



# MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MORRIS PRESERVES ITS 131<sup>st</sup> FARM**

**MORRISTOWN, N.J. December 29, 2016** - The Morris County Agriculture Development Board on **December 29th** permanently preserved a farm located in Chester Township and Mendham Township owned by the Estate of David R. Aresty.

This purchase by the Morris CADB restricts the land from non-agricultural uses, thus permanently preserving the 60-acre farm, which is the 23<sup>nd</sup> preserved farm in Chester Township and the 7<sup>th</sup> in Mendham Township.

The farm is located on the corner of Roxiticus Road and East Fox Chase Road and is within a half-mile of five preserved farms. It is farmed for hay by the owners of the Backer Farm, also preserved, located in Mendham Township.

The Aresty Farm purchase was made in conjunction with a grant from the State Agriculture Development Committee. The SADC provided 53 percent of the \$2,154,762 acquisition price, or \$1,149,206 to preserve the farm and the Morris County Open Space, Farmland, Floodplain Protection and Historic Preservation Trust Fund provided the remaining \$1,005,556.

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. Agricultural development of the farm is permitted and the type of farming activity can change in the future.

The Aresty farm is the 131<sup>st</sup> farm that has been permanently preserved in Morris County. This brings the total area of preserved farmland in the county to 7,918 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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