



Thirty Day Window Period to Join County Agricultural Districts

The State amended the Agriculture and Markets Law giving farmers more flexibility to join agricultural districts. The amended law requires counties to choose a 30-day window period when farmers may join an agricultural district (outside of the normal 8 year review period). Otsego County has discussed this issue with its Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board and the Board voted to allow this “window period” to occur during the month of January each year.

In simple terms, any farmer in the county who wishes to join an ag. district can petition the county planning department for such during the month of January. Each case will be reviewed by the County’s Ag. and Farmland Protection Board and a public hearing will be held by the County Legislature. New agricultural district maps will be created with the added parcels. A short report of those parcels added will be sent to the state Department of Ag. and Markets.

Please remember that all applications for joining an ag. district must be received by the County Planning Department between January 1, 2019 and February 1, 2019. Requests should include a letter with the names of the owners of the land, the tax parcel numbers of the land and *the reason the parcels should be considered for addition to the district*. Anyone with questions is encouraged to contact the county planning department at 607-547-4225.