

ONONDAGA COUNTY
AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD

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KATHERINE KNIGHT
Assistant Clerk

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Chairman

To: Agricultural District #1 Farm Operators within the Towns of Onondaga, Otisco, and the Towns of Tully and Lafayette (west of Route 81)

From: Roberta Harrison, Resource Educator

Date: October 30, 2009

Re: Agricultural District #1 Renewal

The purpose of agricultural districts is to preserve, protect and encourage the advancement and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products. Some of the benefits to agricultural property owners within an agricultural district include a mandate that State agencies, as a matter of policy encourage the maintenance of viable farming operations, place a limitation on the exercise of eminent domain and other public acquisition of farmland, and require that local land use regulations not unreasonably restrict or regulate farm operations.

Every 8 years an agricultural district is renewed. Part of the process of renewing Agricultural District #1 is to collect data on farms located within the district. This information serves as one way to compare the area to county data collected through the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Information about individual farms is private and not available to the public. The individual surveys are compiled into a summary report that is approved by the Onondaga Co. Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board which is then forwarded to the Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency, the Onondaga County Legislature and ultimately the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Efforts have been made to target local farm operators, at the same time, the database used for the survey is a result of the previous Agricultural District No. 1 and thus changes to current ownership are not always accurate. If a current farm operator, please take a few moments to fill out the enclosed form both front and back. If land is currently rented please complete Part 1 and Part 3 and note who is currently renting the property. If you are a farm operator with a farmstead outside of the district but renting land inside of the district, please complete the survey as well reflecting only the acres owned or rented inside of the district. The information will be useful to the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board as they evaluate strategies to implement the Onondaga County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan.

The worksheet needs to be returned by November 16 to Bobbie Harrison, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Onondaga Co., 220 Herald Place, 2nd Floor, Syracuse, NY 13202. If you desire to add additional property not already included in the district, or if you desire to delete property from the agricultural district, please request a copy of the addition or deletion form from Bobbie Harrison at Cornell Cooperative Extension.

For any additional information, please contact either Bobbie Harrison at Cornell Cooperative Extension (ph. 424-9485 x 226) or email at rmh27@cornell.edu.

Thank you for your help in completing the review process.