

STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Memorializing 2021 Standards for determining Eligible Farms Pursuant to the County Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) Program

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-17.1 et seq. (County Planning Incentive Grant Program) the SADC is responsible for establishing the standards for what constitutes an “eligible farm” by annually determining minimum score requirements, of the County Planning Incentive Grant program; and

WHEREAS, The Right to Farm Act (Act), which also created the SADC, contains language at N.J.S.A. 4:1C-5e. enabling the Committee to “perform any act or thing necessary, convenient, or desirable for the purposes of the Committee to carry out any power expressly given” in the Act, which would include the authority to delegate certain actions to the Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, Part IV, Section 3 of the SADC By-Laws states that “The Executive Director shall have all the power and authority delegated to him/her in accordance with these By-Laws, actions of the Committee or otherwise pursuant to the “Right to Farm Act” and the “Agriculture Retention and Development Act”; and

WHEREAS, by resolution #FY2020R6(5), dated June 25, 2020, the SADC granted authority to the Executive Director to approve certain routine Acquisition Program-related actions including the minimum scores that applications must meet to qualify for the County Planning Incentive Grant program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-17.2 an “eligible farm” means a targeted farm that qualifies for grant funding by achieving an individual rank score that is equal to or greater than 70 percent of the county’s average quality score of all farms granted preliminary approval by the SADC through the county planning incentive grant program within the previous three funding cycles, as determined by the SADC; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-17.9(a)7, the SADC has implemented waivers in counties that lack a sufficient number of applications during the three prior funding cycles upon which to calculate eligible farm criteria; and

WHEREAS, Atlantic, Bergen, Camden, and Passaic Counties have submitted no applications which received preliminary “Green Light” approval during the past three funding cycles, therefore it is not possible to establish a 2021 average quality score for these four counties and the SADC will consider any application submitted under the waiver provision as per N.J.A.C. 2:76-17.9(a)7; and

WHEREAS, all other Counties have had sufficient activity to calculate an average quality score and minimum eligibility criteria (Schedule A); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-17.9(a)7, applications from all other Counties for farms that fail to meet the minimum score requirements, the County may request a waiver of the minimum score criterion.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The WHEREAS paragraphs above are incorporated herein by reference.
2. The SADC adopts 70 percent average quality score values for determining an “eligible farm” pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-17.2 for the County Planning Incentive Grant Program; and
3. This approval by the Executive Director is pursuant to the authority granted by resolution #FY2020R6(5).
4. That the 70 percent of average quality scores for determining an “eligible farm” pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-17.2 shall be effective as of January 1, 2021, and shall apply to an application for the sale of a development easement that is received by the SADC pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-17.9 prior to December 31, 2021.

__9/9/2020_____
Date



Susan E. Payne, Executive Director
State Agriculture Development Committee

SADC County PIG "Eligible" Farm Standard Effective 1.01.21 - 12.31.21								
	FY2015 Average Quality Score	FY2016 Average Quality Score	FY2017 Average Quality Score	FY2018 Average Quality Score	FY2019 Average Quality Score	FY2020 Average Quality Score	FY2021 Average Quality Score	FY21 70% of Average Quality Score
Atlantic	59.9	52.08	****	****	****	****	****	****
Bergen	43.4	43.40	****	****	****	****	****	****
Burlington	68.94	69.37	69.74	68.99	69.41	68.5	67.82	47
Camden	58.64	58.64	****	****	****	****	****	****
Cape May	56.36	56.59	57.98	59.19	55.91	59.89	59.89	41
Cumberland	64.69	64.20	63.81	63.23	64.08	60.93	60.85	42
Gloucester	67.6	66.48	61.33	60.88	61.25	65.29	65.21	45
Hunterdon	63.36	61.70	68.55	67.35	64.87	64.85	64.9	45
Mercer	71.52	72.64	68.69	71.58	70.48	70.48	68.96	48
Middlesex	56.81	60.17	60.17	64.29	****	64.29	66.04	46
Monmouth	76.65	****	78.46	77.72	74.81	70.83	71.47	50
Morris	62	68.40	66.72	66.04	62.48	63.24	62.85	43
Ocean	****	67.20	59.06	61.65	62.14	65.89	65.89	46
Passaic	34.11	54.37	54.37	54.37	****	****	****	****
Salem	67.65	69.93	68.54	68.64	69.33	70.19	69.78	48
Somerset	56.43	58.61	65.01	68.12	****	73.7	73.7	51
Sussex	54.6	54.74	56.30	58.37	57.77	46.91	46.91	32
Warren	63.17	62.70	63.40	62.94	66.19	64.15	63.42	44
N.J.A.C. 2:76-17.9 (a) and 17.2 (County Planning Incentive Grant Program)								
These standards are effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021								
All numbers are rounded down to the nearest whole number								
N.J.A.C. 2:76-17.9 -7: any farm not meeting this standard may seek a waiver								
**** Independent review and waiver approval by SADC required to receive Green Light.								