From Our Leadership

New Jersey, the “Garden State,” is the home of some of the world’s most fertile soils. Our Jersey tomatoes, sweet corn, blueberries, peaches, cranberries and other crops are second to none!

But New Jersey is also the home of suburban sprawl. We have more people per square mile than any other state, and pressure to turn family farms into housing, shopping malls, and corporate parks is enormous.

That’s why New Jersey Conservation Foundation has worked for decades to permanently preserve family farms throughout the state. We work hand-in-hand with many partners – including the State Agriculture Development Committee, U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service and county and municipal governments – to purchase development rights on farms, ensuring that they stay farmland forever.

Farming isn’t an easy business, but most farmers love what they do. Preservation dollars help take the financial pressure off farmers and allow them to invest in their farms … and perhaps even pass the land down to the next generation!

In this Report, read the stories of four family farms in different parts of the state. The English Farm is a traditional farm that’s been in operation since before the American Revolution. Riverine Ranch is the only water buffalo farm in New Jersey, Cowtown hosts the state’s only rodeo, and Rabbit Hill is the only farm in the state to grow and malt grains for craft brewing and distilling.

We hope you enjoy learning about these farmers. They all have a commitment to keeping the garden in the Garden State. New Jersey Conservation Foundation shares that commitment.

With your support, we’ll continue working to preserve more family farms to ensure that New Jersey’s strong agricultural traditions endure. Thank you for all you do – New Jersey is a better place because of your support and generosity!

MICHELE S. BYERS  EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KENNETH H. KLIPSTEIN II  PRESIDENT

JOIN US

For membership information, please visit our website at www.njconservation.org or call us at 1-888-LANDSAVE.

Our mailing address is 170 Longview Road, Far Hills, NJ 07931.

Follow us on Facebook!  @njconservation
Farming isn’t the easiest way to make a living, but most farmers love working their land and wouldn’t have it any other way. Fortunately, New Jersey’s Farmland Preservation Program is helping farmers stay on their land and helping new farmers acquire their first farm. Read the stories of four unique Garden State farms preserved by New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners.
A home where the water buffalo roam
Brian Foley gently coaxes the newborn water buffalo calf lying in the grass: “Hey, c’mon, get up, get up.” The little black calf climbs slowly to its feet. Nearby the mother watches, alert but not distressed.

“This is our 27th calf this spring, and we’re expecting about 25 more,” said Brian, stroking the calf’s head and checking to make sure it’s healthy. It ambles over to its mother.

The water buffalo at Riverine Ranch, a preserved farm in Warren County, clearly know and trust Brian and his wife, Courtney. “Water buffalo are an animal that needs human contact,” Brian explains. “They’re very docile.”

In fact, the Foleys’ water buffalo are almost dog-like in their curiosity and desire for attention. In a barn that houses pregnant females, they crowd toward the gate to greet Brian and a visitor, pushing their noses through the rails. The same thing happens with older calves in another barn.

Unlike many New Jersey farmers, Brian and Courtney were not raised on a farm. But Courtney had a childhood dream of owning a farm with animals, and her husband was determined to make it come true.

The Foleys did their research and learned that water buffalo have a long history of domestication in Asia and are prized for their rich, high-butterfat milk. They started about 13 years ago with eight water buffalo on rented farmland. When New Jersey Conservation Foundation put a 62-acre preserved farm up for sale in 2010, they jumped on the opportunity to have a place of their own.

Today, the herd is now at about 150 water buffalo ... and growing! Riverine Ranch is still the only water buffalo farm in the Garden State.

The Foleys have an on-farm facility for making gourmet fresh mozzarella cheese and brie-like aged cheeses, and culturing a thick, creamy yogurt. The products are sold at farmers markets and at a small weekend store on the farm.

Maintaining a happy water buffalo herd is central to the Riverine Ranch philosophy. “This is a perfect animal giving a perfect milk,” says Brian. “If you treat them right and give them good food, you can milk them for 18 years. It’s a partnership. We evolved with them.”
Welcome to the Wild West’s outpost in the Garden State!

The Cowtown Rodeo and hundreds of acres of surrounding grasslands are a genuine New Jersey landmark – the state’s only rodeo, owned by the Harris family since 1929. From May to September, the rodeo goes every Saturday night, drawing a loyal following for events like bull riding, barrel racing and calf roping.

Five generations of Harris family members have been involved in running the rodeo, the Cowtown farmers market and the farm’s cattle business.

Last year, New Jersey Conservation Foundation and partners permanently preserved nearly 375 acres of grasslands surrounding Cowtown Rodeo by purchasing the development rights. Proceeds allowed patriarch Grant Harris to pass the business along to the next generation, daughter Katy and husband RJ Griscom, as well as purchase additional land the family had been leasing.

Another 79 acres were preserved at Cowtown in June 2019.

Grant said developers offered him and his wife Betsy “a ridiculous amount of money” to buy the land. Although they seriously considered it, they found they couldn’t imagine Cowtown being gone. Preserving the land allowed them to keep the land and businesses in the family.

Katy and RJ are now running Cowtown’s day-to-day operations and raising the next generation, their six-year-old son, Nathan. "This is a great life. Why would you want to do anything else?" asked Katy at an event to celebrate the land preservation.

Preserving the farm not only kept Cowtown in the family, it also saves habitat for rare grassland birds. Bobolinks, grasshopper sparrows and savanna sparrows – all threatened species in New Jersey – breed in the pasture grasses, along with brown thrashers and Eastern meadowlarks, both species of special concern.
A cowboy tradition thrives in New Jersey
Taking off like a rabbit: grains and malt for brewing
A stiff breeze stirs the fields of barley at Rabbit Hill Farms in Cumberland County. Think “amber waves of grain,” as immortalized in the song America the Beautiful. The waves of swaying barley are silvery under the midday sun, not yet ripe for harvest. But they’re destined to become a key ingredient in beer brewing: malt.

Rabbit Hill is the only farm in New Jersey to grow and malt its own grains to sell to craft brewers and distillers ... barley, wheat, rye, spelt, oats and buckwheat.

The malting operation started after a radical decision on the part of the Bakker family – dad Abe, son Blair and daughter Hillary Bakker Barile – to transition away from five generations of potato farming.

As Hillary explains, demand for Rabbit Hill’s specialty – fresh cooking potatoes (as opposed to spuds for the food processing industry) – shrank as Americans’ eating habits changed. “It wasn’t a success for us anymore,” she said. “People don’t eat the way they used to.” The family knew they’d have to adapt to survive.

Blair was a home brewing hobbyist, and he suggested converting part of Rabbit Hill into a microbrewery, with all ingredients grown and processed on the preserved farm. But once the family understood the enormity of such an enterprise, they started with growing and malting grains.

In 2015, they planted grains in former potato fields, converted a barn into a “malt house” and set out to learn the old-fashioned process of “floor malting.”

Floor malting involves soaking the grains, spreading them on the barn floor, and repeatedly raking them to distribute heat evenly until the seeds begin to sprout. The grains are then kiln dried at low heat, turning starches into sugars - which will later be converted to alcohol during brewing.

Rabbit Hill’s grain and malt business took off like a ... you know! The preserved farm is now producing about a ton of malt a week, and selling everything it can make. Rabbit Hill’s most popular product is the Pilsner-style “Farmhouse” malt; its toasty, English-style “Chillum” is another favorite.

Hillary, who’s in charge of the malting, is thrilled to be making a unique, high-quality New Jersey product. And brewers and distillers who want to make a “local” or “all-Jersey” beverage now have a reliable supply of grains and malts exclusively from the Garden State!
Over in the pasture, mini-horse Hector trots up to the fence to greet visitors, while two Nigerian dwarf goats snooze in the sun, not bothering to get up. In the rooster yard, the bantams crow loudly and one aggressive fellow flies at a camera lens that comes too close. “The roosters can be territorial,” said Carol.

Such is a spring morning at the English Farm in Liberty Corner, one of the oldest working farms in Somerset County, established before the American Revolution. The farm is run by Carol English and her four siblings, who are the eighth generation of their family to farm the property.

The English farm produces eggs, flowers and organic vegetables, all sold at a roadside stand set up in one of the historic red barns. Hay is grown in the upper fields. The horse, goats and pigs are there mostly because they’re popular with customers.

“The kids love to see them,” said Carol, noting that many children who come to the farm stand haven’t experienced the sights, sounds and smells of a barnyard. The same goes for a lot of adults. Some families stop by the English Farm every week during the summer just to visit the animals.

The English Farm was established in about 1740, hosted an encampment of French soldiers during the Revolutionary War, and became a dairy after the railroad arrived in town in 1782. “My dad used to tell stories about delivering milk cans to the train,” said Carol. “They would be sent off to the city of Newark.”

The dairy operation was discontinued a few decades ago, but the property stayed in farmland. The English Farm was permanently preserved in 2008, when New Jersey Conservation Foundation assisted Bernards Township in purchasing the development rights on 81 acres, ensuring that the land will stay farmland forever.

Years earlier, Carol’s father, the late Woodruff English, set the stage for preservation by signing voluntary agreements to not sell the land for development. “It meant a lot to him, this land,” said Carol. “I think we picked the best option and we’re all very happy with it.”
Chickens and piglets and goats, oh my!
$100,000 AND ABOVE
Anonymous Donor
The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
F. M. Kirby Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
Open Space Institute
The William Penn Foundation
Princeton Area Community Foundation
River Branch Foundation

$50,000 – $99,999
Anonymous Donor
Energy Foundation
The Fund for New Jersey
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Victoria Foundation, Inc.

$25,000 – $49,999
Penelope Ayers
CTW Foundation, Inc.
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
National Audubon Society
Joan and Robert Rechnitz
L. Keith and Lisa Reed
Reed Family Foundation, Recommended by L. Keith and Lisa Reed
Stone Foundation of New Jersey
The Nature Conservancy of New Jersey
Johanne Wallerstein Institute

$10,000 - $24,999
Kate Adams and Duke Wiser
Mary Owen Borden Memorial Foundation
Finn and Emily Caspersen
Mrs. Catherine A. M. Cavanaugh
Mrs. Jane B. DeBelloe
Dr. Rosina B. and Mr. Richard Dixon
Fox Foundation
Neil Grossman and Nancy Wolfe
Harris Family Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
Holly R. Hegener and Jon Cummings
Hyde and Watson Foundation
Independence Seaport Museum
Peter K. and Cynthia Kellogg
The Kik-Kellogg Foundation
Ernest Christian Klipstein Foundation
Helen & William Mazer Foundation
The Curtis W. McGraw Foundation
Joan Millspaugh
Miranda Fund of the Community Foundation of New Jersey
David and Mary Moore
Pheasant Hill Foundation
Rockefeller Family Fund
Lee and Justin Sadrian
Eric and Patsi Sumner
The John Tyler Foundation
Joseph and Phoebe Willey

$5,000 - $9,999
Acorn Foundation
Catherine Bacon
Roger Byrom
Jack and Ronnie Chipmich
Colonial Pipeline Company
Donald Conklin
John and Margo Dana
Mr. and Mrs. Peter B. de Neufville
Barbara R. Delafield
Clem and Joanna Foss
Frelinghuysen Foundation
Charles and Laurel Gould
Gates and Mary Ellen Haw
Pamela and Howard Hinch
The Homestead Foundation, Inc.
James and Gretchen Johnson
The Koven Foundation
Joseph and Jennifer Lemond
Mac's Corporate Giving
Robert McLean Foundation Trust
Hella and Scott McVay Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
National Wildlife Federation
PSEG
Mr. Laurance S. Rockefeller, Jr.
Rhéticos Foundation
Union Foundation
The New York Community Trust Wattles Family Trust Fund
James and Virginia Welch Foundation
Harold and Joannah Wilmerding

$2,500 - $4,999
Bells Family Fund of the Blauvelt Demarest Foundation
Ms. Carollee Bol and Mr. Scott Rosenberg
Jennifer Bryson
Lisa Caplan
Dr. Theodore Chase and Mrs. Victory Chase
Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Putnam J. Crafts
Mr. and Mrs. Benson T. Ross
Sumner Gerard Foundation
The Charles E. and Edna T. Brundage Foundation
The Gelfand Family Foundation, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert McLean
Mr. and Mrs. Benson T. Ross
Robert R. and Elizabeth Durden
E.J. Grassmann Trust
Virginia Falconer
Jane Morton Galetto
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Harvey, Jr.
Doug and Susan Hayes
Mr. Richard P. Hoover, III
John L. Kemmerer, III
Dan and Gail Kopp
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel W. Lambert, III
Richard M. Lawrence
The Hon. Joseph H. Metelski
Kurt Munkaci and Nancy Jeffries
Ms. Patricia Murphy and Ms. Karen Murphy

$200 – $999
William deCamp, Jr. Fund of the Community Foundation of New Jersey
Maggie & Michael Delia Foundation
Anna Drago
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas C. Borden
Mr. and Mrs. Benson T. Ross
Mr. and Mrs. Rosanne Bornholdt
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Brady, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Culhane
Kenneth and Marilyn Cummings
Lloyd and Sally Davis
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Porter
Mr. and Mrs. John S. and Leslie V. Reed
Mr. and Mrs. Laurance S. Rockefeller, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Metelski
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce and Dina McLean
Dr. Elizabeth Parker
Mr. and Mrs. Virginia Falconer

$5,000 – $9,999
Mr. Stephen W. Parker and Dr. Elizabeth Parker
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas C. Borden
Mr. and Mrs. Rosanne Bornholdt
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Brady, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Metelski
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce and Dina McLean
Dr. Elizabeth Parker
Mr. and Mrs. Virginia Falconer

$5,000 – $9,999
Mr. Stephen W. Parker and Dr. Elizabeth Parker
PNC Bank
Kathryn A. and James M. Porter
The Reed Family Foundation
Recommended by John S. and Leslie V. Reed
Mr. and Mrs. Benson T. Ross
Jacqueline Strigl
Sumner Gerard Foundation
The Charles E. and Edna T. Brundage Foundation
The Gelfand Family Foundation, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert McLean
Mr. and Mrs. Benson T. Ross
Robert R. and Elizabeth Durden
E.J. Grassmann Trust
Virginia Falconer
Jane Morton Galetto
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Harvey, Jr.
Doug and Susan Hayes
Mr. Richard P. Hoover, III
John L. Kemmerer, III
Dan and Gail Kopp
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel W. Lambert, III
Richard M. Lawrence
The Hon. Joseph H. Metelski
Kurt Munkaci and Nancy Jeffries
Ms. Patricia Murphy and Ms. Karen Murphy

$1,000 – $2,499
Darvane A. Adams
Amelia Barth
Bassett Foundation
Birch Family Fund of the Community Foundation of New Jersey
Barbara and W. Michael Blumenthal
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas C. Borden
John and Rosanne Bornholdt
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Brady, Jr.
Franta Broulik
Hank and Laura Brucker
Mr. and Dr. Thomas A. Brummer

Our success depends on our donors. Thank you to all who contributed in 2018.
New Jersey has 10,300 farms comprising 750,000 acres, and supporting 30,000 on-farm jobs.
In 2018, 9,2 farms consisting of 5,631 acres were preserved under New Jersey’s Farmland Preservation Program.

$100 - $249

Beatrice and Larry S. Abrams
Alicia Abruzzese
Ronald Adams
Fred O. Akers
DeWitt Alexandre
Judith A. and Frederick H. Allen
Bill Allen
Florence Alootto
Linny and Merrick G. Andlinger
James Andrews and Amy Pearlmutter
Bruce Apteowitz
Richard Armstrong
George Arnett and Serena K. Arnett
Kevin J. Avery
Mr. and Mrs. James Ayers
Deborah W. Bailey
John Balletto
Joseph S. Balwierczak
Danielle Bara
Scott Barnes
Marjorie Barrett
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Turquish
Union Vocational Technical School
Dr. Daniel J. Van Abs
Honorables Shawn C. Van Doren
Margaret von der Linde
Ms. Alice S. Tempel and Mr. Leigh Walker
Donald and Patricia Walker
The James M. Walton, Jr. Family
Peter Webster
Larry Wehr
Jeffrey Weinstein
Ann and Stephen K. West
Governor Christine T. Whitman
Van and Myra Williams
Elizabeth and Robert Wilson
Elsa Wood
Brann and Ellen Why
David Farrington Yates
John and Nancy Yingling
Glenda S. Yu

Veronica Bishop
Pat B. Black and Carol W. English
Mrs. Donald R. Blair
Alan and Susan Blanchette
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond M. Blinn
Martin and Ano Mozer Bloomenthal
Janet Bone
Mary Anne Borge and Jeff Worthington
Dr. Ingeborg D. Bossert
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Boulton
Marlene Boyd
Mr. and Mrs. George Brainard
Beth B. Braniagan
Elizabeth Bredlove
Dr. Stephen Brenner and Pam Berndfield
Wendy and Tim Brill
William Brower
Susan Buffalino
Mr. and Mrs. E. Freeman Bunn
Rachel Bunting
Kathy Burke
Kevin Burkmann
Thomas and Elizabeth Cabeabar
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Calvet
Ruth Campo
Mr. Robert J. Carr, Sr.
Woodrow Cansky-Wilson
Astrid M. Caruso and Roger T. Prichard
Gladdy’s A. Case
Clement Chang
Citizens United to Protect
the Maurice River and its Tributaries
Ms. Maggie Clare and Mr. Gary Hinesley
Silvana Clark
C.D. and Tracey Clarke
William and Elizabeth Clarkson
Bill Claus
Robert Clayton
Tom and Marilyn Ciendenny
Barbara Cooe
Ms. Diane M. Coffman
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Cole

Gloria Colombo
Mr. and Mrs. William Combs, III
Carlin Family Fund of the
Community Foundation of New Jersey
Anna Corichi
Cornerstone Financial Group
Covered Bridge Trail Association
Harden and Alisa Crawford
Sandra Cristofori
Mary Croft
Dr. William J. Cremperte
Walt Croom
Crossroads of the American
Revolution Association
Maureen Crowley
Trace Cruise and Scott Dall
Richard Cushing
Rick Dabagian
Thomas Dackow
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher J. Daggett
W. Bruce Daniels
Joseph E. Dante
Elizabeth De Cicco
Dr. Barbara A. Berko and Joel L. Dettz
Diane Demidowicz
Katharine Denby
Jignasa Desai McCleary
Glen Diegnan
Frank Dicenzo
Richard Dodds
Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Doherty
James Dowd
Ms. Lisa Downs
Jeffrey Dragan
Mr. Alfred T. Driscoll
Harry and Elizabeth Dugger
Rusell and Joan Durbm
Prof. Douglas S. Eakley
Tom and Lynn Ebeling
Van and Lynda Ecker
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Eddy
Cindy and John Ehrendou

Barry and Cecilia Eldred
Steven C. Ellis
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gordon Engel
Ellen V. Evning
Jeffrey Faige
Suzanne Fast
Dr. and Mrs. David Feinblum
Steven Fenster
Joseph S. Filo
Daniel and Margery Fiori
Roger E. Flahive and Eileen A. Mallor
Jared Flesher
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm S. Forbes
Anne Forbes
Susan F. Ford
Russell Forte
William and Constance Fortenbaugh
Caren and John Franzine
Deborah Freedman
Ms. Rebecca French-Mesch
Maxine Friedman
Friends of the Rancocas
Corradina Fronto
Rufus and Judy Fulton
Russell Furnari
Eleny Fryst
James Gaffney
Michael F. Gallaway
Anne and Bill Gates
Barbara Geenhalgh-Weidman
Peter George
Bull and Karen Gervasi
Dan Ginsberg
Laurie R. Gienling and Michael J. Brady
Joel and Carole Goldstein
Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Goodfellow
Frank and Joan Goodhart
Roe W. Goodman
Ms. Elizabeth C. Graham
Melanie E. Gray and David N. Rubin
Mr. Bruce Green
Michael Gross
New Jersey ranks in the Top Ten states for Cranberries (3rd), Bell Peppers (3rd), Spinach (3rd), Peaches (4th), Blueberries (5th), Cucumbers (5th), Squash (5th), Tomatoes (7th), Apples (8th), Sweet Corn (9th), Snap Beans (10th)
In 2018, New Jersey Conservation Foundation preserved 965 acres of farmland which produce 369,595 bushels of tomatoes.
Thanks to your support and generosity, we’ll continue working to preserve more family farms to ensure that New Jersey’s strong agricultural traditions endure.

Don’t see your name? Let us know!
Those who donated in 2019 will be included in next year’s annual report, so stay tuned!
Share your thoughts and questions with Alison Mitchell, Assistant Director & Acting Director of Development, at 908-997-0711 or alison@njconservation.org.
2018 Gaining Ground

NEARLY 2,900 ACRES PRESERVED THROUGHOUT THE STATE

■ BURLINGTON COUNTY

THOMPSON-WRIGHT • 442 acres, Woodland and Southampton Townships

New Jersey Conservation expanded the Michael Huber Prairie Warbler Preserve in the Pine Barrens with the purchase of this former cranberry farm. The land was owned by the Thompson and Wright families since the Civil War. After the family’s cranberry company stopped production in 2004, the land reverted to wetlands and pitch pine forest. The property includes 5.5 miles of streams, including the pristine Burrs Mill Brook.

■ CAMDEN COUNTY

GATEWAY PARK 6 & 7 • 12 acres, City of Camden

These two properties along Admiral Wilson Boulevard were transferred to the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (CCMUA) from the Delaware River Port Authority to become part of Gateway Park along the Cooper River. The 25-acre park opened this April and is being managed by New Jersey Conservation in partnership with the CCMUA and Camden County to provide outdoor recreation, environmental education, river access, wildlife habitat and scenic enjoyment.

■ CUMBERLAND COUNTY

MENANTICO PRESERVE • 599 acres, Vineland

This forested preserve contains characteristic Pine Barrens vegetation and wildlife, and 2.2 miles of the scenic Menantico Creek. It’s less than five miles from downtown Vineland and a short distance from downtown Millville. Together, the two cities have a population of nearly 90,000 residents and a need for more public open space. We purchased the land in partnership with the New Jersey Green Acres Program, Cumberland County, William Penn Foundation, Open Space Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Natural Lands.

KIRKLAND • 9 acres, Maurice River Township

New Jersey Conservation transferred land adjacent to the historic East Point Lighthouse to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to provide additional public access, and to enable the construction of a buffer to prevent storm damage and coastal erosion. The lighthouse has been a landmark at the mouth of the Maurice River in Cumberland County for more than a century and a half.

■ GLOUCESTER COUNTY

FOOTE 1&2 • 30 acres, Elk Township

Corn and hay are grown on the two Foote family properties, which comprise about 66 acres of prime farmland straddling Elk Township in Gloucester County and Upper Pittsgrove Township in Salem County. New Jersey Conservation was able to preserve these farms through a unique collaboration with the two towns and two counties, as well as state and federal agencies through the United States Department of Agriculture’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

■ HUNTERDON COUNTY

BERRY/LIVINGSTON • 45 acres, Tewksbury Township

A portion of the historic Craigmar Farm, in the same family since before the American Revolution, was permanently preserved through a partnership between New Jersey Conservation, the State Agriculture Development Committee, Hunterdon County and Tewksbury Township. The picturesque farm is located on a hillside near public open space and other preserved farms.

KORN, McKEON, and TARRANT • 38 acres, Lebanon and Clinton Townships

New Jersey Conservation Foundation assisted the New Jersey Green Acres Program in preserving these wooded properties, adjacent to the state’s Ken Lockwood Gorge Wildlife Management Area. Preservation of these lands protects a state-designated natural area and water quality in the South Branch of the Raritan River.

MILLNER • 130 acres, Delaware Township

The longtime owners decided to sell the property – a mix of fields and forest, traversed by the pristine Wickecheoke Creek – to New Jersey Conservation because they didn’t want to see it developed. It’s now part of the Wickecheoke Creek Preserve, an ever-growing patchwork of more than 1,100 acres of preserved open space and farmland. Funding came from the New Jersey Green Acres program, Hunterdon County and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority.

PELIO • 245 acres, Lebanon Township

New Jersey Conservation led the preservation of this much sought-after property, which is now a Hunterdon County park. The property’s forests and fields connect preserved landscapes from Point Mountain Reservation to the Teetertown/Crystal Springs Preserve across northern Hunterdon County. The property protects critical wildlife habitat and water quality, provides a cross county trail connection and enhances the area’s scenic beauty and agricultural character.
MERCER COUNTY

FOUNTAIN RIDGE • 12 acres, Princeton
The Princeton Ridge Preserve, a greenway of protected lands in northern Mercer County, was expanded with the preservation of this property. Fountain Ridge LLC transferred the land to New Jersey Conservation, completing preservation plans made years earlier during the development of a neighboring apartment complex. Mature forests on the property provide habitat for several endangered and threatened species, including the wood turtle, eastern box turtle, Cooper’s hawk and barred owl.

LORD ESTATE • 66 acres, Hamilton Township
This property was actively farmed for many years, but the owner passed away and her estate considered selling the farm for housing. We approached Hamilton Township officials about preserving the land and used municipal and county open space funds to preserve the land, protecting the rural character of the southeast corner of the township.

MOUNT ROSE PRESERVE • 11 acres, Hopewell Township
More than three years after the Mount Rose Preserve was established at the site of a former corporate campus, an additional parcel of land within the 320-acre public park was secured. We purchased 11 acres where a defunct corporate education center was demolished. We plan to create a native meadow and hiking trail. The purchase was made possible by a donation from Betty Wold Johnson.

PRINCETON • 2 acres, Princeton
This wooded property was transferred to us by the municipality of Princeton, adding to the preserved open space in the town’s environmentally sensitive Princeton Ridge section. The land protects natural habitat and creates future linkages on a trail network between preserved lands. A small stream – a tributary of the Millstone River – traverses the property.

OCEAN COUNTY

BOYLE, HAUG, SWALLWOOD and WILCOX • 1 acre, Lacey Township
The donation of these four small, undeveloped parcels expands the nearly 4,000-acre Candace McKee Ashmun Preserve at Forked River Mountain. Over the years, New Jersey Conservation has received many similar donations of small parcels.
SALEM COUNTY

ATANASIO • 39 acres, Pilesgrove Township
New Jersey Conservation assisted Salem County in preserving this farm, where Phil Atanasio raises beef cattle and horses and grows hay. Salem County purchased the development rights, using grants from the State Agriculture Development Committee and grants to New Jersey Conservation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Atanasio farm is next to other preserved farms, including the Byrnes farm and the Cowtown Rodeo grasslands.

BISHOP BROTHERS • 81 acres, Upper Pittsgrove Township
If you like potato chips, there’s a good chance you’ve munched on snacks made from potatoes grown in the Bishop Brothers’ fields. Bruce and Tom Bishop farm about 1,000 acres, mostly devoted to “chip potatoes.” New Jersey Conservation assisted Salem County in preserving the 81 acres by contributing part of its grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Bishop Brothers also grow spinach, sweet corn and peas for the Seabrook Farms frozen vegetable brand.

BYRNES 2 • 47 acres, Pilesgrove Township
Ed Byrnes grows tomatoes for both a canned tomato business and a company producing sun-dried tomatoes, as well as corn and soybeans. The 47 acres he preserved in 2018 are only a small part of his farming enterprise; he farms a total of 1,100 acres, of which 430 are now preserved. New Jersey Conservation assisted by contributing part of its grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service.

COWTOWN GRASSLANDS 1 & 2 • 374 acres, Pilesgrove Township
New Jersey Conservation helped preserve 374 acres of grasslands surrounding the Harris family’s famous Cowtown Rodeo. The newly-preserved land is used for grazing and breeding horses and cattle, and provides habitat for grassland birds like bobolinks and meadowlarks. The Cowtown Rodeo is America’s oldest weekly professional rodeo, and preserving the grasslands allowed Grant Harris to pass the property down to the next generation. This is the first property in New Jersey preserved under the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service’s “Grasslands of Special Significance” program.
FOOTE 1&2 • 35 acres, Upper Pittsgrove Township
Corn and hay are grown on the two Foote family properties, which comprise about 66 acres of prime farmland straddling Upper Pittsgrove Township in Salem County and Elk Township in Gloucester County. New Jersey Conservation was able to preserve these farms through a unique collaboration with the two towns and two counties, as well as state and federal agencies through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

GEMBERLING • 64 acres, Pilesgrove Township and Woodstown Borough
We helped the New Jersey Green Acres Program acquire land from the Gemberling family to expand the state's Salem River Wildlife Management Area. The acquisition also allowed for the completion of a major greenway along Woodstown’s southern border, connecting the Wildlife Management Area with borough parkland.

LA ROSA • 6 acres, Woodstown Borough
With the help of New Jersey Conservation, Woodstown Borough purchased this wooded property along the Salem River to add to its growing inventory of parks and greenways. The property expands the borough’s Salem River Greenway and is near other preserved properties. It supports bald eagle foraging habitat and Cooper’s hawk breeding habitat, and is less than 500 feet from an active bald eagle nest. It is also habitat for freshwater mussels known as triangle floaters, listed by the state as a threatened species.

McALONAN 2&3 • 42 acres, Alloway Township
New Jersey Conservation helped farmer Ray McAlonan preserve two farm properties where he grows corn and hay and raises sheep. The land sits close to the shores of Alloway Creek and has been in his family for over 50 years. Proceeds from the sale of development rights allowed him to make improvements to his farm. New Jersey Conservation contributed funds from its U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service grant.

OSTRUM 2 • 32 acres, Pilesgrove Township
This farm is comprised of 100 percent prime and statewide important soils, and contributes to the agricultural viability of the area. It is completely surrounded by contiguous preserved farmland, including several farms preserved by New Jersey Conservation, and contains a tributary of the Salem River.

ROBBINS & WILLIAMS • 49 acres, Alloway Township
The Robbins-Williams farm sits at the headwaters of the Swedes Run stream in a largely forested part of Alloway Township. The Swedes Run is an important tributary of the Mannington Creek, ultimately flowing to the sprawling Mannington Meadows on the Salem River. Preservation of the farm helps protect the abundant wetlands and wildlife of the greater Salem River watershed.

STOMS • 16 acres, Pilesgrove Township
With the help of New Jersey Conservation, Salem County preserved the Stoms family farm. The 16 acres of hayfields are adjacent to the preserved Cowtown Rodeo grasslands and are leased to the Harris family. Salem County purchased the development rights, using grants from the State Agriculture Development Committee and grants to New Jersey Conservation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service.

WENTZELL • 34 acres, Pilesgrove Township
New Jersey Conservation assisted Salem County in preserving 34 acres of the Wentzell farm, which has been in the same family since the early 1900s. The Wentzells currently grow field crops like corn, soybeans and hay after running a dairy operation for decades. Salem County purchased the development rights, using grants from the State Agriculture Development Committee and grants to New Jersey Conservation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service.

WOOD • 123 acres, Pennsville Township
With assistance from New Jersey Conservation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acquired the Michael Wood property to expand the 2,200-acre Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. The wildlife refuge is dominated by brackish tidal marsh and is an important resting and feeding area for waterfowl, shorebirds and other wildlife.

WARREN COUNTY
BENBROOK and CORNELL-KENYON • 62 acres, Hardwick Township
New Jersey Conservation assisted Warren County in preserving 62 acres to expand the county’s White Lake Natural Resource Area. The former Benbrook and Cornell-Kenyon properties include more than a half-mile of frontage along the Paulinskill River, and now provide public access for fishing, hiking and nature observation.
2018 Policy Update

OUR POLICY TEAM WORKS TO DEFEND NEW JERSEY’S LAND, WATER, AIR AND WILDLIFE.
We worked in cooperation with national partners in advocating wetlands with matching funds. NJ Conservation has preserved to protect high-priority farm and ranch lands, grasslands and Farm Bill conservation programs create significant opportunities year – an overall increase of $2 billion over 10 years. Funding for permanent preservation of farmland for farmland preservation funding and natural resource protections program began. 78 farms totaling over 6,000 acres with these funds since the program began.

We kept the proposed PennEast gas pipeline at bay for another year. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection denied permits for PennEast’s incomplete application, and we pursued litigation challenging their seizure of preserved and private lands, and establishes new incentives for solar energy and ambitious targets for offshore wind, energy storage and efficiency.

On December 20, the 2018 Farm Bill was signed into law. We worked in cooperation with national partners in advocating for farmland preservation funding and national resource protections on farmland. Funding for permanent preservation of farmland through the United States Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Conservation Easement Program increased to $450 million per year – an overall increase of $2 billion over 10 years. Farm Bill conservation programs create significant opportunities to protect high-priority farm and ranch lands, grasslands and wetlands with matching funds. NJ Conservation has preserved 78 farms totaling over 6,000 acres with these funds since the program began.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, age, national origin, ethnic background, disability or any other characteristic protected by law. We are committed to building a diverse team and strongly encourage all qualified professionals to apply.
The Franklin Parker Conservation Excellence Grants provide funding for nonprofit conservation organizations working in New Jersey. The grants are designed to enhance proficiency in land conservation, develop long-term viable programs, and support creative, innovative projects that can serve as models for other communities and projects. Since its inception in 1989, the Franklin Parker Conservation Excellence Grants Program, previously administered by Conservation Resources Inc., has awarded more than $1,769,891 for 468 nonprofit conservation projects throughout the Garden State. Funding for the grants comes from Victoria Foundation, Mary Reinhart Stackhouse Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

**CONSERVE WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF NJ** **$1,500**
Summer Mist-Netting and Radio Telemetry Project-Bat Research
The goal of this project is to collect data regarding myotis bats in order to reveal habitat requirements, population locations, roost sites, home range and foraging behavior. This data will be used in developing land conservation, regulatory, and Forest Stewardship Plans.

**FRIENDS OF BLACK RUN PRESERVE** **$2,500**
Connect Access in the Black Run Preserve
The Friends will install a Peace Bridge, a 20’ long, six-foot wide weathered steel pedestrian bridge over a breach in an old cranberry bog dike. The bridge will connect two sides of the Preserve and link to the Rancocas Conservancy’s Cold Spring Preserve trails.

**Kudzu Eradication Project**
The Invasive Species Strike Team, a program of the Friends, will complete eradication treatment in a minimum of three kudzu populations. A total of 27 sites have been found in NJ. The Strike Team will produce a status report on New Jersey kudzu populations and post it to their website to inform partners and the public about this menacing plant.

**GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION** **$2,800**
Stewardship of a 20-Acre Addition to their Conservation Management Area
The Watershed will restore habitat and improve public access to a newly acquired 20-acre tract adjacent to their Conservation Management Area in Harding Township.

**GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**
**$2,800**
Stewardship of a 20-Acre Addition to their Conservation Management Area

**GROW IT GREEN MORRISTOWN** **$1,000**
Bilingual Signs in a Community Garden
Bilingual educational signs at the Early Street Community Garden in Morristown will welcome residents to the garden and explain the various sustainable design elements incorporated in the garden and park.

**ISLES, INC.** **$2,500**
Community Gardens in Trenton
Isles will increase the capacity of community members to develop, engage in and manage gardens and urban agriculture on public land through education and incorporation of conservation practices.

**MONMOUTH CONSERVATION FOUNDATION** **$2,000**
Advancing the Field to Farm Project
The project will continue establishing a local farmland network, in partnership with the statewide effort, to keep land in agricultural production and ensure farmland is not developed before it can be successfully passed to the next generation of farmers.

**MONTGOMERY FRIENDS OF OPEN SPACE** **$750**
Enhance Public Access in Cherry Brook Preserve
The Friends propose to develop a kiosk and extend a pathway to improve and invite public access into the Cherry Brook Preserve.

**MUSCONETCONG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION** **$2,000**
Loop Trail along the Musconetcong River
An existing 1.5 mile overgrown and impassable trail runs along the Musconetcong River. The Watershed Association will improve and expand the trail to continue on the other side of the Musconetcong River, into Bethlehem Township, completing a 3.5-mile loop trail. This will be the only loop trail along the Musconetcong, a National Wild and Scenic River.

**NEW JERSEY AUDUBON SOCIETY** **$2,000**
Accessible Habitat & Pollinator Areas for People with Special Needs
NJ Audubon will develop wheelchair accessible bed planters, four resting benches, and a new wheelchair friendly path to the bed planters at their Sherman Hoffman Sanctuary in Bernardsville. The facility will be part of their nature education programming for youth and adults with special needs.

**PINELANDS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE** **$2,500**
Pinelands Land Protectors Volunteer Network
The Pinelands Land Protectors consists of 353 volunteers working on public and nonprofit lands in the Pinelands National Reserve to protect critical habitat from the harmful effects of off-road vehicle use, dumping, poaching, and other issues. The project will increase the number of volunteers to over 400.

**RANCOCAS CONSERVANCY** **$2,500**
Acquisition of the Katz Trust Property
The Conservancy is preserving the Katz Trust property, 200 acres adjacent to Brendan Byrne State Forest. Upon acquisition, the Conservancy will implement a management plan with its partner, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, to block off-road vehicles from entry into the preserve and to restore native plants, including Atlantic White Cedars. The grant funds will be used to cover soft costs for this acquisition.
RIDGE AND VALLEY CONSERVANCY $2,200
Pine Pond Preserve Invasive Species Management
The Conservancy will protect the floristic quality of this site by engaging in invasives control projects, guided by a botanical survey and stewardship plan, largely funded with a 2017 Franklin Parker grant. The Preserve is part of the Branchville NJ Natural Heritage Site.

SADDLER’S WOODS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION $2,000
Saddler’s Woods Riparian Restoration Project
This project will restore 15 acres of riparian forest habitat to reduce erosion and sedimentation in the Newton Creek Watershed in Camden County. The Association will engage community members in hands-on stewardship activities to accomplish this project.

SOURLAND CONSERVANCY $3,500
Sourland Stewards—Restoration of Baldpate Mountain
The Sourland Stewards, 18 trained volunteers, will engage in habitat restoration projects on a ridge of the Ted Stiles Preserve at Baldpate Mountain. This project will improve critical habitat for a state-listed plant species (yellow giant hyssop) as well as several listed bird species and work towards practical solutions to ash tree decline in NJ natural areas.

SOUTH JERSEY LAND AND WATER TRUST $620
Carneys Point Planning and Access Improvements
The Trust will make several improvements to their Preserve, including installation of entrance and park rules signage, removal of a dilapidated shed, and trail blazing. The Trust will also update its Forest Stewardship Plan to be more habitat friendly.

THE WATERSHED INSTITUTE $2,500
Forest Stewardship and Management
(formally Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association)
This grant will enable The Watershed Institute to purchase and erect deer fencing, conduct seasonal plant surveys, remove invasive plants and implement forest management practices. This work will be part of a long term experiment studying the impacts of deer herbivory and oak-hickory forest regeneration on their Watershed Preserve in Pennington.

THE WETLANDS INSTITUTE $3,500
Use of Technology to Learn Terrapin Behavior
This project will attach battery-powered digital radio transmitters to local terrapins to learn more about their behavior. The data will be used to improve habitat management for these turtles.

WHIPPANY RIVER WATERSHED ACTION COMMITTEE $2,450
Rain Garden Installation
The Committee, in cooperation with the Bethel AME Church, will install a rain garden to serve as a green infrastructure demonstration project and to help in the Committee’s comprehensive watershed enhancement plan along the Whippany River in Morristown.

BELOW: Volunteers organized by Pinelands Preservation Alliance install barriers to deter off-road vehicle use in Wharton State Forest, one of many volunteer projects funded by the Franklin Parker Conservation Excellence Grant.
2018 Financial Position

Support and Revenue

$11,716,484*

- Government Grants for Purchase of Land and Easements: 28%
- Individuals: 23%
- Foundations: 20%
- Contributed Services: 15%
- Organizations: 7%
- Other: 4%
- Special Events: 3%

Expenses and Land Purchases

$15,111,337*

- Program Management: 32%
- Purchase of Land: 26%
- Program Grants and Contributions: 17%
- Purchase of Easements: 17%
- Management and General: 4%
- Fundraising: 4%

Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>DECEMBER 31 2018 (1)</th>
<th>DECEMBER 31 2017 (1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>8,593,807</td>
<td>$2,880,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>6,045,952</td>
<td>13,261,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconditional Promises to Give, net</td>
<td>156,025</td>
<td>554,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beneficial Interest in Split Interest Agreements</td>
<td>194,003</td>
<td>283,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land, Buildings and Easements</td>
<td>37,450,385</td>
<td>36,569,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>478,907</td>
<td>223,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>52,919,079</td>
<td>$53,773,117</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>DECEMBER 31 2018 (1)</th>
<th>DECEMBER 31 2017 (1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>238,211</td>
<td>199,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refundable Advance</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>243,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>238,211</td>
<td>$442,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without Donor Restrictions</td>
<td>46,856,609</td>
<td>46,150,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With Donor Restrictions</td>
<td>5,824,259</td>
<td>7,180,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>52,680,868</td>
<td>53,330,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</td>
<td>52,919,079</td>
<td>$53,773,117</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Extracted from the December 31, 2018 audited financial statements
*Unaudited financial information
To receive a copy of the complete audited financial statements, please send a request to info@njconservation.org
To become a member of the Red Oak Society, please let us know if you wish to support New Jersey Conservation Foundation’s mission by:

- Giving through your will or charitable trust
- Giving through IRAs, qualified retirement plans, insurance or donor advised funds
- Gifts of conservation easements, cash, securities and real estate

To discuss how your planned gift will help ensure the permanence of preservation, contact Alison Mitchell, Assistant Director & Acting Director of Development, at 908-997-0711 or alison@njconservation.org.

While it is not necessary to advise us in advance that you have included New Jersey Conservation Foundation in your estate planning, we encourage you to let us know of your plans so that we may thank you and learn more about your interests.

If you wish to add us in your will or estate plan, please use the following listing: New Jersey Conservation Foundation/170 Longview Road / Far Hills, NJ 07931. Our tax identification number is 22-6065456.
“Healthy Soil = Healthy Food = Healthy People.”

J. I. RODALE