

# REPORT TO THE ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE

## ANNUAL ADDITION OF VIABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDS TO NEW YORK STATE CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS IN ONONDAGA COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2024

### ONONDAGA COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD

CRAIG DENNIS  
KAY HILSBURG  
LEE HUDSON

#### BRIAN REEVES, CHAIR

DAN KWASNOWSKI  
BRIAN MAY  
EDWIN SKEELE  
DAVID SKEVAL

MARK TUCKER  
DONALD WEBER  
SCOTT WINKELMAN

WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE ONONDAGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of the Onondaga County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board's (AFPB) 2024 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 a farm operation..." and a farm operation as defined in sub.11 is "...the land and on-farm buildings, equipment, manure processing and handling facilities, and practices which contribute to the production, preparation and marketing of crops, livestock and livestock products as a commercial enterprise..."

NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets provides further guidance in how it defines farm operations and thresholds in determining farm activities to constitute a commercial enterprise, to include factors such as types of products, acreage in production, gross sales and capital investment, experience and commitment.

In judging viability, Article 25-AA of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law requires the AFPB to consider:

- natural factors including soil, climate, topography;
- markets for farm products;
- the extent and nature of farm improvements;
- the present status of farming;
- anticipated trends in agricultural economic conditions and technology; and

- any other relevant factors.

The following requested additions are, therefore, examined primarily for the presence and characteristics of onsite and related commercial farm operations and production opportunities, highly suitable land, location relative to existing agricultural districts, nearby development, and natural features.

**LANDOWNER REQUESTS**

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

2024 ADDITION REQUESTS				
DISTRICT	MUNICIPALITY	OWNER	PARCEL	GIS ACRES*
3	ELBRIDGE	JOSEPH M. MOORE	038.-02-08.1	4.97
3	ELBRIDGE (Village)	JOSEPH M. MOORE	022.1.-02-07.0	2.37
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				<b>7.34</b>
* Geographic Information System (GIS) calculated data, not Real Property Services (RPS) data.				

**DISTRICT 3 ADDITION REQUESTS**

**ELBRIDGE (JOSEPH M MOORE):** The landowner is requesting the addition of two parcels (outlined in blue on the image to the right) totaling approximately 7.34 acres at the northern-most terminus of Valley Drive in a rural location along the border between the Town and Village of Elbridge.



The parcels are part of the Moore farm, which includes two additional parcels to the west, 038.-01-37.1 (Town of Elbridge) and 022.1-01-01.0 (Village of Elbridge) that are both in Agricultural District 3 (shaded in green in the image to the right).

The agricultural productive areas of the requested parcel additions are comprised of Prime Soils and Soils of Statewide Importance.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The farm sector in Onondaga County is strong and stable and the Onondaga County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan, Plan Onondaga, and municipal planning documents identify protection of agriculture and farmland as an important goal for preserving the character of rural areas.

As mentioned in the Introduction to this report, the requested additions were examined primarily for the presence and characteristics of onsite and related commercial farm operations and production opportunities, highly suitable land, location relative to existing agricultural districts, nearby development, and natural features.

The Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board recommends adding the following requested parcels to Agricultural District 3, as they have demonstrated all or most of the abovementioned desired characteristics. The total acreage being recommended for addition is 7.34 acres.

<b>2024 RECOMMENDED ANNUAL ADDITIONS</b>				
<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>	<b>OWNER</b>	<b>PARCEL</b>	<b>GIS ACRES*</b>
3	ELBRIDGE	JOSEPH M. MOORE	038.-02-08.1	4.97
3	ELBRIDGE (Village)	JOSEPH M. MOORE	022.1.-02-07.0	2.37
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				<b>7.34</b>
* Geographic Information System (GIS) calculated data, not Real Property Services (RPS) data.				

**APPENDICES**

- Resolution - Annual 30-Day
- Form - Annual Additions Request
- Resolution - Public Hearing Notice
- Notice - Public Hearing Notice
- Letter - Public Hearing Landowner
- Minutes - Public Hearing
- Resolution - Approval
- Map – Annual Additions Map
- SEQRA - Environmental Assessment Form