

Memo



To: Agricultural Partners
From: Jeffrey C. Everett, Deputy Executive Director
Date: October 30, 2018
Re: Available Grant Funding for Deer Fencing on Preserved Farms

The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) is pleased to announce a new round of grant funding to help eligible farmers install deer fencing on eligible land to protect their crops. The SADC is making available \$740,000 to provide 50% matching grants for the costs of fencing materials and installation. Maximum grant awards are \$200 per acre of the preserved farmland premises owned by the applicant, up to \$20,000 total.

Farmers must be an owner-operator or immediate family member of the owner-operator of a family farm to be eligible for grant funding. If the applicant is a cooperative, a corporation, a partnership or a joint operation, the applicant entity must derive over 50 percent of its gross income from all sources from its farming operation and its principle place of business must be in New Jersey. Eligible land is farmland that is permanently preserved and enrolled in the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) or Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program approved by SADC.

Applications will be ranked and prioritized for available funding based on criteria that includes deer density per square mile, crop type to be fenced, hunting status on the farm and nearby 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 veterans who are transitioning to careers in agriculture.

Funding for the deer fencing program comes from a portion of the SADC's Farmland Preservation Program monies allocated from the Corporate Business Tax to promote stewardship activities on preserved farms. Funding is subject to appropriation by the Legislature.

An application form and the SADC's deer fencing program policy, including more detailed eligibility and ranking criteria, are attached and also available on the SADC's website at <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/news/hottopics/>. **Applications must be received by the SADC by November 30, 2018 to be considered for grant funding.**

For assistance in completing the application and answering eligibility questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dave Clapp, Resource Conservationist, or Dave Kimmel, Agricultural Resource Specialist, of our office at (609) 984-2504 or via david.clapp@ag.nj.gov or david.kimmel@ag.nj.gov. The SADC appreciates any assistance you can provide in ensuring that owner-operators of permanently preserved farms are made aware of this cost-share grant opportunity.

c: Susan E. Payne, Executive Director, SADC
Douglas H. Fisher, Secretary, New Jersey Department of Agriculture
Larry Herrighty, Director, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

Attachments

- Press Release
- SADC Policy P-53 - Farmland Stewardship Deer Fencing Program
- Application Form - Farmland Stewardship Deer Fencing Program

Distribution List

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