



# New Jersey Agricultural Leadership Development Program

October 10, 2024

Dear Prospective Applicant:

We are pleased to learn of your interest in Class 13 of the ***New Jersey Agricultural Leadership Development Program***. NJALDP is a two-year leadership development program offered by the New Jersey Agricultural Society in conjunction with Rutgers University/NJ Agricultural Experiment Station and our partners: New Jersey Department of Agriculture, New Jersey Farm Bureau, and Farm

Credit East. This program has been in existence for almost 30 years and we hope you will become part of the network of leaders who will make an impact on New Jersey's agricultural industry today and for years to come.

One of the many benefits of the program is the opportunity to learn from fellow class members. To maximize that experience, successful candidates will be selected from a wide range of interest/background areas who represent the breadth of New Jersey's agricultural community. Emphasis will be placed on selecting individuals who bring varied leadership experiences to the class and want to develop their skills to enhance the agricultural and food systems industry of the state and beyond.

Many NJALDP graduates express sincere appreciation for the opportunity for self-development and reflection provided by the program. NJALDP helps individuals build their leadership skills, understand the public policy process, and view a variety of related issues with the challenge to consider them from a new perspective. Two very important study tours are included in the program: 1) Washington D.C. to expose participants to agricultural policy at the federal level and 2) an international travel experience that will challenge and teach participants to look beyond New Jersey to become more well-rounded as individuals and as leaders.

We encourage every interested applicant to learn more about NJALDP by reviewing the enclosed information, talking to past and present class members, and visiting our website. Alumni can be especially helpful when wrestling with the issue of how to find the time to participate. There is an old cliché: "Things that are worth doing usually aren't easy". Making the time commitment for NJALDP isn't easy, but it is worth it. Over 200 New Jersey alumni have done it; you can too. A draft schedule for Class 13 is included in the application packet. Please be sure to note any conflicts you might have as attendance is mandatory,

**Applications must be in our office by April 1, 2025**, but we are happy to accept them earlier. Please use the checklist provided to make sure you have submitted all the necessary information. Feel free to download the electronic Word file from our website, answer the questions electronically, and simply e-mail the completed application back to us. Attached is the application packet for Class 13. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please call (609) 462-9691 or email [leadership@njagsociety.org](mailto:leadership@njagsociety.org)

We look forward to your application!

Sincerely,

Amy Blew-Ordog  
Chair, NJALDP Committee  
[leadership@njagsociety.org](mailto:leadership@njagsociety.org)



New Jersey Agricultural Society  
1200 Florence Columbus Road  
Bordentown, NJ 08505  
[www.njagsociety.org](http://www.njagsociety.org)  
609.462.9691

Enc. Application Packet

# New Jersey Agricultural Leadership Development Program

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

**Deadline is April 1, 2025 (items below may be e-mailed unless otherwise noted)**

Part I:  Contact information and personal background. Must be completed by all applicants.

Part II:  Occupation. Must be completed by all applicants.

Part III:  Leadership Experience. Must be completed by all applicants.

Part IV:  References and Agreements

**Pages requiring signatures may be scanned or mailed separately.**

i. Employer Statement of Support

If you are employed by someone else or share your business with another person, a statement of support is required. Supply the appropriate person with information about the NJALDP program and a sample calendar of workshops. The statement may be sent in with the application or mailed separately.

ii. Three Letters of Recommendation

Ask three individuals with personal knowledge of your leadership abilities and potential to submit a letter of recommendation in support of your applications. These individuals should be given a recommendation form and information describing the NJALDP program. (Brochures are available at [www.njagsociety.org](http://www.njagsociety.org) for printing).

***Deadline for letters of recommendations is April 1, 2025.***



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# New Jersey Agricultural Leadership Development Program

## Class 13 (2025 - 2027) Application

*(Please type all responses)*

### Part I. Personal Background

1. Full name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Initial)

2. Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mobile Number)

3. Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

5. County of residence: \_\_\_\_\_ 6. List all schools

attended including high schools, colleges and/or short courses

| Name of School | Date | Degree Earned | Major/Minor Field |
|----------------|------|---------------|-------------------|
|                |      |               |                   |
|                |      |               |                   |
|                |      |               |                   |
|                |      |               |                   |



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## Part II: Occupation

1. Answer all applicable questions

\_\_\_\_\_ Full time farm \_ owner \_ manager \_ employee

\_\_\_\_\_ Part time farm \_ owner \_ manager \_ employee

\_\_\_\_\_ Agribusiness – direct service to farms

\_\_\_\_\_ Business-Supplier

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-profit organization, government agency, educational institution

\_\_\_\_\_ Other

2. Your title: \_\_\_\_\_

Years in present situation: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Briefly describe the business you work for including size, type, number of employees, recent changes, corporate status, etc.

4. Briefly describe your work responsibilities.

5. Briefly describe future plans you have for your business/employment.



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6. What employment have you held in previous years other than with your present employer?

| Employer | Dates | Position |
|----------|-------|----------|
|          |       |          |
|          |       |          |
|          |       |          |
|          |       |          |
|          |       |          |
|          |       |          |
|          |       |          |
|          |       |          |
|          |       |          |
|          |       |          |

7. Are you currently employed in any other occupation (2<sup>nd</sup> job)? \_\_\_\_\_ (yes/no) If yes, please describe:



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## Part III: Leadership Experience

1. Indicate your membership and offices held in any of the following organizations: Food and agriculture industry, civic, church, governmental, and professional associations.

| Organization | Dates of membership | Special responsibilities |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|              |                     |                          |
|              |                     |                          |
|              |                     |                          |
|              |                     |                          |
|              |                     |                          |
|              |                     |                          |
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|              |                     |                          |
|              |                     |                          |

2. Describe briefly what you consider to be your best leadership contribution to an organization or your business.

3. What do you think are the qualities needed in leadership?



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4. What leadership skills do you think you need to develop?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. If selected for NJALDP, what talents and experience do you think you could share with your fellow class members?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. If selected for the NJALDP program, how would you utilize the knowledge and experience that you gain?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. NJALDP sets a high standard for attendance and participation by all class members. Please describe your level of commitment to the program – how will you prioritize other responsibilities (e.g. work, family, volunteer activities) in order to be able to fully participate in NJALDP?



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## Part IV: References and Agreement

1. List three individuals you have contacted to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf.

| Name | Address | City/State/Zip | Telephone/Email |
|------|---------|----------------|-----------------|
|      |         |                |                 |
|      |         |                |                 |
|      |         |                |                 |

2. Class 13 DRAFT Seminar Schedule – Dates will be confirmed once class is seated.

Seminar 1: September 9-11, 2025

Seminar 2: November 10-11, 2025 (New Jersey Farm Bureau Convention)

Seminar 3: January 15-16, 2026

Seminar 4: February 10-12, 2026 (New Jersey State Ag Convention)

Domestic Trip: Washington D.C. March 22-26, 2026

Seminar 5: June 9-11, 2026

Seminar 6: September 15-17, 2026

Seminar 7: November 16-17, 2026 (New Jersey Farm Bureau Convention)

Seminar 8: December 8-9, 2026

Seminar 9: January 20-21, 2027

Seminar 10: February 24-25, 2027

Agricultural Study Tour - International: March 20-27, 2027

Graduation: April 12, 2027

If you have any potential conflicts for any of these dates, please explain:





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3. I understand that the selection of class members is the sole responsibility of the NJ

Agricultural Society Leadership Committee.

If I am accepted as a member of Class 13 of the NJALDP program:

- 1) *I agree to pay a full tuition fee of \$4500, which includes two years of seminars (ten total), one trip to Washington D.C. and one international trip. I understand that I cannot attend any seminars until the first payment of \$2500 is due on September 1, 2025. The remaining \$2000 is due September 1, 2026. If needed, payment plans are available. I understand that I cannot attend any seminars if my payments are not up to date. I also understand I will be responsible for incidental expenses incurred and for transportation to and from the workshops within New Jersey.*
- 2) I agree to participate in class fundraising activities of \$1,500 per person for Class 13 as described in the program information.
- 3) I agree to attend **all scheduled sessions** and follow through on agreed upon NJALDP responsibilities. I have reviewed the draft schedule and provided information on any conflicts
- 4) I understand that the program requires more than just seminar attendance. I agree to complete assignments such as readings, session evaluations, public presentations, assessments, writing reports, meeting attendance (CBA, etc.), fundraising event(s), etc.
- 5) I agree to attend the New Jersey Agricultural Society Gala as a volunteer or guest at least one of the two years.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this application and the attachments on the checklist to:

New Jersey Agricultural Society - NJALDP



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# New Jersey Agricultural Leadership Development Program

**Deadline for Application is April 1, 2025**

Candidate's name \_\_\_\_\_

## Employer's/Partner's Statement of Support

The above employee is submitting an application to participate in the NJALDP program over the next two years. **Participants in the program must attend all workshops and seminars, including one week-long international trip.** Thus, if selected the individual will need time away from his/her position **to attend all activities.** A sample workshop schedule for Class 13 is available at [www.njagsociety.org](http://www.njagsociety.org) or by calling 609-462-9691.

Your commitment of support is a significant contribution to the program and is appreciated.

Employer's or Partner's Business Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's name and title (if applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I have reviewed the NJALDP material and will support the necessary time for the above candidate to participate fully in the program.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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# New Jersey Agricultural Leadership Development Program

## Confidential Personal/Business Recommendation

Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

All recommendations must be in the NJALDP office no later than **April 1, 2025**

As we search for people with leadership potential, we would appreciate your frank evaluation of his/her abilities and attitudes. All information will be treated confidentially and will be used only by members of the Selection Committee.

1. I know the applicant in a \_\_\_\_\_ business or \_\_\_\_\_ personal capacity: \_\_\_\_\_

Thoroughly \_\_\_\_\_ Fairly well \_\_\_\_\_ Casually 2. How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the nature of your association with the applicant?

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4. Please check your best judgment of the candidate relative to the following:

| Demonstrated leadership       | Superior | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----------|------|------|------|
| Critical thinking             |          |           |      |      |      |
| Ability to work with others   |          |           |      |      |      |
| Personal Character            |          |           |      |      |      |
| Ability to communicate        |          |           |      |      |      |
| Action and change orientation |          |           |      |      |      |



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5. Please comment on what you think the applicant would contribute to the class, the industry, and/or the community. (Strengths to share.)

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6. Please comment on growth areas for the applicant. (Areas in need of improvement)

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for completing this recommendation.

Please return to:  
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[leadership@njagsociety.org](mailto:leadership@njagsociety.org)



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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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