



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The **New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA)** was formed in 1916 as one of thirteen departments established under the New Jersey Constitution of 1947. The Department is comprised of six main divisions: Agricultural and Natural resources, State Agricultural Development Committee, Animal Health, Food and Nutrition, Marketing and Development, and Plant Industry. With over 9,900 farms covering over 750,000 acres, the Department works to promote, protect and serve the State's diverse agricultural and agribusiness industries. Each Division provides a role to inform policy and implement regulatory programs that facilitate the stewardship, preservation, and conservation of the States valuable natural resources.

Agency Resilience Program in Action

NJDA is actively engaged within State-wide efforts to mitigate climate-related hazards. These goals have been articulated in a several strategic documents, through procurement of grant funding, and expansion of conservation programs that focus on the implementation of climate-smart agricultural practices. Climate-smart agricultural practices are guided by the three-fold goal of increasing sustainable production, helping farmers to adapt, and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.



The State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) is tasked with coordinating and supporting the work of 15 local Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs). The SSCC oversees the administration of **financial and technical assistance for producers** implementing soil and water conservation and related natural resource projects in conjunction with the NJDA.



The New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program helps to **preserve working agricultural land** in perpetuity by facilitating ongoing land stewardship through financial cost-share assistance. Preserving New Jersey's farmland advances resilience by ensuring its continuation as a carbon sink, and enabling the future production of locally cultivated agricultural products, reducing dependence on imported food.

NJDA's commitment to environmental sustainability is demonstrated through its management of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act, which was instituted in 1976. Since the Act's inception, the Department has overseen the processing of 202,412 applications, ensuring the effective implementation of design practice standards on over 1,053,827 acres, spanning both commercial and residential development projects.



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Agency Resilience Program in Action (cont'd)



The programs of NJDA's Division of Plant Industry protect New Jersey food and ornamental crops, forests, and other plant resources through the detection, control, and (ceradication of injurious insects and diseases. Similarly, the Division of Animal Health oversees programs that protect the health and well-being of livestock and related food supply.



Through its Office of Aquaculture Coordination, the NJDA supports commercial fishing by administering policy and promoting **innovative management practices within the aquaculture industry**.



The Jersey Fresh, Jersey Grown, Jersey Bred, and Jersey Seafood programs are designed to **expand and promote agricultural and food products grown and raised throughout New Jersey**. One such example, the Farm to School Program, coordinates procurement of New Jersey-grown produce and dairy products for use in school breakfast, and lunch programs, and food banks, partnering with New Jersey farmers to source more than 100 types of Jersey Fresh for healthy meals in school cafeterias.

Partnerships & Interagency Efforts

The program capabilities outlined within each Division embody a broad spectrum of agricultural and environmental initiatives undertaken by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Each program reflects a comprehensive approach towards managing agricultural health, pest control, public health, and food security within the State. Collaborative engagement with non-profit groups, interagency and federal agency coordination, encompasses a multifaceted strategy to address contemporary challenges in agriculture and natural resource management.