LEWIS COUNTY
NEW YORK

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
P: 315-376-5422

Megan Krokowski
Community Development Specialist
megankrokowski@lewiscounty.ny.gov

ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT 30-DAY INCLUSION PERIOD

APPLICATION PERIOD IS NOVEMBER 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 15 EACH YEAR

New York Agriculture and Markets Law § 303-b requires counties with a certified Agricultural District to provide an annual 30-day period for landowners to request inclusion of predominantly viable agricultural land. This annual process allows eligible land to be considered between the District's required eight-year reviews.

Who may apply?

- A landowner may request inclusion of land that is predominantly "viable agricultural land" under Agriculture and Markets Law § 301(7).
- The land must be proposed for inclusion into an existing NYS Certified Agricultural District.
- Land already included in the Agricultural District does not require another application.

What must I submit?

- A written request identifying the Agricultural District in which the land would be included.
- A written description of the land
- The tax map identification number for each parcel
- The relevant portion of the tax map showing each parcel's location

Where do I submit my request?

Submit the required materials to the Lewis County Planning Department through the **website** (https://lewiscountyny.gov/departments/planning-and-community-development/agricultural-district-6-review-worksheet/) during the annual 30-day application period. Alternatively, you can email required materials to megankrokowski@lewiscounty.ny.gov, or mail or drop them off at 7660 N. State Street, Suite 324, Lowville, NY 13367.

Is my parcel already included in the Ag District?

Do not assume your farmland is already included. Search by address using the **Ag District Mapper** (https://arcg.is/1inGfz1). For help confirming your parcel's status, email Megan Krokowski at megankrokowski@lewiscounty.ny.gov or call (315) 376-5423.

Lewis County is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be made known to the Board of Legislators.

Why request inclusion?

New York's Agricultural Districts Law helps protect farmland and maintain a supportive operating environment for farm businesses. Depending on the land and activity involved, key protections may include:

Key protections

- **Local regulation:** Local governments must avoid laws or rules that unreasonably restrict farm operations.
- **Public acquisition:** The law limits certain uses of eminent domain and other public acquisitions of protected farmland.
- **Publicly funded projects:** Certain projects that could encourage non-farm development of agricultural land are subject to additional limits or review.
- **Certain improvement charges:** Qualifying agricultural land may be protected from benefit assessments, special ad valorem levies, and certain rates or fees for improvements such as water, sewer, or non-farm drainage.

How is this different from other programs?

- **Agricultural Districts** provide legal protections for qualifying farm operations and agricultural land under New York State Agriculture and Markets Law. Inclusion does not automatically reduce property taxes.
- **Agricultural Assessments** are a separate program administered by the local assessor's office. Eligible farmland may receive a reduced property tax assessment.
- **Agricultural Zoning Districts** are local land-use designations established by towns to guide development and identify permitted uses. They are separate from state-certified Agricultural Districts.

What happens after I apply?

1. After the application period closes, the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) has 30 days to review the requests and make recommendations.
2. The Ag. and Farmland Protection Board reviews the recommendations and forwards them to the County Legislature.
3. The County Legislature holds a public hearing and votes by resolution.
4. If approved, the County sends the required resolution, recommendations, hearing notice, parcel maps, and tax map identification numbers to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.
5. The Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets has 30 days after receiving the materials to decide whether to certify the parcels. Certified parcels become part of the Agricultural District immediately.

Eight-year review: The annual 30-day inclusion period is separate from the full Agricultural District review required every eight (8) years. During the eight-year review, parcels may be both **added and removed**, and the District may be continued, modified, or terminated. Lewis County's next 8-Year Review is scheduled for 2032.

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Lewis County
Agricultural District 6 Inclusion Worksheet 2026

This worksheet should be completed and signed by ALL land owners who wish to **ADD** parcel(s) of predominantly viable agricultural land within Lewis County Agricultural District 6. This worksheet, accompanied by a copy of a map, which includes the parcel(s) identified by tax number, must be received **no later than 4 PM** on **Tuesday, December 15, 2026** to the **Lewis County Department of Planning & Community Development** at the address shown below.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LAND OWNER

1. Complete and sign worksheet and attach a copy of the tax map which includes the identified parcel(s).
2. Return to Lewis County Department of Planning & Community Development by **4 PM December 15, 2026.**

LAND OWNER DESCRIPTION

Name(s) Telephone #

Mailing Address City State Zip

Email Address

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Fill in the following information about the parcel(s) you are requesting to be **ADDED** within Agricultural District 6. If you are unsure of your tax map number or whether or not a parcel is currently receiving an Agricultural Assessment, please check your most recent tax bill or with your local assessor.

Tax Map Number	Street Address	Town	Size (acres)	Agricultural Assessment (Yes/No)	Rented for Agriculture (Yes/No)	Action
100.01-1-1.01	*1 Sample Street*	*Anytown*	*10.1*	*No*	*Yes*	*Add*

Describe the current agricultural or non-agricultural activity the parcel(s) is being used for:

SIGNATURE

I/we attest that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge and hereby officially request that my property be considered for a modification to Lewis County Agricultural District 6. I/we recognize that such lands, once officially ***added*** to the Agricultural District, may not be removed until the next eight-year review. I/we understand that this is not an application for an agricultural tax assessment. I/we also acknowledge that this request is subject to review by the Lewis County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, a public hearing, action by the Lewis County Legislature, and certification by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

SIGNATURE OF LAND OWNER(s): DATE:

Please return this worksheet to:

Lewis County Department of Planning & Community Development
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