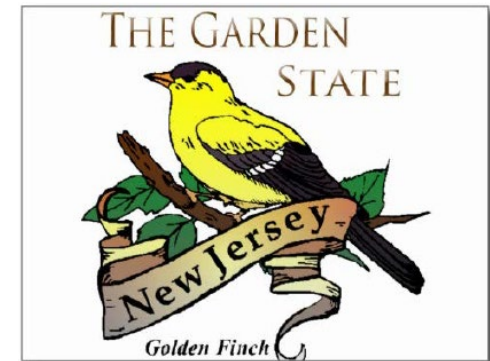
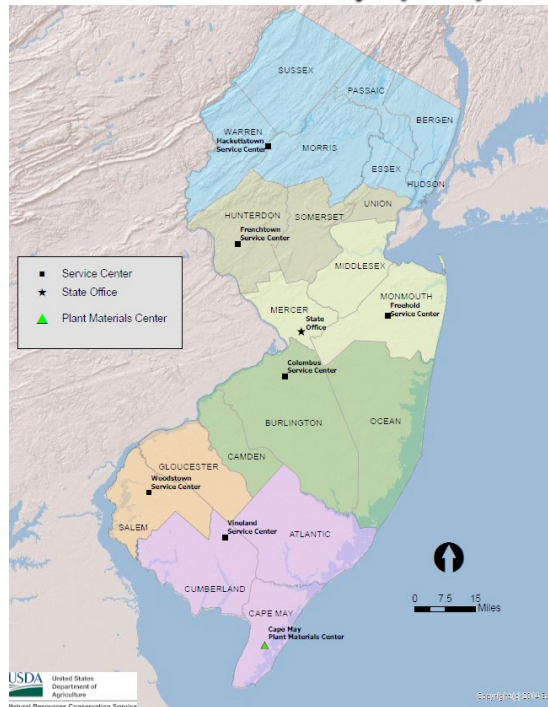


# State Specific Training Module for New Jersey

For Technical Service Providers (TSPs) seeking certification in  
New Jersey (NJ)



## Purpose of this Module

This module will provide some general information that TSPs need to conduct conservation planning in New Jersey.

This information is general in nature so the TSP may need to follow up with additional reading or training to make sure they have the knowledge, skill, ability, licenses and certifications to conduct conservation planning in New Jersey.

## What this Module is NOT

Remember, NRCS planning criteria and assessment tools remain the standard to determine treatment of a resource concern.

NRCS policies and Federal Laws & Regulations are not covered in this module.

Additional study and training will be needed to adequately service the local conservation needs of the diverse range of private lands decision-makers involved in agricultural and forestry activities in New Jersey.

## Conservation Planning Overview

Conservation plans are the basis for all assistance NRCS provides to clients and the basic tool for clients to manage their natural resources. Client participation in all steps of the planning process is encouraged to bring the most value to the process.

The objective in conservation planning is to help each client attain sustainable use and sound management of soil, water, air, plant, animal, and energy resources, based on related human considerations. The purpose is to prevent the degradation of resources and to ensure their sustained use and productivity, while considering the client's economic and social needs. Conservation planning assistance is based on ecological, economic, and social considerations relative to the resources.

# Conservation Planning Policy

National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) Amendment 9: The purpose of the handbook is to provide guidance on the planning process for developing, implementing, and evaluating individual conservation plans.

- Document can be found in eDirectives Weblink: <https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/default.aspx>
- eDirectives > Handbooks > Title 180 – Conservation Planning and Application

National Conservation Planning Policy and NJ Supplement: NRCS policy for providing conservation planning assistance to clients.

- Document can be found in eDirectives Weblink: <https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/default.aspx>
- eDirectives > General Manual > Title 180 – Conservation Planning and Application > Part 409 – Conservation Planning Policy
- eDirectives > General Manual > General Manual State Supplements > New Jersey > Title 180 – Conservation Planning and Application > Part 409 – Conservation Planning Policy

National Resource Concern List and Planning Criteria: Official list of NRCS resource concerns and planning criteria that is used to determine resource treatment levels using the conservation planning process.

- Document can be found in eDirectives Weblink: <https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/default.aspx>
- eDirectives > National Instructions > Title 450 – Technology > NI 450-309 Resource Concerns and Planning Criteria

## Review of State Laws

- Animal Waste Management
- Flood Hazard Area Control Act
- Freshwater Wetlands Protection Program
- Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act
- New Jersey Pinelands Commission
- Coastal Zone Rules
- Farmland Preservation
- Local Regulations

## Review of State Laws

### Animal Waste Management – General Requirements

- Complete rules/information can be found at:  
<http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/agriassist/animalwaste.html>
- **All animal operations, regardless of animal units and density must be in compliance with the following General Requirements within 12 months of the animals existing on the operation**
- Animals in confined areas must be excluded from water sources.
- Manure storages must have a 100-foot setback from surface waters
- Manure must be applied in accordance with the NJDA BMP manual
- State Veterinarian must be contacted before disposing of infected animals
- Bio-security protocols must be followed as outlined in the rule

# Review of State Laws

## Animal Waste Management – Types of Plans

- Self Certified Plans
  - 8 AU's to 299 AU's
  - Import of 142 (or greater) tons
- High Density Plans
  - Animal densities greater than 1 AU per acre
  - Reviewed to meet NJ FOTG requirements
- State Required CNMP
  - Greater than 300 AU's
  - Not dependent on animal densities
  - Review by NJDA



# Review of State Laws

## Animal Waste Management – Plan Requirements

- Self Certified Plans
  - Plan must be developed within 18 months
  - Plan must be completely implemented with 36 months
  - Declaration Page must be filed with the local Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office
  - Copy of the plan must be kept on the farm
  - Records for Hauling must be maintained (if applicable)
  - Templates for these plans can be found in the NJDA BMP manual, and can be written by the landowner, extension agents, NJDA, or private consultants
- High Density Plans
  - Plan must be developed within 18 months
  - Plan must be completely implemented within 36 months
  - Plan must be reviewed by a certified conservation planner
  - Plan must be submitted to the local Soil Conservation District and approved by the state

# Review of State Laws

## Animal Waste Management – Plan Requirements

- State Required CNMP
  - Plan must be developed in consultation with the NRCS, TSP, or other consultant
  - Plan must be reviewed by a certified conservation planner
  - Plan must be submitted to the local Soil Conservation District for approval
  - A copy of the approved plan must be provided to the NJDA for certification
  - Plans are valid for five years if the operation information and management of the operation remains the same
  - Plan must be completely implemented within 36 months
  - The original CNMP and Certification must be kept on the farm
  - Producers are required to review the plan annually to determine if all the requirements of the plan are still being met
  - Any increase in animal units by 25% or more will require and update to the plan

# Review of State Laws

## Acceptable Nutrient Management Certifications

- New Jersey NRCS does not have a state sponsored Nutrient Management Certification program.
  - NJ NRCS accepts nutrient management certifications from the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.
  - Other state certifications may be accepted.
- All certified nutrient management planners must be able to produce plans that meet the CPA 102 and DIA 157 criteria in its entirety.

# Review of State Laws

## Flood Hazard Area Control Act

- The Flood Hazard Area Control Act (FHACA) rules incorporate stringent standards for development in flood hazard areas and adjacent to surface waters in order to mitigate the adverse impacts to flooding and the environment that can be caused by such development.
- Many agricultural BMPs in our FOTG are regulated under the FHACA and therefore it is *critical* that planners in NJ understand the FHACA to prevent recommending a conservation system that would cause the landowner to violate state law.
- Landowners often opt to select an alternate conservation system that does not include practices that will require attaining these permits.
- For some of structural practices, such as Grassed Waterway, this may mean conservation planners end the waterway outside of the FHACA regulated area rather than continuing to a stable outlet (the stream).
- Full details on the FHACA regulations can be found at:  
<https://dep.nj.gov/wlm/lrp/flood-hazard-areas/>

# Review of State Laws

## Freshwater Wetlands

- The Clean Water Act provides States and Tribes the option of assuming administration of the Federal Section 404 permit program in certain waters within State or Tribal jurisdiction. To date, two States, Michigan and New Jersey, have assumed administration of the Federal permit program. More information on the relationship between the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and the US EPA can be found at: <https://dep.nj.gov/wlm/programs-agencies/>
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers retains jurisdiction in tidal waters and their adjacent wetlands, waters used as a means to transport interstate or foreign commerce and their adjacent wetlands, and it does not affect the Corps' responsibilities to regulate navigable waters under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.
- Since NJ has assumed administration of the Federal permit program, the 56 established NRCS conservation practices recently deemed exempt from Clean Water Act Section 404 dredged or fill permitting requirements, when implemented in accordance with published standards, ***are not necessarily exempt activities when implemented in NJ***

# Review of State Laws Freshwater Wetlands

- The NJ Freshwater Wetlands Program regulations including information on delineations, general permits, individual permits and transition area waivers can be found at: <https://dep.nj.gov/wlm/lrp/wetlands/>

The screenshot shows the official website of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP). The page is titled "Wetlands" and is part of the "Watershed & Land Management" section. The header includes the NJ state logo and the text "OFFICIAL SITE OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY". The navigation menu includes "Home", "eServices", "Resources", "Land Resource Protection", "Watershed Protection", "Resilience Engineering", "Enforcement", and "Help". The main content area features a large image of a wetland landscape with the word "Wetlands" overlaid in white text. Below the image, there is a "Navigation" sidebar with links to "Definition of a Wetlands", "Why is Protecting Wetlands Important?", "How does DEP Protect Wetlands?", "Wetlands Permitting", "Types of Permits", "General Permit By Certification", "General Permits", "Transition Area Waivers", and "Letter of Interpretation". The main content area has a section titled "About Wetlands" which states: "Previously misunderstood as wastelands, wetlands are now being recognized for their vital ecological and socioeconomic contributions. Did you know Wetlands: • Protect drinking water by filtering out chemicals, pollutants, and sediments that would otherwise clog and contaminate our waters. • Soak up runoff from heavy rains and snow melts, providing natural flood control. Wetlands release stored flood waters to streams during droughts. • Provide critical habitats for a major portion of the State's fish and wildlife, including endangered, commercial and recreational species. • Provide high quality open space for recreation and tourism. Many of these values were not widely appreciated until the 1970s and 1980s. By then, more than half of the nation's wetlands were destroyed."

# Review of State Laws Highlands

- Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act –Encompassing nearly 800,000 acres in northern NJ, the Highlands are an essential source of drinking water, providing clean and plentiful drinking water for one-half of the State's population, including communities beyond the New Jersey Highlands, from only 13 percent of the State's land area. This legislation sets forth a comprehensive approach to the protection of the water and other natural resources of the New Jersey Highlands. Preservation and Planning Areas within the Highlands were identified, and stringent water and natural resource protection standards, policies, planning, and regulations were developed for each of these areas.

<https://www.nj.gov/njhighlands/act/>

- Section 31 of the Act relates to Agricultural or horticultural development that would result in the increase of agricultural impervious cover. Impervious cover increased by >3% but <9% of the total land area of a farm management unit in the preservation area require the review and approval by the local soil conservation district of a farm conservation plan prepared and submitted by the owner or operator of the farm management unit. Upon approval of the farm conservation plan by the local soil conservation district, the owner or operator of the farm management unit shall implement the plan on the farm management unit. The local soil conservation district shall transmit a copy of an approved farm conservation plan to the State Soil Conservation Committee, and if any part of the farm management unit is preserved under any farmland preservation program, to the State Agriculture Development Committee.

## Review of State Laws Highlands

- Impervious cover increased by 9 % or more of the total land area of a farm management unit in the preservation area shall require the review and approval by the local soil conservation district of a resource management systems plan which shall be prepared and submitted by the owner or operator of the farm management unit. In addition to the review process for 3% impervious above, the RMS plan must also be reviewed and approved by the Department of Environmental Protection who has 60 days after receipt to approved or deny the plan
- These plans must follow science-based standards, consistent with the goals and purposes of this act. Rules for Agricultural Development in the Highlands can be found at:  
<http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/pdf/agdevhighlands.pdf>



# Review of State Laws

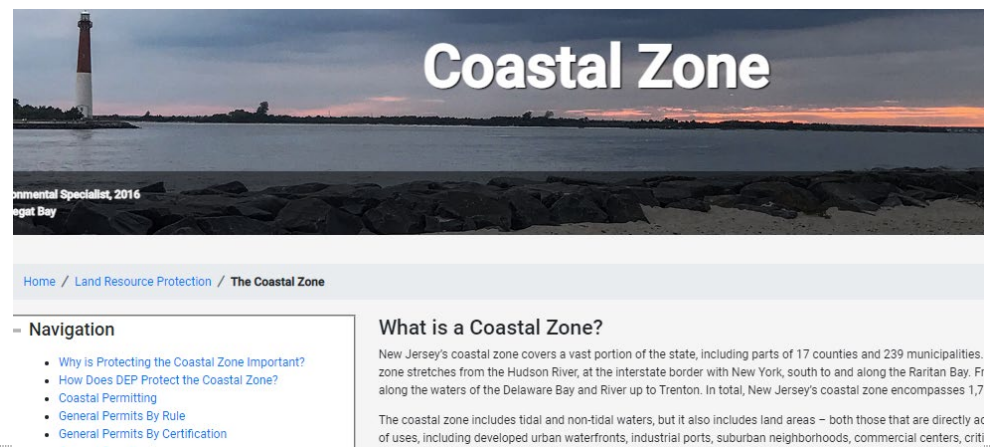
## Pinelands

- Congress created the Pinelands National Reserve (PNR) through the passage of the **National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978**. The PNR is approximately 1.1 million acres and spans portions of seven counties and all or part of 56 municipalities. The reserve occupies 22% of New Jersey's land area. The reserve is home to dozens of rare plant and animal species and the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer system, which contains an estimated 17 trillion gallons of water.
- In 1979, New Jersey formed a partnership with the federal government to preserve, protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources of this special place. Through its implementation of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, the New Jersey Pinelands Commission protects the Pinelands in a manner that maintains the region's unique ecology while permitting compatible development.
- Subchapter 6: Management Programs and Minimum Standards of the *Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan* should be reviewed when working with landowners/operators in the Pinelands: <http://www.state.nj.us/pinelands/cmp/CMP.pdf>

# Review of State Laws Coastal Zone Rules

There are two linked Rules which govern the review of all coastal project proposals.

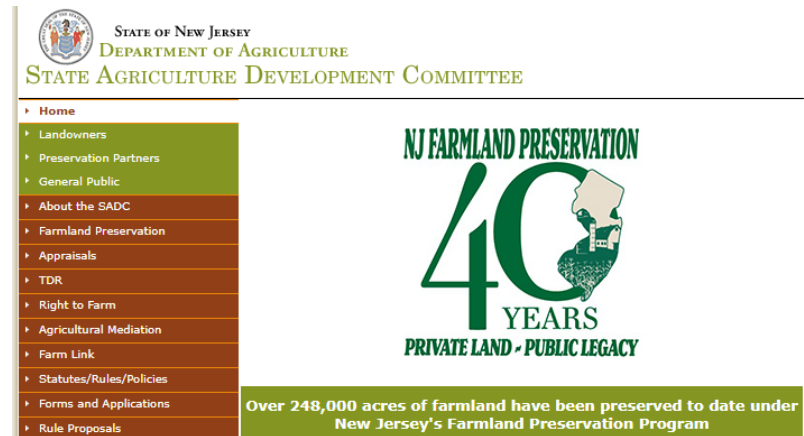
- The Coastal Permit Program Rules provide the processes for permit reviews. It includes details on what activities need permits; the qualifications for general permits or permits-by-rule; the details for pre-application meetings, contents and fees; review procedures and deadlines; permit appeals; and enforcement of the coastal laws and rules.
- The second rule is the Coastal Zone Management Rules (CZM Rules). This rule defines Special Areas of environmental interest, details requirements for development projects and sets forth the compliance criteria for permit approval. Certain general permits require compliance of specific sections of the CZM Rule. Individual Permit applications must address and demonstrate compliance with each applicable component of the CZM rules for the specific site and regulated activity to be approved.
- <https://dep.nj.gov/wlm/lrp/coastal-zone/>



# Review of State Laws

## Preserved Farmland

- New Jersey has a very active Farmland Preservation Program. The **State Agriculture Development Committee** (SADC) leads in the preservation of New Jersey's farmland. The SADC administers the **Farmland Preservation Program**, providing grants to counties, municipalities and nonprofit groups to fund the purchase of development easements on farmland; directly purchasing farms and development easements from landowners.
- Farmland preserved with the SADC must continue to be available for agricultural production. This means that some conservation practices such as wetlands restoration or riparian forest buffers may not be approved practices depending on their size as they remove land from agricultural production. SADC staff must be consulted as plans for these types of practices are evaluated on preserved farms.
- <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/>



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Home  
Landowners  
Preservation Partners  
General Public  
About the SADC  
Farmland Preservation  
Appraisals  
TDR  
Right to Farm  
Agricultural Mediation  
Farm Link  
Statutes/Rules/Policies  
Forms and Applications  
Rule Proposals

**NJ FARMLAND PRESERVATION**  
**40 YEARS**  
**PRIVATE LAND - PUBLIC LEGACY**

Over 248,000 acres of farmland have been preserved to date under New Jersey's Farmland Preservation Program

# Review of State Laws

## Local Regulations

- New Jersey is a Home Rule state. This means that each of our 565 individual incorporated municipalities have legislative authority granted and can pass laws to govern themselves (as long as it complies with or makes more strict than another federal or state law).
- Some of these municipal rules (ordinances) impact activities on agricultural or forest land. For example, many municipalities have adopted Stream Corridor and/or tree cutting ordinances.
- It is important that landowners/operators be aware of the local regulations in their community and conservation planners need to be clear in their plans that it is the landowner/operator's responsibility to comply with all federal, state, or local laws.



## White-tailed Deer

Due to New Jersey's fragmented landscape White-tailed deer populations are extremely high in many areas of the state. This high population of deer can prove to be a significant hurdle in the establishment of vegetative practices. Deer pressure is at its highest when working on land where the owner may not allow hunting or when in close proximity to urban/suburban areas with limited hunting access. In most areas of the state the selection of deer resistant vegetation or the inclusion of deer protection (tree shelters, fencing etc.) should be considered during the planning process.

## Invasive Species

High deer density, a fragmented landscape, being a center of global commerce and having a long history of human disturbance are some of the major reasons New Jersey has a serious invasive species problem. Control of invasive species should be considered while planning the establishment of vegetative practices. Typically planning for control of invasive plant species both pre and post establishment is critical for the success of the conservation practice. When in a forested landscape thought should be given to how invasive plant species may respond to planned forestry activities and if control is needed prior to undertaking the activity. A great resource for information regarding invasive species in NJ can be found here:

<https://www.fohvos.info/invasive-species-strike-team/>

# Review of State FOTG Requirements

## Vegetative Practices

In addition to the practice documents found in our New Jersey FOTG, familiarity with New Jersey Vegetative Plantings Technical Reference Establishment and Maintenance Guide is essential. The Planting Guide provides additional information, recommendations, and specifications for most planting, seeding, or revegetation operations performed as stand-alone cover practices, or as components of other conservation practices.

Go to New Jersey Field Office Technical Guide:

<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/NJ/documents> > Section 4 – Practice Standards and Supporting Documents > Ecological Science Tools > **NJ Vegetative Plantings Guide**

## Review of Important Resource Issues

1. NJ has numerous water quality impairments. Those most closely linked to agricultural activities include bacteria, phosphorus, sediment, and temperature. The full list of impaired waterbodies in NJ can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/tmdl/new-jersey-impaired-waters-list>
2. As the most densely populated state in the nation, water quality, quantity and saltwater intrusion are major concerns. Many farms, especially in South Jersey are converting to water saving systems such as pivot and drip.
3. Wildlife Habitat is a major resource concern in NJ. An excellent reference is the State Wildlife Action Plan. Current plan was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in July 2018 and is available at: <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/new-jerseys-state-wildlife-action-plan/>



# Ag Census Statistics

All farms	2017		2012
	Total	Percent of total in 2017	
<b>LAND USE</b>			
Farms ..... number	9,883	100.0	9,071
Land in farms ..... acres	734,084	100.0	715,057
Total cropland ..... farms	7,537	76.3	7,107
..... acres	463,019	63.1	456,751
Harvested cropland ..... farms	6,917	70.0	6,575
..... acres	411,785	56.1	408,993
Farms by acres harvested:			
1 to 49 acres .....	5,661	57.3	5,223
1 to 9 acres .....	3,606	36.5	3,017
10 to 19 acres .....	1,073	10.9	1,194
20 to 29 acres .....	511	5.2	519
30 to 49 acres .....	471	4.8	493
50 to 99 acres .....	463	4.7	507
100 to 199 acres .....	309	3.1	369
200 to 499 acres .....	302	3.1	292
500 to 999 acres .....	115	1.2	124
1,000 to 1,999 acres .....	54	0.5	50
2,000 acres or more .....	13	0.1	10
Other pasture and grazing land that could have been used for crops without additional improvement ..... farms	897	9.1	805
..... acres	17,725	2.4	16,926

The 2017 Ag Census shows NJ has dropped below 10,000 farms. The largest farm size category is 1-49 acres, with the major subset in the 1-9 acres range. NJ landowners realize a **property tax discount** if their land (>5 acres) is farmed.

## New Jersey Top-Ten Leading Agriculture Sectors

Agriculture Sector	Sales
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	\$498.1 million
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	\$222.4 million
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	\$141.3 million
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	\$92.2 million
Poultry and eggs	\$31.2 million
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	\$27.9 million
Other crops and hay	\$27.5 million
Milk from cows	\$23.9 million
Cattle and calves	\$10.6 million
Aquaculture	\$8.8 million

# Major Land Uses

Land Cover	Acres	% of Total
AGRICULTURE	543,508	10.82%
FOREST	1,518,986	30.23%
URBAN	1,569,210	31.22%
WATER	346,510	6.90%
WETLAND	993,249	19.76%
BARREN LAND	54,030	1.08%

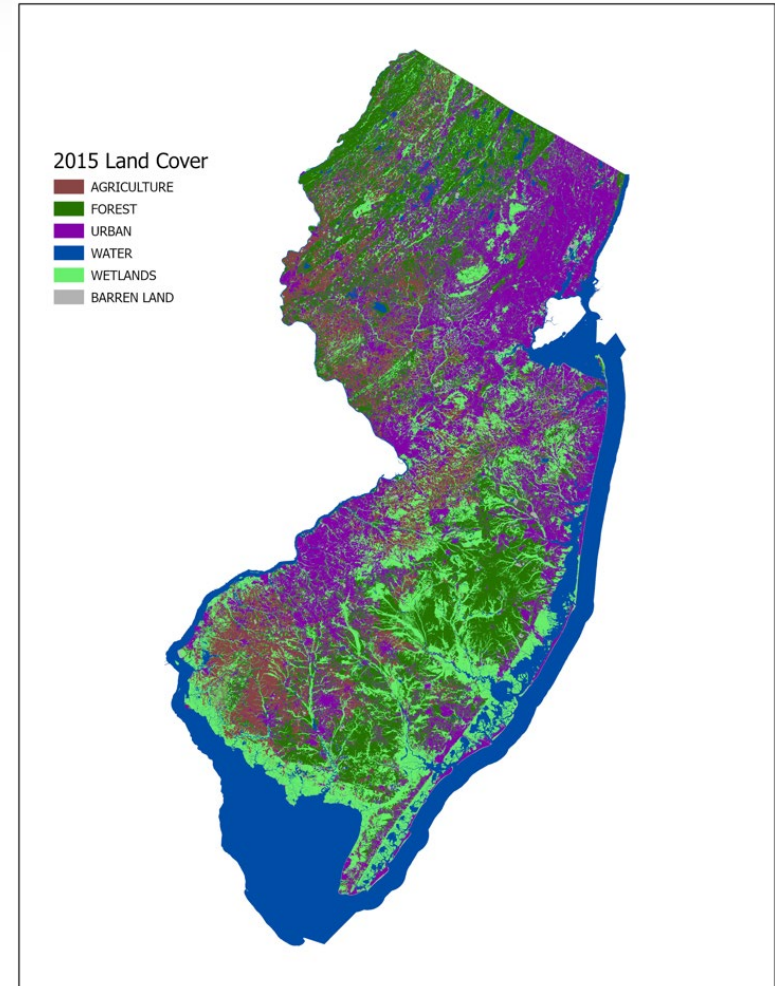
Data source: 2015 Land Use/Land Cover Data from NJ Department of Environmental Protection. In this dataset, some areas mapped as wetland acres are actually farmed.

## Data from 2017 Ag Census

Land in Farms by Use	Acres
Cropland	463,019
Pastureland	63,995
Woodland	145,302
Other	61,768
<b>Total</b>	<b>734,084</b>

### Top Counties: Land in Farms (acres)

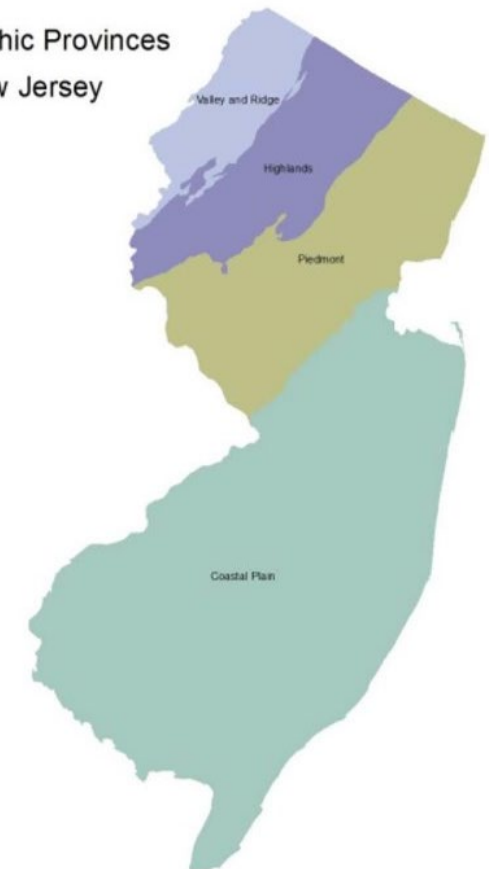
Hunterdon	101,290
Salem	98,239
Burlington	96,256
Warren	73,874
Cumberland	66,256



# Physiographic Provinces

- Although a small state, NJ has 4 physiographic provinces and incredible diversity.
- Ridge and Valley Province – area of highest relief in New Jersey; includes the Kittatinny Ridge (up to 1,800 ft above sea level), and Kittatinny Valley; also includes the Minisink Valley bordering the Delaware River; ~1/12 of New Jersey
- The Highlands Province - an extension of the ancient rocks of the New England Upland; includes several long, narrow valleys, such as the Musconetcong, and the state's largest lake, Lake Hopatcong; ~1/8 of New Jersey
- The Piedmont - a gently rolling lowland; higher elevations are composed of very hard volcanic rock; includes the Watchung Ridges and the Palisades; drained by the Raritan, Passaic and Hackensack Rivers, with most elevations 200-400 feet above sea level; glacial Lake Passaic resulted in areas of poor drainage including the Great Swamp; ~1/5 of New Jersey
- Coastal Plain – consists of loose sedimentary materials; the Inner Coastal Plain is rich in silts and clays, and generally more fertile than the outer Coastal Plain, which is rich in sand; includes the Pinelands as well as the mostly developed barrier islands; ~3/5 of New Jersey

Physiographic Provinces  
of New Jersey



## Review of Major Land Ownership

- Approximately 17% of this state is public lands. Public land is held by the State of New Jersey (Division of Fish and Wildlife and Parks and Forestry), Federally owned (National Park Service, Department of Defense and US Fish and Wildlife Service) as well as County and Local public open space. In addition to publicly owned land, there are many parcels owned by private nonprofit organizations where public access is granted.
- Most of the public land is managed for multiple use, active and passive recreation, and wildlife management.
- Some public land is currently farmed through lease agreements with the public entity managing the land. Depending on the length of the lease agreement, construction of permanent structural conservation practices may be limited if seeking Farm Bill funding.
- ~5.4% of NJ farms are tenant operations. The remainder have full owners or part owners. However, that 5.4% that are tenant operations represent many of the larger acreage farms in the state.
  - (8,221 farms with Full Owners + 1,124 farms with Part Owners; 538 farms with Tenants) Source: 2017 Ag Census

## Review of Major Agricultural Operations

- The northern region of the state is mostly grain producers (corn/soybeans), hay, nursery stock, a few remaining dairy farms, beef, equine and other livestock operations as well as vegetable, orchard and forestry operations. Small specialty operations that may be organic, certified natural grown, offering a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) experience and/or supporting an agritourism industry are found throughout this region.
- The southern region can be generally characterized by crops such as cranberries, blueberries, peaches, green peppers, tomatoes, spinach, nursery stock, some livestock operations (dairy, beef), grain production (corn/beans).

# Overview of Typical Conservation Practices

- Below are some representative conservation practices:
  - The northern region –erosion control (waterways, critical area plantings, diversions), prescribed grazing, nutrient management, IPM, conservation crop rotation, forest stand improvement, early successional habitat management, wetland restoration
  - The southern region –micro irrigation, pivot irrigation, prescribed grazing, forest stand improvement, cover crop, conservation crop rotation, residue management-reduce till, nutrient management, IPM, and IWM
- NJ has many nontraditional landowners, many of whom are willing to adopt wildlife habitat projects
- Additionally, NJ has a wealth of conservation partners willing to support wildlife and water quality projects. Some of these groups have secured funding to support additional cost share for conservation practices

## Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

At a minimum, conservation planners must have a basic understanding of agricultural production systems, economics, plant and animal sciences, ecological systems, natural resources, State and local environmental laws and regulations, and conservation practices common to the region where they work. Candidates for the conservation planner designation must possess and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and abilities listed below, but not limited to.

- Ability to assess and document soil erosion and soil quality indicators
- Knowledge of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended and the ability to recognize potential violations of the Act and plan accordingly.
- Ability to identify and document the presence of Highly Erodible Land (HEL)
- Ability to evaluate and discuss fish and wildlife habitat alternatives
- Ability to conduct and document a basic forest plant condition inventory and evaluation
- Ability to conduct and document a basic pasture and forage inventory



## Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities cont'd

Candidates for the conservation planner designation must possess and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and abilities listed below, but not limited to.

- Ability to interpret soil test results and nutrient management recommendation, including the development of a Phosphorus Site Index Rating for a field
- Ability to conduct and document an Environmental Evaluation
- Ability to recognize and document cultural resources and knowledge of policy and procedures to protect cultural resources
- Knowledge of policy and procedures to protect threatened and endangered (T&E) species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need

## Additional References or Training

- State Field Office Technical Guide at <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/NJ/documents>
- New Jersey's Landscape Project: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/landscape/>
- The Natural Heritage Database:  
<http://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/#nhdb>
- Assessment Tools Training and AgLearn Courses/Number
  - Sheet & Rill Erosion: Concepts and Tools (Rusle2)
    - Tillage Implements NRCS-NEDC-000413
    - Seeding & Planting Equipment NRCS-NEDC-000424
  - Gully Erosion: Concept and Tool Refer to Resource Concern Factsheet –  
NJ eFOTG Section III: Resource Planning Criteria
  - Wildlife Habitat Inventory and Evaluation
    - Wildlife Habitat Evaluation for Conservation Planning NRCS-NEDC-000426
  - Forest Plant Condition: Inventory and Evaluation
    - Introduction to Conservation Forestry NRCS-NEDC-000482
  - Pasture Plant Condition: Inventory and Evaluation
    - Introduction to Pasture Condition Scoring NRCS-NEDC-000482
  - Nutrient Management: 590 Concept NRCS-NEDC-000083
  - Basic Pest Management in Conservation System NRCS-NEDC-000085

## Expected TSP Workflow

- The State Resource Conservationist (SRC) will be responsible for reviewing TSP conservation planning for the National Planner Designation.
- Subsequent conservation plans will be reviewed by the District Conservationist (DC) at the local USDA Service Center.
- The SRC will conduct plan reviews for TSP planner designation renewals.
- TSPs will work with the local District Conservationist to make sure the proper environmental evaluations (NRCS.CPA.52) are completed.

## Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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## Certificate of Completion

After viewing the State Specific Training module, please print and sign the completion certificate on the following slide.

The certificate is your acknowledgement that based on the information provided in this module, you have the proper knowledge, skills and ability to conduct planning in this State.

Within your NRCS Registry profile, enter the training and upload the signed certificate to verify completion.

## STATE SPECIFIC TRAINING MODULE COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby verify I have viewed and understand the content of New Jersey State  
*TSP Name*  
Specific Training Module and affirm I have the knowledge, skills, and ability to conduct conservation planning  
services in this state.

\_\_\_\_\_  
TSP Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date