Who Do I Call? A One-Stop Source of Information for New and Existing Farmers.

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www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/agriculturaleconomic.html

The Agricultural Economic Development Program works directly with agricultural producers, farm-related industries and rural communities. One-to-one problem solving, coupled with advocacy for the agriculture industry, has proven to be a successful way to resolve questions on economic, environmental, taxation, farm building construction and land use issues. These efforts are part of a rural public policy that provides services the agricultural business sector and rural communities need in order to take advantage of opportunities for economic growth.

AGRICULTURE CREDIT AND FINANCE
While NJDA does not have a loan program for purchasing farm real estate or providing farm-operating capital, the department disseminates information and responds to questions on the availability of financing from federal, state, and commercial lending institutions for agricultural loans including grants. Inquirers are advised on the importance of developing a business plan, financial records, and asset requirements in obtaining financing.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD MANUFACTURING & RELATED INDUSTRIES
To support agriculture and rural economic development, NJDA provides technical support services to existing as well as new agribusinesses in the Garden State including food manufacturers that add value to agricultural commodities.

FARM BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
NJDA offers technical assistance to farmers, architects, engineers, farm building consultants and agricultural contractors concerning the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code (UCC) as it relates to farm buildings. The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs administers the UCC. The UCC provides special construction code criteria for agricultural buildings when the main use of the structure is related to the production of agricultural or horticultural commodities produced on the farm in an amount of $2,500 or more. Under a 1996 amendment, all commercial farm buildings are classified as low hazard storage; site plans signed and sealed by a licensed professional are not required; pre-manufactured grain bins, silos and manure-handling equipment do not need a building permit; and there are no limits on the amount of farm
materials or supplies which can be stored in the farm structure. The following fact sheets are available on-line: Commercial Farm Buildings Fact Sheet and Temporary Greenhouse Fact Sheet.

www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/agriculturaleconomic.html#3

**MOTOR VEHICLE REGULATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE**

Motor vehicle regulations are administered by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission. NJDA gives farmers and agribusinesses information and requirements concerning license plates for farm vehicles (farmer or farm use plates), requirements for the International Registration Plan (IRP), the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA), USDOT numbers, registration under the Unified Carrier Registration, and commercial drivers license provisions.

www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/farmermotorvehicles.html

**REAL PROPERTY APPRAISAL MANUAL, FARM BUILDING SECTION**

The New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Taxation, with assistance from NJDA, updated the New Jersey's Real Property Appraisal Manual, Farm Building Section. The farm building cost section includes changes in construction techniques and building materials. In recent years, pre-engineered post-and-frame structures in large have replaced the traditional masonry and frame structure due to their cost-effectiveness in construction. The farm building supplement to the Real Property Appraisal Manual for New Jersey Assessors provides the building specifications and cost schedules. Included in the document are cost conversion tables, depreciation factor tables plus various illustrations and definitions to assist the assessor in calculating replacement costs and accrued depreciation.

www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/agriculturaleconomic.html#6

**RECYCLING FOR AGRICULTURE**

Recycling saves valuable landfill space, extends the life of existing landfills and contributes to the Garden State’s goal of recycling 60 percent of its solid waste. Agriculturalists help with recycling efforts by using leaves and grass clippings to mulch farm fields, and applying non-hazardous, non-contaminated food-processing by-products to farmland. NJDA helps the state's food processing industry find markets for soon-to-expire and expired food products, works with livestock farmers seeking to use food waste as a livestock feed, provides information on greenhouse film, nursery pots, plastic pesticide containers, mulch film and drip irrigation tape recycling and works closely with other agencies in matters that require creative recycling solutions for non-traditional materials.

www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/agriculturaleconomic.html

**ENVIRONEMTNAL REGULATIONS**

Provides environmental regulatory guidance for NJ Department of Environmental Protection permits (air, water, solid waste)

**TRESSPASS, VANDALISM, AND LIABILITY ON FARMS**

Trespass and vandalism is a significant problem to New Jersey's agriculture. It involves such things as damage caused by motorized vehicles, hot air balloons, horseback
riders, woodcutters, and such actions as theft of agricultural products and property, injury to livestock, trash dumping, machinery theft and damage, and damage to agricultural structures. The rights of farmland owners and rural residents alike are protected by stiffer laws and penalties aimed at curbing trespass and vandalism. [www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/agriculturaleconomic.html#10]

RESOURCE INFORMATION
Provides guidance on resources for technical expertise for agriculture e.g. Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil Conservation District, Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station - Cooperative Extension, etc.). Provides problem-solving expertise to a wide range of agricultural and related industry issues to encourage economic investment or cost savings to individual enterprises.

FARMLAND ASSESSMENT
New Jersey's Farmland Assessment Act, administered by the New Jersey Department of Treasury, provides for lower assessment based on productivity of farmland if it meets specific eligibility criteria. To qualify for the tax assessment reduction, a landowner must have no less than five acres of farmland actively devoted to an agricultural or horticultural use for the two years immediately preceding the tax year being applied for and meet specific minimum gross income requirements based on the productivity of the land. Available on-line: New Jersey's Farmland Assessment Act: A Primer on Basic Requirements and additional information on farmland productivity values, such as imputed income values from grazing, can also be found in the State Farmland Evaluation Advisory Committee's annual land productivity values report. For additional information call (609) 633-2549. [www.nj.gov/agriculture/home/farmers/farmlandassessment.html]

SALES AND USE TAX ON FARMER'S PURCHASES
The New Jersey Sales and Use Tax Act imposes a seven percent tax on receipts from every retail sale of tangible personal property and the sale of certain services, except as otherwise provided in the Act. A farm enterprise may also incur a use tax liability when taxable goods or services are purchased for use in New Jersey but sales tax was not collected, or collected at a rate less than seven percent. The seller must collect the tax on a sale of taxable property or services unless the purchaser provides a proper completed New Jersey exemption certificate on items exempt from sales or use tax. Sales of tangible personal property as well as production and conservation services to a farmer are exempt from New Jersey sales and use tax when used directly and primarily in the production, handling and preservation for sale of agricultural or horticultural commodities at the farming enterprise of that farmer. The farmer's exemption does not apply to sales of motor vehicles with a gross vehicle rating of 18,000 lbs. or property to be used in constructing a building or structure with the exception of silos, greenhouses, grain bins, or manure-handling facilities. For sales and use tax purposes, a "farming enterprise" does not include an enterprise that is primarily engaged in boarding or training horses or in selling agricultural or horticultural products produced by others. [www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/agriculturaleconomic.html#10] For additional information call (609)292-5994 or 292-5995.
The **Office of the Secretary** supports programs relating to the economic development of production agriculture; the marketing of agricultural products through the Jersey Fresh program; conservation and development of natural and renewable resources; distribution of surplus federal commodities to soup kitchens, food pantries, schools, state hospitals and institutions; and the health and well-being of the state’s greenhouse/nursery and livestock industries as well as other programs related to these areas. (609) 292-3976

The **Division of Animal Health** maintains disease control programs to protect the health and well being of livestock in New Jersey. The division tracks information about emerging diseases around the world that may impact the Garden State, conducts epidemiological investigations of livestock diseases and drug residues, operates an animal health diagnostic laboratory, manages a contagious equine metritis quarantine facility in Long Valley for imported horses and supports an aggressive Johne’s disease control program. (609) 292-3965

The **Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources** administers policies and programs to conserve and develop the state’s soil, water and related natural resources on agricultural and urban lands; provides cost-share assistance to farmers for soil and water conservation projects; the office of Aquaculture Coordination coordinates the development of business-friendly and environmentally sound policy framework to accelerate the growth of aquatic farming; working with New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services, the program provides training and assistance to seafood harvesters, wholesalers and retailers in the implementation of food safety and security programs; The Agricultural Education program provides statewide leadership, for agriculture and environmental science education programs in local school districts. (609)292-5532


The **Division of Marketing and Development** plays a critical role in enhancing the markets of New Jersey farm products by developing and expanding markets, both here and abroad; promotes New Jersey’s racing and pleasure horse industries; provides regulatory and service programs to the agricultural community to enable abundant supplies of fresh, wholesome, and safe agricultural commodities and products to the citizens at affordable costs. (609) 292-5536

The **Division of Plant Industry** provide protection to New Jersey food crops, forests and other plant resources against injurious plant insects and diseases through detection, control, and eradication programs. The Division helps to ensure that farmers, businesses and consumers buy and sell high quality pest-free plants and plant products. (609) 292-5440.

The **Division of Food and Nutrition** administers the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, Afterschool Snack Program, Summer Food Service Program, Child and Adult Day Care Food Program, Family Day Care Program, Commodity Food Distribution Program and The Emergency Food Assistance Program. (609) 984-1439.