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October 12th, 2016

To: Farm operators and farmland owners in the Towns of Richford, Berkshire, Newark Valley and the Village of Newark Valley

From: Margaret Ball, CCE Tioga Agricultural Development Specialist

The North Tioga Agricultural District, which includes the Towns of Richford, Berkshire, and Newark Valley along with the Village of Newark Valley, is up for its 8-year review as required by NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets Law Article 25-AA.

During this review process, you have the opportunity to add land parcels or withdraw them from this Agricultural District.

The purpose of agricultural districts is to help preserve and enhance agriculture and agricultural land in New York State. In order for the agricultural district to continue, the Tioga County Legislature, with advice from the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, must assess the level of farming activity in the district and make recommendations to continue or modify the district.

Any parcels of land in these municipalities, which are either part of a farm operation or rented to a farm proprietor, are eligible for inclusion in the North Tioga Agricultural District.

Enclosed is a copy of Tioga County Planning Department's agricultural district review data collection form that must be completed to retain or add land in the North Tioga Agricultural District. Please fill out the data collection sheet and return it to the address on the form no later than **Friday, November 4th 2016**. **The completed form is required even if you have land currently enrolled in the North Tioga Agricultural District** to provide updated information. The data sheets are needed to fully describe the district in accordance with NYS DA&M requirements, so please be as accurate as possible. All reporting will occur in summary format only; your individual response to this sheet will be kept confidential.

If you wish to remove parcels currently included in the agricultural district you must submit a request in writing. Your request must include the name of the property owner and tax parcel numbers for each of the parcels to be removed.

If you wish to search parcels to see if they are currently included or not in the North Tioga Agricultural District, please follow this link <http://www.tiogacountyny.com/gis> and click on the North Tioga Agricultural District map.

Thank you for your cooperation and prompt responses.

Sincerely,

Margaret Ball
Ag Development Specialist

Elaine D. Jardine
County Planning Director