

ADDITION OF VIABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDS
NEW YORK STATE CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS
ONONDAGA COUNTY

Onondaga County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board

May 2012

ONONDAGA COUNTY
AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD
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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of the Onondaga County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board’s 2012 review for the addition of viable agricultural land to agricultural districts in Onondaga County. The Onondaga County Legislature formally designated by Resolution 71 on April 5, 2004 an annual 30-day period in January when landowners can request that their land be added to an agricultural district.

Viable agricultural land, as defined in NYS Agriculture and Markets 25-AA, Section 301, sub.7, is “...land highly suitable for agricultural production and which will continue to be economically feasible for such use if real property taxes, farm use restrictions, and speculative activities are limited to levels approximating those in commercial agricultural areas not influenced by the proximity of non-agricultural development.” The requested additions were, therefore, examined primarily for natural features, location relative to existing agricultural districts, the size and characteristics of onsite and adjacent agricultural operations, agricultural production opportunities, and nearby development trends.

LAND OWNER REQUESTS

Land owners have requested that the following parcels be added to agricultural districts within Onondaga County.

2012 ADDITIONS				
DISTRICT	MUNICIPALITY	OWNER	TAX ID	GIS ACRES
1	ONONDAGA	Amidon	052.-01-02.0	18.55
1	ONONDAGA	Wegerski	028.-01-44.1	86.28
1 Total				104.83
3	ELBRIDGE	Hiltbrand	037.-01-25.0	35.23
3	ELBRIDGE	Hiltbrand	041.-03-42.0	125.28
3	ELBRIDGE	Hourigan	030.-02-11.2	5.14
3	ELBRIDGE	Hourigan	030.-02-11.3	3.14
3	ELBRIDGE	Hourigan	030.-03-17.0	9.05
3	ELBRIDGE	Hourigan	040.-03-03.1	7.9
3 Total				185.74
4 Total	ONONDAGA	Southwick	038.-02-03.1	75.32
Grand Total				365.89

All of the parcels are part of an agricultural operation, are within a reasonable distance of a nearby district, and add to the region’s working landscapes that are viewed favorably by area residents. The Town of Onondaga parcels are in still rural areas on the fringe of the expanding Syracuse Urbanized Area as defined by the 2010 Census. Public water is available in these areas, and one parcel is within County’s Sanitary District and nearby expanding sewer infrastructure. Seven parcels are located in the Town of Elbridge, in still rural areas north and south of the NYS Route 5 corridor and its expanding public water infrastructure, job centers (Welch Allyn and Tessa Plastics), and rural residential development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The OCPB recommend adding all of the parcels as requested to an agricultural district. The farm sector in Onondaga County is strong and stable and the 2010 Onondaga County Development Guide and the Agricultural Farmland Protection Plan identify agriculture and farmland protection as an important goal for protecting rural areas and slowing the ongoing urbanization during a period when population is aging and declining.

APPENDICES

Resolution - Annual 30-Day

Media - News Release

Form - Annual Additions Request

Resolution - Public Hearing Notice

Notice - Public Hearing Notice

Letter - Public Hearing Landowner

Minutes - Public Hearing

Resolution - Approval

SEQR Environmental Assessment Form

Map - Final