



# NEWS

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## **New Publication Offers Advice for Farmers On Avoiding Conflicts With Neighbors and Towns**

More than 50 farmers share their advice and experience on how to avoid conflicts and maintain good relationships with neighbors and municipalities in a new publication developed by the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC).

“Although New Jersey has one of the strongest right-to-farm laws in the nation, oftentimes the best right-to-farm protection is knowing how to prevent disputes from happening in the first place,” said Agriculture Secretary Charles M. Kuperus, who chairs the SADC. “Experienced farmers are a great source for advice on how to do that. Therefore, we were pleased to compile many of their suggestions in this new publication so that their fellow farmers may benefit from their advice and lessons learned.”

*“Farmer-to-Farmer Advice for Avoiding Conflicts With Neighbors and Towns”* features a wide of range of advice solicited from farmers during interviews last fall. Underlying the suggestions were several common themes – that maintaining good communication, giving appropriate consideration to neighbors and municipalities, and being actively involved in the community are key to fostering good relationships.

Farmers shared their suggestions anonymously. Examples of specific advice included:

- “It’s important to have built a relationship before a controversial issue arises.” (Fruit and vegetable farmer, Burlington County)
- “I don’t run machines too late. I’ll turn off the grain dryer by 5 or 6 p.m. to keep from disturbing neighbors. (Grain farmer, Middlesex County)
- “We try to keep our farm clean and presentable on all borders. (Fruit farmer, Gloucester County)
- “If an activity involves a gray area, we’ll call the official, explain what we’re doing and see if there’s anything we need to do to comply with certain regulations. We found that by calling, there’s less that’s required.” (Nursery farmer, Cumberland County)
- “Just be a good neighbor. That’s all. It’s that simple. Respect your neighbors and they’ll respect you.” (Fruit and vegetable farmer, North Jersey)

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## New Publication/Add One

The SADC coordinated the development of the publication in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, New Jersey Farm Bureau, the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey and the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension. The publication was funded by a grant from the Northeast Center for Risk Management Education.

To request a copy of the new publication, contact the SADC at (609) 984-2504 or visit the SADC's website at [www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/publications/farmeradvicebrochure.html](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/publications/farmeradvicebrochure.html).

The SADC administers the Farmland Preservation and Right to Farm programs. For more information, including how to provide feedback on the new publication, visit the SADC's website or contact David Kimmel at (609) 984-2504.

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