

Somerset County Agriculture Development Board

**Recommendation of a Site Specific
Agriculture Management Practice**

**Richard Scagliotta
Sunny Meadows Farm
Block 174, Lot 197
Hillsborough Township**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Right to Farm Act, N.J.S.A. 4:1C-1, et seq., and the State Agriculture Development Committee's (SADC) regulations, N.J.A.C. 2:76-2.3, a commercial farm owner or operator may make a request to the County Agriculture Development Board (hereinafter "Board") to determine if his or her operation constitutes a generally accepted agricultural management practice; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2009, Richard Scagliotta, owner of Sunny Meadows Farm in Hillsborough Township, made a request in writing to the Board for the development of a site-specific agriculture management practice (hereinafter "SSAMP") for the expansion of the existing equine operation to include the construction of a new indoor riding arena, and to host occasional horse demonstrations on the property; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2009, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-2.3(c), the Board advised in writing the SADC and the Township of Hillsborough of Richard Scagliotta's request; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2009, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-2.3(b), the Board requested that Richard Scagliotta provide proof that his agricultural operation is a commercial farm as defined at N.J.S.A 4:1C-3 and N.J.A.C. 2:76-2.1; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2009, Richard Scagliotta attended the regularly scheduled Somerset County Agriculture Development Board (Somerset CADB, hereinafter interchangeable with "Board") meeting to describe the request, using information provided in the original application of March 20, 2009; and

WHEREAS, a site inspection of Sunny Meadows Farm was conducted; and

WHEREAS, this site inspection showed that existing operation to be very well maintained, and operated in a manner that is consistent with acceptable agricultural practices in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2009, the Right to Farm Subcommittee of the Board reviewed and discussed the request and corresponding documentation (narrative of request, site plan, Approval Report from the Somerset County Planning Board dated March 19, 2008, approved Conservation Plan from Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS), dated January 28, 2009, equine calculations, FA-1, and receipts to verify income) and members present unanimously agreed to develop an SSAMP for Sunny Meadows Farm, Hillsborough Township, Somerset County; and

WHEREAS, this recommendation was forwarded to the full Board on May 11, 2009, where it was unanimously agreed upon that this SSAMP would be developed for Sunny Meadows Farm, per their Right to Farm request; and

WHEREAS, Somerset CADB staff sought the assistance of Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the Somerset-Union Soil Conservation District in

the determination of generally accepted agriculture management practices and standards relating to equine operations; and

WHEREAS, Somerset CADB staff and Board members referred to the SADC's Equine Rules, located at N.J.A.C. 2:76-2A.10 for "Establishing an SSAMP for Equine Activities on Commercial Farms".

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby determines that the expansion of the existing equine operation to include the construction of a new indoor riding arena, and to host occasional horse demonstrations on the property constitutes a generally acceptable agricultural management practice provided that:

1. The indoor riding arena is constructed in accordance with the specifications shown on the provided site plan, entitled, "Site Specific Agriculture Management Practice Plan", dated March 16, 2009 and prepared by Van Cleef Engineering Associates.
2. The SSAMP does not create or further an existing health or public safety issue or disturbance.
3. The SSAMP does not create or further an existing stormwater management or drainage issue, which may or may not create a health or public safety issue or disturbance.
4. The conditions set forth in the approved NRCS Conservation Plan (dated January 28, 2009) are satisfied, in relation to this SSAMP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Somerset CADB shall forward a copy of this resolution to Richard Scagliotta (Sunny Meadow Farms), the Township of Hillsborough, the SADC, and any other individuals or organizations deemed appropriate by the Board within 30 days of this recommendation.

I, Mark W. Kirby, Chairman of the Somerset County Agriculture Development Board, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by said Board at their regularly convened meeting of May 11, 2009.

Mark W. Kirby, Chairman

Date