



For Immediate Release

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Wayne County Annual Ag District Enrollment

Available through January 31

Lyons, NY – January 5, 2023 – Wayne County is home to almost 160-thousand acres of agricultural land with productive soils that are used by a wide variety of local farming operations. Many of these land parcels are identified in one existing, certified, countywide Agricultural District. Landowners who utilize properties for farming purposes which are not currently in the District are encouraged to apply for enrollment. This applies to properties that are “predominantly viable agricultural land.” The Wayne County Board of Supervisors has established the annual agricultural district review period from January 1 to January 31 each year. During this open enrollment, owners can apply to add their properties to the Wayne County agricultural district.

Ora Rothfuss, Agricultural Development Specialist for Wayne County Economic Development and Planning, is the local expert who can assist landowners with the application process. “Our county has a vibrant farming community,” Rothfuss stated. “This program is an important part of protecting the farm operations and farmland for the future.” State-certified agricultural districts offer operational benefits and local protections to farming operations on land that is used for farming purposes. These benefits are not related to municipal zoning ordinances but do allow for protected activities on land that is admitted into the county district.



Enrollment applications require information about the farm operations such as the farm owner’s name, address, tax parcel identification number and a description of the general farm operations performed on that parcel. The current district maps and applications are available for review on the county website www.WayneCountyNY.gov under Planning / Agricultural Development and Agricultural District Maps. For more information on Agricultural Development programs and opportunities in the county please contact the office at 315-946-5919.

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