



# MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MORRIS PRESERVES ITS 127<sup>th</sup> FARM**

**MORRISTOWN, N.J. October 26, 2015** - The Morris County Agriculture Development Board on October 26 permanently preserved the Parks Farm in Chester Township.

This purchase by the Morris CADB restrict the land from non-agricultural uses, thus permanently preserving the farm. This is the 19<sup>th</sup> preserved farm in Chester Township and the 127<sup>th</sup> in Morris County, said Katherine Coyle, director of the Morris CADB.

The farm, which was originally purchased by Mr. William F. Parks in 1906, is located on Route 24 Road and produces apples and pumpkins.

The Morris County Open Space, Farmland, Floodplain Protection and Historic Preservation Trust Fund provided 100% of the \$570,332.56 acquisition price.

In contrast to open space preservation, the landowner retains ownership of, and may even choose to sell, the preserved farmland with a deed restriction ensuring that the land will not undergo non-farm development, Coyle said. Agricultural development of the farm is permitted and the type of farming activity can change in the future.

Preservation of the Parks Farm brings the total area of preserved farmland in the County to 7,771 acres or the equivalent of 12 square miles, which is approximately the area of Long Hill Township, the 15<sup>th</sup> largest municipality in the County.

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