

SUMMARY OF SECTION 303-B AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS INCLUSION OF VIABLE AGRICULTURAL LAND.

1. The Jefferson County Board of Legislators (BOL) shall designate an annual 30 day period to accept requests by landowners to have viable agricultural land included in a certified Agricultural District.

Requests shall

- identify the Agricultural District in which the land is proposed to be included,
- describe the land,
- include tax map identification numbers,
- include relevant portions of tax maps, for each parcel of land to be included, and
- consist of whole tax parcels only.

2. At end of the 30 day period, the Jefferson County Board of Legislators shall refer requests to the Jefferson County Agricultural Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) for a recommendation on whether the proposed inclusions consist of viable agricultural land and whether the inclusions would serve the public interest by maintaining a viable agricultural industry within the district.

The AFPB has 30 days to report its recommendation to the BOL.

3. After receipt of the AFPB Report and following proper notice, the BOL shall hold a Public Hearing.
4. Within 120 days of the termination of the 30 day review period, the BOL, by resolution, shall adopt or reject the inclusion of the requested land.
5. Upon the adoption of a resolution to include predominantly viable agricultural land within a certified agricultural district, the BOL shall submit a proposal to include new lands to the NYS Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets.
6. Within 30 days of the receipt of the BOL resolution, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets shall certify to the BOL whether the inclusion of the land is feasible and shall serve the public interest. The land shall become part of the District immediately upon such certification.