

# Stewardship: Protecting the Investment in Farmland Preservation



Heeres Farm, Harmony Township, Warren County

**New Jersey Farmland Preservation Summit**

**March 2, 2007**

# Farmland Preservation Investment Summary

**Total Farms - 1,493**

**Total Acres - 153,015**

**Total Dollars Spent - \$928,230,949**



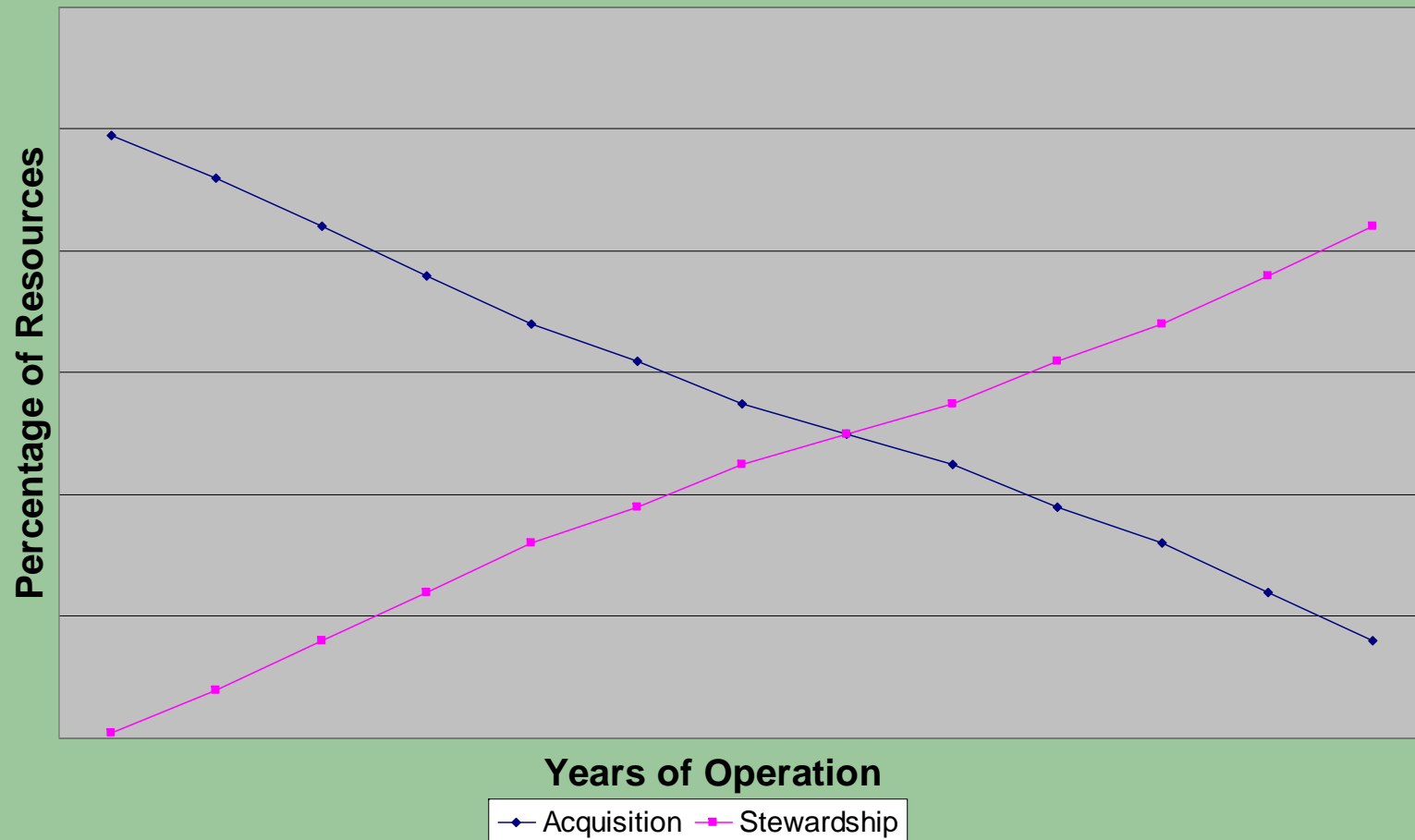
**Allen Farm, Deerfield, Cumberland County**



**Cavalier Farm, East Amwell, Hunterdon Co.**

# Resources: Acquisition vs. Stewardship

Resources Devoted to Preservation



# Stewardship as an Investment Protection Program

## Agricultural Resources

- A. Availability of Land for Production Agriculture
- B. No Activity Detrimental to Agriculture

## Environmental Resources

- A. Aquifer Recharge
- B. Water Quality
- C. Wildlife Habitat



Joseph J. White Farm, Pemberton Township,  
Burlington County

# **Resource Management & Conservation**

## **Soil & Water Cost Share Program**

- A. Projects to improve efficiency and profitability while conserving on-farm natural resources**
- B. Consultation and design in partnership with farmer, Soil Conservation District and USDA-NRCS**
- C. 50% cost-share reimbursement for approved projects**
- D. Average over \$1.1 million annually 2002 through 2005 for conservation projects**

## **Deed of Easement Protections**

- A. Requires farm conservation plan within one year of preservation**
- B. No activity “detrimental to the continued agricultural use of the property” is permitted**

# Post-Acquisition Responsibilities

**Division of Premises (Policy P-30-A)**

**Exercise a Residual Dwelling Site Opportunity (Policy P-31)**

**Construction of Agricultural Labor Housing (Under Development)**

**Replacement of Residence (Under Development)**

**Recreational and Non-Agricultural Uses**

**If Purchased in Fee:**

**Lease/Tenant Management**

**Posting and Property Inspections**

**Resale**





# Outreach Opportunities

## Existing and New Landowners

- A. Opportunity to Explain Preservation Details
- B. Listen to Proposed Changes in Operation
- C. Explain New Policies, Regulations and Rules That Affect Preserved Landowners
- D. Explain Available Technical Resources:
  - 1. Natural Resource Conservation Service
  - 2. Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service
  - 3. Department of Agriculture

# Monitoring & Enforcement

## Annual Monitoring

- A. 1,059 County-Owned Easements
- B. 266 State-Owned Easements
- C. 128 Planning Incentive Grant Easements
- D. 12 Non-Profit Owned Easements
- E. 105 Easements with Federal Cost Share



## Enforcement

- A. Violations identified and corrective action plans developed by landowner and easement holder
- B. Easement enforced by the easement holder and SADC in conjunction with the Attorney General's Office