

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

Onondaga County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board

**March 2013**

**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 2013 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 Law, Article 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.

## LANDOWNER REQUESTS

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

2013 ADDITIONS				
DISTRICT	TOWN	OWNER	PARCEL	ACRES*
1	LAFAYETTE	ROUTE 20 CROSSROADS CORP	020.-06-01.2	29.5
1	ONONDAGA	JOHN & ANITA AMIDON	052.-01-03.4	4.91
1	ONONDAGA	JOHN & ANITA AMIDON	052.-01-03.5	1.26
1	ONONDAGA	SAUL KLEINBERG & LAURA JACKSON	055.-03-12.1	17.67
<b>District 1 Total</b>				<b>53.34</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>53.34</b>
* Calculated using a Geographic Information System, not Real Property Services (RPS) data.				

The LaFayette parcel is in the hamlet of LaFayette, just off the Route 81 interchange at Route 20, and is surrounded by properties currently in Agricultural District 1. It was removed from District 1 during the 2010 8-year review but is now being leased to a farmer for corn production.

Parcels 052.-01-03.4 and 052.-01-03.5 in the Town of Onondaga are approximately one mile from the Syracuse Urbanized Area as defined by the 2010 Census and are near land currently in Agricultural District 1. The land is being farmed by a family member. Onondaga parcel 055.-03-12.1 is adjacent to land currently in District 1 and is approximately one mile from the County Sanitary District and the Syracuse Urbanized Area. The current owners recently purchased this property and intend to use the land for commercial hops production.



*Town of LaFayette parcel 020.-06-01.2. Parcels currently in Ag District 1 are hatched.*



*Town of Onondaga parcels 052.-01-03.4 and 052.-01-03.5. Parcels currently in Ag District 1 are hatched.*



*Town of Onondaga parcel 055.-03-12.1. Parcels currently in Ag District 1 are hatched.*

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board recommends adding the parcels as requested to Agricultural District 1. The farm sector in Onondaga County is strong and stable and the Onondaga County 2010 Development Guide, the draft Onondaga County Sustainable Development Plan, and the Onondaga County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan identify protection of agriculture and farmland as an important goal for preserving the character of rural areas.

## 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