



# MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MORRIS PRESERVES ITS 128<sup>th</sup> FARM**

**MORRISTOWN, N.J. June 15, 2016** - The Morris County Agriculture Development Board on **June 15** permanently preserved a farm in Washington Township owned by the Estate of George E. Scheller.

This purchase by the Morris CADB restricts the land from non-agricultural uses, thus permanently preserving the 42.5-acre farm, which is the 74<sup>th</sup> preserved farm in the township, said Katherine Coyle, director of the Morris CADB.

The farm is located on Flocktown Road and is within a half-mile of four preserved farms and adjacent to Cataract Park.

The Scheller Farm purchase was made in conjunction with a grant from the State Agriculture Development Committee. The SADC provided 55 percent of the \$889,065 acquisition price, or \$491,397 to preserve the farm and the Morris County Open Space, Farmland, Floodplain Protection and Historic Preservation Trust Fund provided the remaining \$397,668.

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.

The Scheller farm is the 128<sup>th</sup> farm that has been permanently preserved in Morris County. This brings the total area of preserved farmland in the county to 7,821 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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