

New Jersey farmers urged to file assessment forms

FLEMINGTON, NJ — Without the Farmland Assessment Act, many New Jersey farmers would be forced out of business, as their predecessors were before the state's voters overwhelmingly approved the act in 1964.

"This act has done much to revitalize agriculture in the Garden State," says Elaine Barbour, County Agricultural Agent. New Jersey has the highest real estate taxes in the country, she says, and the act helps ensure green acres and open space that will enhance the beauty of New Jersey and retard premature development.

There are some basic

qualifications for Farmland Assessment. Farmers must own at least a five acre tract (not including the house) that has been actively farmed for the past two years. Gross sales must average at least \$500 per year.

Farmland Assessment applications will have a new land class. Applicants who have 100 percent of the qualified land in woodland will file under the new use category "unattached woodland".

This new class can be used only if 100 percent of the application is for woodland not attached to another farmland use class, and is qualified solely on the basis of

income produced by forestry practices without income from other cultivated areas.

Land devoted to nurseries or Christmas trees would continue to use the "cropland harvested" class. Other woodlands, wetlands, etc. that are part of an application including other cultivated cropland or pasture would be listed under the category "attached woodland."

The new application form spells out these new features and also incorporates on one sheet all of the information which last year required the forms. As in the past, applications must be filed with the local tax assessor on or before

August 1, 1985 for the 1986 tax year. There is no leeway in this filing date and farmland assessment will be denied if that critical filing date is not met.

Application forms will be sent by the assessor to those taxpayers who qualified last year for farmland assessment. Other applicants must request the forms from the assessor, but in all cases it is the responsibility of the landowner to obtain and file the applications on time.

The Hunterdon County Cooperative Extension Service will be offering a workshop to help

landowners complete the Farmland Assessment application. The workshops are scheduled for Wednesday, July 24, 1985 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

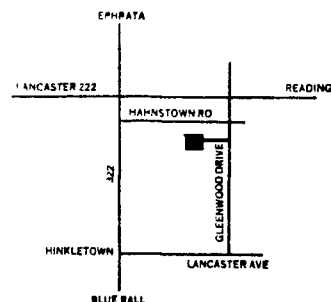
Leading the afternoon session is Robert Housedorf, Administrator for the County Tax Board. Housedorf was guest speaker at a recent County Board of Agriculture meeting answering questions on farmland assessment. Both meetings will be held at the Extension Center, Route 31, north of Flemington. The program is free and no registration is required. For further information call (201) 788-1338.

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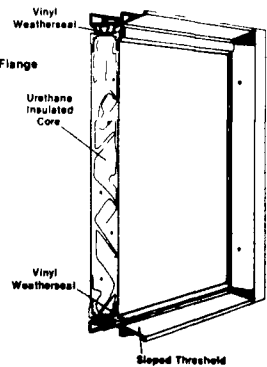
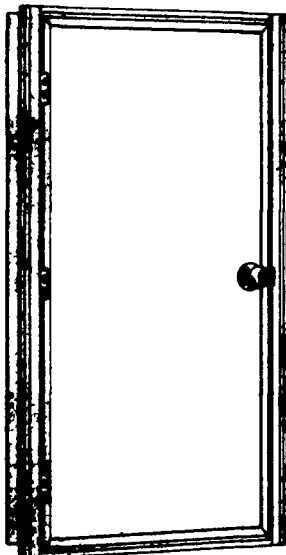
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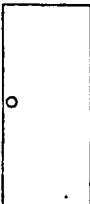
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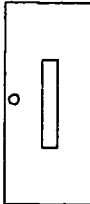
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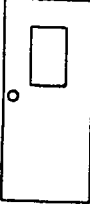
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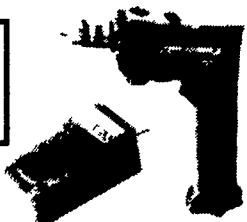


410 A
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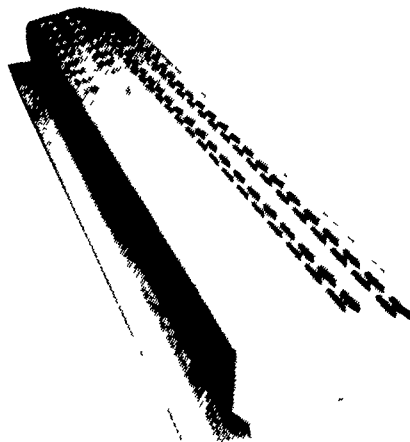


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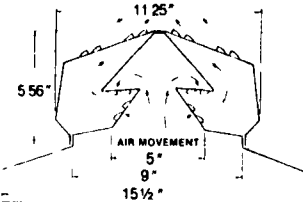


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