

In each bulletin, we will spotlight a different method of funding the preservation of farmland. Since the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) leads in the preservation of New Jersey's farmland, this bulletin will focus on the SADC Planning Incentive Grant (PIG). The SADC provides grants to municipalities and counties for the purchase of development easements to permanently protect large blocks of reasonably contiguous farmland. The SADC establishes annual funding allocations for each municipality/county per year. The maximum municipal allocation is \$1.5 million. **Millstone Township now receives the maximum allocation every year!**

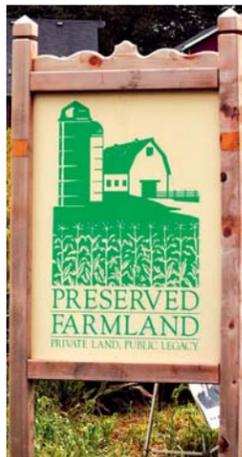


For each farm entering the program, two independent appraisals are conducted by two licensed appraisers. The SADC reviews these appraisals and certifies the development values. Payment to the landowner is made based on these values.

For example, the development rights on a 100-acre farm are valued at \$25,000 per acre or \$2,500,000 for the farm. Funding for the purchase of these development rights is made as follows:

Funding Source	Cost Share	Cost
SADC	60%	\$1,500,000
County	24%	\$ 600,000
Millstone Twp.	16%	\$ 400,000
Total		\$2,500,000

Look for our spotlight on Green Acres in our next bulletin.



Millstone Trailblazers

For several years, the Millstone Trailblazers have been working with local, county and state agencies to design, fund and construct a network of multi-use, recreational trails and bridle paths in the Township. Multi use trails, many of which have been funded by Green Acres, allow snow shoeing, cross country skiing, jogging, walking, mountain biking and horseback riding. The trail network will connect the four major recreational areas in Millstone—Charleston Springs Golf Course, Wagner Farm Park, Perrineville Lake Park and Assunpink Wildlife Management Area. The Township Streets, Open Space, & Parks map indicates the trail easements acquired thus far.



Although preservation of the trail network is nearly complete, the majority of the trails have yet to be cleared. The Trailblazers are now focusing their attention on raising the necessary funds to begin trail construction. They have applied for a \$25,000 grant from the State as part of New Jersey's \$900,000 allotment from the National Recreational Trails Program. The grant, which will be awarded this Spring, if received, will fund the clearing of the first major leg of the trail network, a 10½ mile stretch of

easements connecting Wagner Farm Park to Charleston Springs Golf Course. In addition, the Trailblazers were a recipient of the 2006 Millstone Gala and will allocate much of their \$16,500 award to trail construction.

To help with **Trail Clearing Day on Saturday, June 16, 2007**, please contact the Trailblazers at 732-446-6863.

For more information on the Millstone Trailblazers, e-mail info@MillstoneTrailblazers.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON A LOCAL FARM

Earth Friendly Organic Farm & Bed & Breakfast

17 Olde Noah Hunt Road, Millstone Township, NJ 08510 (609) 259-9744

Organic farming in the 1990's was one of the fastest growing segments of U.S. agriculture. Today, there are more producers, manufacturers, distributors and retailers specializing in the growing, processing and marketing of organic foods. Advocates of organic foods say its safer, possibly more nutritious and better tasting than non-organic foods. Organic food production is better for the environment and kinder to animals. Consumers are convinced—organic food costs are higher and sales are booming.



Residents of Millstone Township are fortunate to have an organic farm right here on Olde Noah Hunt Road. Roz Ressler and Michael Diehl purchased Earth Friendly organic Farm in October 2004 from a friend. While living in Lakewood where it was becoming more congested, Roz taught tai chi and yoga. She bought the farm because it reminded her of where she grew up. Michael has owned Freehold Music Store since 1951. When he isn't at his store, you will find him working the land.

Since October 2002 the U.S. Department of Agriculture set strict standards on how all organic foods are grown and processed. They must be produced without pesticides, herbicides, synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, bioengineering or ionizing radiation. Organic raised animals must be given organic feed and not be given growth hormones. Organic farm animals must have access to the outdoors, including pastureland for grazing. By eliminating the use of pesticides and fertilizers through organic agriculture, we are not adding more chemicals to the land and watershed, and we are taking better care of ourselves.

From mid-June until October u-pick berries are available for sale: blueberries, strawberries, raspberries and blackberries. Don't be surprised when you are picking berries to find chickens roaming the 8.25 acres. The eggs produced from these healthier chickens are for sale all year long. Roz suggests when planning to berry pick you plan a berry picking route by visiting the website <http://www.visitnjfarms.org>. Advance reservations are required for the blueberry jam sessions in July. Attendees will learn everything there is to know about preserving jam. Earth Friendly Organic Farm also operates a bed and breakfast. There are three recently decorated rooms available with private bathrooms and peaceful views of the property.

Email: roz@earthfriendlyorganicfarm.com to be added to the email distribution list or visit them at www.earthfriendlyorganicfarm.com.

Contact Kathy Naugle to be spotlighted in a future newsletter!

Deer Resistant & Invasive Plant Species Lists

If you are landscaping your property, avoid non-native species, especially those that are invasive. In our area, it is also wise to select plants that are not as attractive to deer. To find a rating of how vulnerable to deer appetites a certain plant species is, visit <http://www.rce.rutgers.edu/deerresistance/> To learn about invasive plant species to avoid in your landscaping plans, visit <http://nps.gov/plants/alien/factmain.htm#pllists/>.

An "invasive species" is defined as a species that is: 1) non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

One study estimates that the total cost of invasive species in the United States amount to more than \$100 billion each year. (Pimentel et al., 1999). Invasive species impact nearly half of the species currently listed as Threatened or Endangered under the U.S. Federal Endangered Species Act



New Jersey recently banned the planting of non-native species on state lands to help reduce the spread of invasive species that choke out New Jersey's native flora and threaten wetlands and waterways. For more information on this problem in New Jersey, see report, "An Overview of Non Indigenous Plant Species in New Jersey" at: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/InvasiveReport.pdf>.