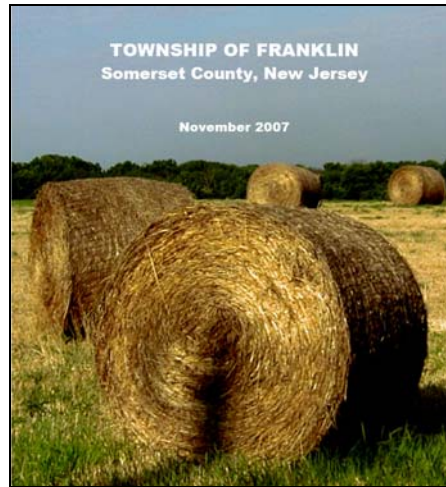


**Township of Franklin
Agricultural Advisory Committee**

2009 Annual Report

***Preserved land: Connecting and surrounding Franklin's Diverse
Communities***



**Adopted by the
Agricultural Advisory Committee
2010 Members**

Cathy Blumig
Frank Hasner
Emanuel Manioudakis
Berit Marshall
Robert Puskas

Prepared by Loos Consulting
John Loos, Consultant

Adopted on January 21, 2010

The Importance of Agriculture.

The predominant land use in the Township is farmland, as noted in the Township Master Plan. As of August 2007, the total acres classified as farmland was 4,849 equaling 17% of the Township's total of 27,985.9 acres. In addition, of over 3,000 total acres in Six Mile Run, approximately 1,300 acres are currently leased for farmland, and another approximately 400 acres of Township-owned open space land is leased to farmers--bringing the farmed land in the Township to over 6,549 acres or 23.4% of the Township.

The Farmland Preservation Program and the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Recognizing the importance of keeping agriculture in the township, on June 15, 2000, the Council adopted an ordinance that established the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC). The AAC is composed of five members who are residents of the municipality, with a majority of the members actively engaged in farming and owning a portion of the land they farm. The AAC meets on the third Thursday of the month at 8:00 pm. The committee reviews applications from farm-owners who are interested in preserving their farms. Additionally, the committee developed a Farmland Preservation Plan, which was adopted by the Planning Board as an Element of the Master Plan. This is on the township's website at www.franklintwpnj.org/Master-Plan/November%20Farmland%20Preservation%20Plan.pdf

In addition to the above responsibilities, the AAC seeks grant funding and acts as an advocate for township farmers on other matters of interest.

It should be noted that the AAC has a member who serves on the OSAC and attempts are made to coordinate between OSAC and the AAC--to the extent possible. *Because the OSAC is a separate functioning committee, it has produced it own separate Annual Report.*

AAC's Goals and Objectives.

Recognizing the importance of keeping agriculture in the township, on June 15, 2000, the Council adopted an ordinance that established the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC). The AAC is composed of five members who are residents of the municipality, with a majority of the members actively engaged in farming and owning a portion of the land they farm. The AAC meets on the third Thursday of the month at 8:00 pm. The committee reviews applications from farm-owners who are interested in preserving their farms. Additionally, the committee developed a Farmland Preservation Plan, which was adopted by the Planning Board as an Element of the Master Plan. This is on the township's website at www.franklintwpnj.org/Master-Plan/November%20Farmland%20Preservation%20Plan.pdf

In March 2009, the AAC adopted the following goals and objectives for 2009.

1. To work toward preserving all agricultural ground in the Township;

2. To work toward preserving the agricultural community as a viable business enterprise in the Township;
3. To be an advocate to limit infringement upon agricultural activity through development;
4. To secure all grants that would assist in carrying out the above Goals and Objectives.

As indicated by the last objective, the AAC seeks grant funding. The AAC is responsible for the township receiving over \$14.2 million in grants toward the purchase of the development rights on 20 farms, as illustrated in Figure 1.

ADDRESS	BLOCK #	LOT #	ACRES	PURCHASE PRICE	TOWNSHIP COST	SADC GRANT	Somerset County PIG grant	FEDERAL GRANT
Courtelyous Ln.	37.02	2	57.6	\$2,811,526	\$2,811,526	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Bennetts Lane	85	32	36.6	\$600,000	\$64,882	\$411,463.62	\$123,654.54	
Courtelyous Ln.	37.02	1.01	30.104	\$1,129,201	\$235,052	\$668,308.80	\$225,840.21	
S. Middlebush Rd.	74.01	9	68.246	\$2,559,225	\$640,147	\$1,212,048.96	\$404,016.32	\$303,012.24
277 Bennetts Ln	85	22	15.409	\$462,270	\$184,908	\$277,362.00	\$0.00	
Bennetts Lane	85	14.06	20.9114	\$917,429	\$273,358	\$483,053.34	\$161,017.78	
Rt. 518	10	6.03	8.896	\$306,912	\$61,382	\$184,147.20	\$61,382.40	
Rt. 518	10	2, 6.04	8.516	\$293,802	\$58,760	\$176,281.20	\$58,760.40	
106 Cortelyous Ln	57.01	56	6.144	\$216,269	\$86,508	\$129,761.52	\$0.00	
1930 Amwell Rd.	74.01	8.01	57.87	\$3,854,167	\$1,387,629	\$1,847,372.05	\$619,166.20	
59 Old Georgetown Rd.	10	10.03 & 10.05	14.81	\$510,945	\$510,945	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Cedar Grove Ln.	508.02	10.01	20.184	\$258,355	\$258,355	\$387,532.80	\$0.00	
S. Middlebush Rd.	58	9.04	17.26	\$816,480	\$326,592	\$489,888.00	\$0.00	
Old Georgetown Rd	11.01	23.00	79.98	\$2,459,231	\$2,459,231	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Skillman Lane	57.01, Lot 32.01	Block 85, Lot 62.01	133.00	\$12,354,218	\$6,282,000	\$4,072,218.00	\$2,000,000.00	
191 Bennetts Lane	85.00	27.00	6.61	\$521,234	\$521,234	\$0.00	\$0.00	
2072 Amwell Road	73.01	40	14.248	\$997,710	\$997,710	\$0.00	\$0.00	
25 & 33 Grouser Rd	59.01	9 & 10.02	15.555	\$544,425	\$544,425	\$0.00	\$0.00	
28 Old Georgetown Rd	11.01	24.01	19.836	\$545,490	\$545,490	\$0.00	\$0.00	
		TOTAL	631.78	\$31,613,400	\$18,250,135	\$10,339,437.49	\$3,653,837.85	\$303,012.24

Figure 1: Grant funding for Farmland Preservation

In 2009, the AAC submitted another PIG application grant to the SADC and is still awaiting the results of that application. However, it has been notified that the NJ legislature has appropriated another \$750,000 in FY 2010 for farmland preservation in the township.

In addition to working directly to preserve farms through the township, the AAC works closely with the SADC and Somerset County's County Agricultural Development Committee and assists them in preserving farms through state or county programs with

no actual township dollars spent, except for the cost of township consultant cost assisting in the preservation effort.

Pending Farmland Preservation Efforts.

The township has been working for several years toward the end of preserving the 143.5-acre Terhune farm on Canal Road. In the latter half of 2009, a tentative agreement was reached to purchase the farm for \$34,000 per acre, for a total purchase price of approximately \$4,879,000. After the township closes on this property, Larry Terhune will have a life-tenancy right to live on the farm and use the tillable fields for agricultural purposes.

In addition to the Terhune farm project, two other possible farmland preservation efforts are currently under review.

In 2008 and 2009, the AAC adopted a list of 25 farms that are targeted for preservation. These farms, totaling more than 1,000 acres, will likely become the centerpiece of the township's next efforts to preserve farms.