

**Jefferson County Announces Thirty-Day Period for
Landowners to Submit Requests for Modifications to the
Jefferson County Southwest Agricultural District #3**

NYS Agriculture and Markets Law requires the County Legislature to review certified Agricultural Districts under NYS Agriculture and Markets Law every eight years. The County's Southwest District #3 is located within the Towns of Hounsfield, Henderson, Ellisburg, and portions of the Towns of Adams, Watertown, and Lorraine. The Southwest District consists of 77,884 acres. The eight-year review process starts with a thirty-day review period beginning on June 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2025.

During the 30-day review period, any municipality within the Southwest Agricultural District #3, 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: 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 AFPB.

Surveys have been mailed to current farmers within the Southwest District. Farmers/Landowners may submit a request to add/remove land by going to the Planning Department webpage to download the form or call the Planning Department, 785-3144.

Completed forms must be returned by June 30, 2025, to the Jefferson County Department of Planning by mail, email or fax: 175 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY 13601, swilson@jeffersoncountyny.gov or fax number 315-785-5092. If you have any questions, contact Sam Wilson, Department of Planning, 315-785-3144.