

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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To: Ulster County Municipal Clerks, Assessors, Supervisors & Mayors
From: John R. Parete, Chair
Re: Annual Agricultural District Inclusions
Date: February 17, 2014

NYS Agriculture & Markets *Law Section 303-b*, mandates that every county containing *certified agricultural districts* designate an annual 30-day period for landowners to request that their predominately viable agricultural lands be included within a NYS Certified Agricultural District. In Ulster County, that annual 30 day inclusion period will occur begin on March 1 and end on March 30, 2014.

Notice of this annual inclusion period has been sent to area newspapers and radio stations. Please help our efforts by posting the enclosed flyer in a prominent location. Also enclosed are copies of the Agricultural District Inclusion worksheet that landowners need to complete and return no later than March 30, 2014 for consideration this year. Finally, enclosed are brochures from the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets explaining New York's Agricultural District Law. Please feel free to distribute these as you wish.

Enacted in 1971, New York's Agricultural District Law (ADL) is a tool for maintaining lands in agriculture, and ensuring New York's position as an agricultural state. The ADL recognizes that agricultural lands are important and irreplaceable resources, which are in jeopardy of being lost as a result of increasing costs of agricultural businesses, development pressures and regulatory constraints. The law seeks to create economic and regulatory incentives which encourage farmers to continue farming by providing them with a number of benefits and protections.

Thank you for your help with these efforts. Please contact Burt Samuelson of the Ulster County Planning Department at (845) 339-2490 should you have any questions or require more information. Forms and information are also available at the Ulster County Planning website at <http://ulstercountyny.gov/planning/annual-agricultural-district-inclusions>.