

**ONONDAGA COUNTY
AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD**

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DEBORAH MATURO
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Chairman

DATE: December 15, 2009

TO: Onondaga County Legislators, Town Supervisors, Planning Board Chairpersons within
Agricultural District No. 1

FROM: Roberta Harrison, Member, Onondaga Co. Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board

RE: Review of Agricultural District No. 1

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has notified the Onondaga County Legislature that Agricultural District No. 1 located in the Towns of Onondaga and Otisco and in the Town of Lafayette (west of Route 81) and the Town of Tully (west of Route 81) is scheduled for its 8-year review.

The review is designed to gauge the District's effect on local government policies concerning community development, environmental protection and preservation of the agricultural economy. The review will also evaluate the viability of farms and farmland within the agricultural district. Municipalities have the option to request that land be removed from the district at this time, e.g. land enrolled in a district that is now a subdivision. Once the review is complete land cannot be removed from the district until the next review in 2018. Outside of the 8-year review process property owners can request that land be enrolled into the agricultural district through the "inclusion of viable farmland into certified agricultural districts." Application for inclusion occurs between January 1 and January 31st each year. Land owners and municipalities can only request to have land removed from the district during the formal review process.

Letters will be sent to property owners whose land is currently enrolled in the district. Property owners with land already enrolled in the district have several options at this time: 1) Do nothing and the land will remain in the district. They do not have to re-enroll their property. 2) Request that the property be deleted from the district by completing the delete form and returning it to the Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency. 3) Request that property not enrolled in the district be enrolled in the district at this time.

A copy of the enrollment form and Onondaga County Agricultural District Map No. 1 has been included for your reference. Local municipalities will be notified of any property owners who request to have their property enrolled or removed. As this process evolves a public hearing notice will be sent to affected municipalities. For more information contact Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency, Megan Costa, email MeganCosta@ongov.net or phone 435-8571.

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