



# NEWS

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## **SADC Preserves 139-Acre Catalano Farm in Woolwich Township**

Agriculture Secretary Douglas H. Fisher today announced the preservation of the 139-acre Catalano Farm in Woolwich Township, Gloucester County.

“We were pleased to have the opportunity to preserve this farm to further local and county efforts to protect important farmland in Woolwich Township and ensure this land will always be available for agriculture,” said Secretary Fisher, who chairs the State Agriculture Development Committee.

The Catalano Farm was recently owned by Samuel Catalano, whose father purchased the land in the early 1900s. Samuel and his brother Michael worked the farm, growing vegetables first with their father and then on their own until their retirements in the late 1990s, according to their nephew, Tom Sorbello. Samuel Catalano, whose brother Michael pre-deceased him, passed away in 2004, leaving the farm to family members.

Sorbello, a Gloucester County farmer, said he and other family members decided to preserve the land because it is a good quality farm that will contribute to agriculture for generations to come.

The State Agriculture Development Committee purchased the development rights to the farm for approximately \$1.64 million.

The State Agriculture Development Committee administers the Farmland Preservation Program. To date, more than 1,800 farms covering more than 177,000 acres have been permanently preserved statewide under the program, including 9 farms covering 557 acres in Woolwich Township.

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