



State of New Jersey

STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HEALTH / AGRICULTURE BUILDING
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TO: County Agriculture Development Boards
Municipal Planning Incentive Grant Coordinators
Nonprofit Organizations
New Jersey Farm Bureau
Rutgers Cooperative Extension County Agricultural Agents
Natural Resources Conservation Service
State Board of Agriculture
County Boards of Agriculture

From: Susan E. Payne, Executive Director

Date: January 27, 2017

Re: New Grant Funding for Deer Fencing on Preserved Farms

The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) is pleased to announce a new program to provide cost-share grants to help farmers install deer fencing on preserved farms to protect their crops.

The SADC is making available at least \$500,000 – and potentially more depending on program demand – to provide 50 percent matching grants to established qualifying farmers for the cost of fencing materials and installation. Farmers must own or operate the farm, or be an immediate family member of the owner-operator of a family farm, in order to qualify.

Maximum grant awards are \$200 per acre of preserved farmland owned or \$20,000 total. Applications will be ranked and prioritized for available funding based on criteria including deer density per square mile, crop type to be fenced, hunting status on the farm and adjacent properties, and farmer military status. The ranking system awards additional points to applications from military veteran farmers – those who served at any time since September 11, 2001 and were honorably



discharged or released – to support returning veterans who are transitioning to careers in agriculture.

Funding for the deer fencing program will come from a portion of the SADC's State Farmland Preservation Program monies allocated to promoting stewardship activities on preserved farms. Funding for the program is subject to appropriation by the Legislature.

An application form and the SADC's deer fencing policy, including more detailed eligibility and ranking criteria, are attached and also are available on the SADC's website at www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/ (click under "Hot Topics"). Applications must be received by the SADC by March 23, 2017 in order to be considered for grant funding.

The SADC appreciates any assistance you can provide in ensuring that owners of preserved farms are aware of grant opportunities under the new deer fencing program. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Clapp, Resource Conservationist, of our office at (609) 984-2504 or dclapp@ag.state.nj.us.

c. Larry Herrighty, Acting Director, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

Attachments