



ULSTER COUNTY NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
OFFICE OF ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
244 FAIR STREET
KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12401

PHONE: 845.340-3900
FAX: 845.340.3651
www.co.ulster.ny.us
www.ulstercountyny.gov

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CONTACT:

Dennis Doyle, Director
Ulster County Planning Board
845.340.3339

Annual Addition Of Lands To State Designated Agricultural Districts

ATTENTION FARMERS – Is your farm currently in one of Ulster County's State Certified Agricultural Districts? If not, from March 1, through March 30, 2006, Ulster County Agricultural Farmland Protection Board will accept applications to include "viable agricultural land" into existing Agricultural Districts.

The schedule for annual additions to Agricultural Districts was established by the Ulster County Legislature in 2003. Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature, David B. Donaldson, noted, "Being able to add land to Agricultural Districts on an annual basis helps us ensure that farmers in our County enjoy the protection and recognition of these districts." He added, "Agriculture is an important component of the County's economy, not only in terms of direct dollars, but it also contributes to the quality of life of our residents and attracts thousands of tourists annually." Since annual additions were permitted, 2,019 acres have been added to Agricultural Districts.

Landowners seeking inclusion into an Agricultural District will need to complete an *Agricultural District Review Worksheet*, provide copies of the relevant portion of the tax map and a description of the land and farm activities. The Ulster County Agricultural Farmland Protection Board will review these materials and make recommendations to the Ulster County Legislature concerning the inclusion of the parcels.

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Landowners should be aware that significant "right to farm" protection is afforded to lands within Agricultural Districts where local regulation of farm practices are limited by State Law. Inclusion in a District also provides agricultural uses relief from ad valorem levies, such as imposed by water and sewer districts, as well as protection from public investments that encourage non-farm development, and eminent domain.

To receive a *Worksheet*, brochure or more information about the Agricultural Districts review process, please contact Teresa Rusinek at 845-340-3990 or visit the Cornell Cooperative Extension website at - www.cce.cornell.edu/~Ulster/ and click on Farmland Preservation Tools.