

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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### **GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES PERMANENT PRESERVATION OF 600 ACRES OF STATE-OWNED FARMLAND IN EWING TOWNSHIP**

Gov., Christie Whitman today demonstrated her commitment to open space and farmland preservation when she announced the permanent preservation of over 600 acres of state-owned farmland in Ewing Township.

"I am pleased to announce the permanent preservation of the Knights and Jones farms in Ewing. These two farms are owned by the state, and their preservation represents another step in meeting my commitment to permanently preserve 5,000 acres of state-owned land," the Governor said.

"These farms will never be developed. They will be preserved in perpetuity, for the benefit of all those who will follow us. Having grown up on a farm, I always take special pleasure in seeing New Jersey farmland permanently preserved. I am proud of what we've been doing to preserve open space and farmland here in the Garden State," she said.

"A year ago, New Jersey voters also proclaimed that open space preservation is a legacy they want to leave for their children and grandchildren. And I'm very encouraged by the enthusiastic response we've seen from the people of New Jersey since our million-acre plan was passed," Gov. Whitman said.

"Hardly a day goes by when I don't get some good news about the progress we're making. I am very confident that we will meet our million-acre goal - and with today's announcement, we're a little bit closer," the Governor said.

The farms being permanently preserved are the Knights Farm and Jones Farm. The Knights Farm, which consists of 321 acres, is owned by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and leased to the Department of Corrections (DOC). The 310-acre Jones Farm is owned by the DOC. The development rights to the farms will be transferred from the state to the State Agriculture Development Committee, which is responsible for the administration of the state's Farmland Preservation Program.

The farms maintain a herd of about 150 dairy cows that produce 6,000 gallons of milk per week. Crops grown on the farms include

alfalfa, straw, corn and soybeans that are used on the Jones Farm for dairy feed. The Jones Farm also operates an extruder plant that processes soybeans into feed for the cows.

In addition, the Jones Farm houses the Central Dairy Processing Plant. The plant processes, packages and distributes 160,000 « pints of whole milk and 140,000 « pints of 1% milk per week. The milk products are distributed throughout the state to DOC and DHS institutions.

