



SOMERSET COUNTY
AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Dedicated to our Friend and Founding Chairman Thomas R. Everett

County Administration Building 20 Grove Street P.O. Box 3000 Somerville, N.J. 08876-1262

"Celebrating 25 Years of Preserving Farmland & Enhancing the Industry of Agriculture in Somerset County"

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Agriculture Development Board**

Anthony V. McCracken, Sr., AICP/PP
Assistant Director of Planning

Tara Kenyon
Senior Planner

Catherine Bunting
Administrative Assistant
(908) 231-7021
Fax: (908) 707-1749
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September 15, 2008

Mr. Robert Eurick
Rolling Acres Flower Farm

Attachment 1

**RE: Request for Determination of Generally Accepted Agricultural Practice
Rolling Acres Flower Farm
Block 79, Lot 8
Case Road, Neshanic Station**

Dear Mr. Eurick,

The Somerset County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) had reviewed the information submitted by you at the regularly scheduled meeting of September 8, 2008. The purpose of the review was to ensure that the proposed operation is considered to be a generally acceptable agricultural operation under State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) standards, and New Jersey Right to Farm Act.

It is our understanding that the Rolling Acres Flower Farm consists of 9.49 acres and is primarily a retail greenhouse operation. Recently, the raising of guinea hens for sale of chicks, adult birds and eggs was added as another agricultural activity for supplemental income. It is our understanding that there were a total of 54 guinea hens at the time you filed a request for determination from the CADB, all of which are penned the majority of time in an area approximately 350 feet from your nearest neighbor's property line.

Since the activity of raising guinea hens has commenced on the subject property, it is our understanding that you have received numerous complaints from neighbors regarding noise from these guinea hens.

At the regularly scheduled CADB meeting of September 8, 2008, you presented your case to the CADB and requested that we determine if the raising of guinea hens on your farm, and the manner in which you keep them, is a generally accepted agricultural practice. It is the opinion of the CADB that the raising of guinea hens is a generally accepted agricultural

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practice under the SADC standards, and is protected under the Right-to-Farm Act (NJSA 4:IC-1), section 9a, entitled, "Commercial Farm Owners, Operators; Permissible Activities". It is also the opinion of the CADB that the guinea hens are being penned and kept at a reasonable distance from the nearest neighbor's property line, thereby reducing the amount of noise to the best of your ability.

Please note, the opinion of the CADB is based on guidelines and regulations set forth by the SADC. The CADB did not create these guidelines and standards, but are interpreting them based on this request. Any and all approvals should be received from the SADC.

Please contact me directly via telephone at (908) 231-7021 or via email at Kenyon@co.somerset.nj.us if you have any questions, or require further information. We look forward to our continued work in preserving farmland and advancing the industry of agriculture in Somerset County.

Sincerely,



Tara Kenyon
Senior Planner
Somerset County Planning Board/Agriculture Development Board

cc: Branchburg Agriculture Advisory Committee
Township of Branchburg Code Enforcement
Somerset CADB Members
State Agriculture Development Committee