



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **DEER FENCE FUNDING 2017**

The Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District will be administering a Deer Fence Grant with limited funding. This program is offered by New York State for the sole use of protecting farms from deer damage.

#### **Eligibility Criteria and Program Requirements**

- Applicants are required to complete a Ranking Questionnaire to base the funding determination on appropriate criteria. The Questionnaire is available upon request from the district.
- **Application MUST BE RECEIVED BY 3:00 p.m. on June 16, 2017.**
- Applicants must have or qualify for a New York State Agricultural Value Assessment (at least seven acres of land used in production for two or more years with an average gross sales value of \$10,000 or more).
- Applicants must be the owner of the land upon which the fencing will be erected or the applicant must rent land under a long term lease, and supply written certification by the landowner that the fencing will be *maintained* for a minimum of 10 years.
- The fencing must be installed in accordance with the USDA-NRCS Standards and Specifications for Deer Fence, *Code 382A – FENCE – WOVEN WIRE-DEER CONTROL* and fully enclosed.
- Fence installation must be completed by **February 1, 2018.**
- Applicants, approved for funding and certified as meeting program requirements, will be reimbursed at the rate of 75% of the average linear foot cost of materials and installation. A maximum reimbursement of \$10,000 will be awarded to the top ranking eligible applicants, set by the program's Administrative Committee.