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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEW JERSEY FARM BUREAU EXPRESSES APPRECIATION TO
CHARLES KUPERUS FOR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE**

TRENTON, NJ (October 24, 2008) – The New Jersey Farm Bureau today expressed appreciation for Secretary of Agriculture Charlie Kuperus’ more than six years of service to the state’s farming community.

“We owe Charlie a debt of thanks for all he did for New Jersey agriculture,” says Richard Nieuwenhuis, president of the Farm Bureau. “He was a knowledgeable, dedicated and hard-working secretary, continuing to advocate for farmland preservation and the Jersey Fresh program. He helped open new markets for farm produce, stressing the nutritional importance of fresh fruits and vegetables for school children and senior citizens. He spearheaded the opening of new farmers markets, which today total more than 100 throughout the state. He will be missed.”

The Farm Bureau now urges the Corzine administration to expeditiously work with the state Board of Agriculture, as outlined by statute, to quickly appoint a successor to this important leadership post.

“We look forward to working with the new leadership for the Department of Agriculture as a strong voice for our industry in facing the many challenges of these uncertain economic times,” says Nieuwenhuis.

The secretary of agriculture oversees programs that affect the state’s more than 9,000 farms, encompassing more than 820,000 acres, nearly 17% of New Jersey’s total land. The food and agricultural industry contributes approximately \$64-billion annually to the state’s economy.

For further information, contact the New Jersey Farm Bureau, at The Farmhouse, 168 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608. Phone 609-393-7163; fax 609-393-7072; email mail@njfb.org; website www.njfb.org

The New Jersey Farm Bureau is a non-profit member organization of 14,000+ farmers and farm-related individuals within the Garden State. It is the only organization solely dedicated to representing the grass- roots interests and directives of its members in educating all levels of government and the public on the farm community's policies and positions. The Farm Bureau also takes a lead in seeking out initiatives, activities and ventures to enhance the profitability of producer members and ensure the viability of agriculture in New Jersey -- *the Garden State for Good Reason -- our farms.*

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