



Douglas Shelmidine, Chairperson
Jefferson County Agriculture &
Farmland Protection Board
c/o Jefferson County Department of Planning
175 Arsenal St
Watertown NY 13601

MEMO

To: Agricultural Landowners in the Jefferson County Southwest Agricultural District #3
From: Sam Wilson, Community Development Coordinator
Subject: Southwest District Eight-Year Review Survey
Date: May 30, 2025

Enclosed are two forms related to the certification of Jefferson County's Southwest Agricultural District #3:

- (1) Southwest Agricultural District Farm Survey (please complete and return to us by **June 30, 2025**),
- (2) Southwest Agricultural District Parcel Addition Form (please complete this form to **ADD** parcels into the Southwest Agricultural District, return the form to us to add parcels or discard it if you are not adding parcels).

You are receiving this memo and survey because you own land that is included in the Jefferson County Southwest Agricultural District #3. The Southwest District includes land in the Towns of Hounsfield, Henderson, Ellisburg, and portions of the towns of Adams, Watertown, and Lorraine.

New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, Section 25AA, requires Counties to review Agricultural Districts every eight years. Section 25AA establishes a 30-day period when landowners may propose modifications to the District. Land may be requested to be added or removed from the District at this time. The 30-day review period for the Southwest District is from **June 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025**.

To view Town Agricultural District maps, go to <https://www.jeffersoncountyny.gov/resource-maps> and click on Jefferson County Agricultural Districts Map 2024 at the top of the page under Agriculture. Town Agricultural Districts identify parcels that are part of a NYS Certified Agricultural District.

The NYS Certified Agricultural District is not the same as a town's agricultural zoning district. A certified Agricultural District is authorized through NYS Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 25AA.

A significant part of the Eight-Year Review process is a report that the County is required to submit to the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, which documents the viability and importance of agriculture in the District. The substance of the report is based on information provided by you in the enclosed survey. All of the surveys received are compiled into a District Profile. It is important that we receive information on the farms in the District to complete the new District Profile. The individual surveys are confidential and are only used to develop a profile of the whole district that is submitted as part of the report to the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Please return the completed survey by mail, email, or fax by June 30th, 2025, to:
Jefferson County Department of Planning
175 Arsenal St.
Watertown, NY 13601

Email: swilson@jeffersoncountyny.gov
Fax: (315) 785-5092

If you have questions about this process, please call Sam Wilson at (315) 785-3144.