



# NEWS

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For Release: May 12, 2006  
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## **SADC Preserves 136-Acre Upper Freehold Township Farm**

Agriculture Secretary Charles M. Kuperus today announced that the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) has purchased the development rights to preserve the 136-acre Herenchak farm in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County.

“Each farm we preserve helps ensure agriculture will continue to thrive and future generations will be able to appreciate the qualities that earned New Jersey its reputation as the Garden State,” said Secretary Kuperus, who chairs the SADC. “We’re pleased to welcome this farm to the Farmland Preservation Program.”

Alexander Herenchak, who grew up in Jersey City and spent his childhood summers at his cousin’s farm in Millstone Township, purchased the Upper Freehold Township farm with his wife 45 years ago. The previous owner suggested the farm name – Compass Farms – because the 1733 house is situated in an almost perfect North-South orientation.

“Letters came in at least once a month from developers to sell the land, but I preferred to keep it in its open state,” says Herenchak, who adds that preservation of the farm has “saved it for eternity.” Herenchak’s daughter, Valerie Herenchak of New Egypt, raises sheep in two of the fields and other fields are leased for field crops.

The SADC purchased the development rights to the farm for \$2,722,800 on May 2.

The SADC administers the state Farmland Preservation Program. To date, more than 1,300 farms covering more than 145,000 acres have been permanently preserved. A total of 57 farms covering 7,003 acres have been preserved in Upper Freehold Township.

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