



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Time to Get Into a Certified Agricultural District

The Ulster County Legislature will accept requests from March 1 through March 30, 2013 from landowners wanting to have their agricultural lands included within a NYS Certified Agricultural District.

Landowners seeking inclusion into a Certified Agricultural District must submit a completed *Ag. District Inclusion Worksheet* with tax map identification number(s), a copy of the relevant portion to the tax map, and a description of the land to Virginia Craft, Ulster County Planning Dept., 244 Fair St., PO Box 1800, Kingston, NY 12402-1800 within this thirty-day period.

The *Ag. District Inclusion Worksheet* and a brochure explaining Agricultural Districts are available through the Ulster County Planning Dept.'s website at" <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/planning> Select Agriculture, then click on Annual Agricultural District Inclusions. To receive a worksheet, brochure or more information about the inclusion process, please contact Virginia Craft, Senior Planner at (845) 340-3469 or via email vcra@co.ulster.ny.us

Agricultural District Law adopted by the New York State Legislature in 1971 provides for the creation of Agricultural Districts to protect and promote the availability of land for farming purposes. Lands within Districts are protected from unreasonable local regulation of farm practices, the acquisition by public entities through the use of eminent domain, and the advance of public funds to construct facilities that encourage non-farm development. Additionally, land used in agricultural production within an Agricultural District is not subject to special assessments, *ad valorem* levies or other rates and fees for the financing of improvements such as water, sewer or non-farm drainage.

Ulster County has four certified Agricultural Districts containing over 70,000 acres of farmland.