

Reminder to Farmland Assessment Applicants

Public Law 2013, Chapter 43 amended the Farmland Assessment Act. Under the law, the Director, Division of Taxation must include with each application an explanation of new changes to program requirements that occurred in the prior tax year and that will affect the year for which the application is filed.

Several key changes under Chapter 43 are in effect for applications for Farmland Assessment for Tax Year 2016, which are due to the tax assessor on August 1, 2015. These changes are:

- The \$500 Gross Sales criterion for the first 5 acres is **increased** to \$1,000, except for lands under a Woodland Management Plan, in which case the Gross Sales requirement remains at \$500 for the first 5 acres.
- The Gross Sales must be reported on the newly promulgated Supplemental Farmland Assessment Gross Sales Form, Form FA-1 G.S. This form must be filed along with the FA-1 application (and WD-1, where applicable) by August 1st. *Note: Where a crop or farm product is not harvested before the August 1st application deadline, applicant may provide an estimate of sales that will occur before December 31.* Form FA-1 G.S. is available on the Division of Taxation's website at: http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/pdf/other_forms/lpt/fa1-gs.pdf
- Where a farm's acreage is less than 7 acres, a descriptive narrative of the agricultural/horticultural uses, a sketch of their location and the number of acres devoted is required to be submitted w/the application.
- Civil penalties of up to \$5,000 may be imposed for gross, intentional misrepresentation on applications. Penalties collected are to be used in the administration of The Farmland Assessment Act.

Questions regarding the changes to Farmland Assessment under Chapter 43 may be directed to the Local Property Tax office of the Division of Taxation: (609) 292-7974 or (609) 292-7813.