



NEWS

New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee

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New Guidebook Explains the Basics of Farm Leases For New Jersey Farmland Owners and Farmers

Agriculture Secretary Douglas H. Fisher announced today that the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) has published a new guidebook, *Leasing Farmland in New Jersey*, to assist farmland owners and farmers interested in entering into leasing agreements.

“Nearly 40 percent of the land in agricultural production in New Jersey is farmed by someone other than the owner, which mirrors a national trend,” said Secretary Fisher. “By helping farmers and farmland owners understand leasing arrangements and develop workable leasing relationships, we can help make more land available to farmers and ensure an agricultural land base is available for viable agricultural production.”

The guidebook will be useful to farmers and landowners who may already have leases in place but want to improve their lease agreements to better meet their needs, or for others who may be interested in crafting a lease for the first time.

The guidebook helps answer commonly asked questions related to leasing, such as:

- What do I need to consider when making my land available or when seeking access to land?
- How long should the lease term be?
- What provisions should it include?
- What is a reasonable rental rate?

Leasing Farmland in New Jersey includes information on getting started, suggestions on creating and maintaining a lease, sample leases, profiles of various leasing arrangements, and additional resources to assist with leasing issues.

To obtain a printed copy of the guidebook, contact the SADC at (609) 984-2504 or at sadc@ag.state.nj.us. The leasing guidebook also is available on the SADC’s website at www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmlink/resources/leaseguide.pdf.

The SADC administers New Jersey’s Farmland Preservation Program and promotes innovative approaches to maintaining the viability of agriculture.

The leasing publication was supported by an agreement with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey under a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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