



Department of Planning
175 Arsenal Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Michael J. Bourcy
Director of Planning

(315) 785-3144
(315) 785-5092 (Fax)

MEMO

To: Melissa L. Verne, Town of LeRay
From: Samuel Wilson, Assistant Planner
Date: June 1, 2023
Subject: North Agricultural District #2, Eight Year Review...

Land within the Towns of Alexandria, Antwerp, Brownville, Cape Vincent, Clayton, LeRay, Lyme, Orleans, Pamela, Philadelphia, and Theresa are located within the North Agricultural District. As part of NYS Agriculture and Markets Law, NYS Certified Agricultural Districts must undergo an eight-year review process to ensure that agriculture is still viable within the District.

A 30-Day Review Period Notice was published in the Watertown Daily Times on June 1st, 2023. Please see the attached notice. This review period dated, June 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023, is the opportunity for landowners to request land to be added or removed from the current district.

A requirement in NYS Agriculture and Markets Law is that the notice be posted in various areas of the District. I would appreciate it if you would post this notice on your website and/or public bulletin board.

For further information on this review is available on the Planning Department's webpage, <https://co.jefferson.ny.us/departments/Planning/nys-certified-agricultural-district>

If you have any questions call me at 315-785-3144. Thank you.

Jefferson County Announces Thirty Day Period for Landowners to Submit Modifications to the Jefferson County North Agricultural District #2

NYS Agriculture and Markets Law requires the County Legislature to review a District every 8 years. The North Agricultural District #2 is located within the Towns of Alexandria, Orleans, Clayton, Cape Vincent, Lyme, Brownville, Pamela, LeRay, Philadelphia, Antwerp, and Theresa. The North 8 year review starts with a 30 day review period beginning on June 1st, 2023 and ending on June 30th, 2023.

During the 30 day review period, any municipality whose territory encompasses the North Agricultural District #2, or any landowner within or adjacent to the District, may propose a modification of the District by completing a survey and submitting it to the Jefferson County Planning Department within the 30 day period.

Benefits to farm operations within certified Agricultural Districts include the following: potential eligibility for an agricultural assessment; maintenance of viable farming in Agricultural Districts through state agency policies; limitations on the exercise of eminent domain; limitations on benefit assessments in certain improvement districts; and limitations on the enactment of regulations that unreasonably restrict or regulate a farm operation.

At the termination of the 30 day period, the District and any proposed modifications will be referred to the Jefferson County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) for review and recommendation. A public hearing will be scheduled later this year to discuss the current District, any proposed modifications, and the recommendation of the AFBP.

Surveys have been mailed to current farmers within the North District. Farmers/Landowners who wish to submit a proposal to add or remove land may go to the Planning Department webpage to download the form or call the Jefferson County Department of Planning, 785-3144.

Completed surveys must be returned by June 30, 2023 to the Jefferson County Department of Planning by mail, email or fax: 175 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY 13601, swilson@co.jefferson.ny.us or fax number 315-785-5092. If you have any questions please contact Sam Wilson, Jefferson County Department of Planning, 315-785-3144.