

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF 30-DAY PERIOD FOR INCLUSION OF PREDOMINANTLY VIABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDS INTO EXISTING AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

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30-DAY PERIOD FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS 16 (LANCASTER-ALDEN) & 17 (AMHERST) PURSUANT TO THE EIGHT-YEAR REVIEW

Per New York State Agriculture and Markets Law Section 303-b, the Erie County Legislature designated September 1 through September 30 as the annual thirty-day period during which landowners may submit requests to include predominantly viable agricultural land into any existing certified agricultural district. The Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) will accept applications for inclusion from September 1 through September 30.

Per New York State Agriculture and Markets Law Section 303-a, the County Legislature is required to review a district eight years after its creation and every eight years thereafter. Agricultural District 16, which encompasses 9,356 acres in the Towns of Lancaster and Alden, was originally established on April 28, 1983. Agricultural District 17, which encompasses 1,475 acres in the Town of Amherst, was originally established on April 25, 1991.

From September 1 through September 30, any municipality whose territory encompasses Agricultural Districts 16 or 17, any State Agency, or any landowner within or adjacent to Districts 16 or 17, may propose a modification.

At the termination of the thirty day period, all proposed modifications will be submitted to the Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) for review. A public hearing will also be scheduled to consider all modification requests and the recommendations of the AFPB.

Copies of the modification request form have been provided to Municipal Clerks, Assessors, and Chief Elected Officials for distribution to interested landowners. The request form and maps of the Districts will be available in the DEP offices, as well as on the DEP website at www.erie.gov/environment.

All proposed modifications to Agricultural Districts 16 or 17, and requests for inclusion in any Erie County Agricultural District, must be submitted to DEP between September 1 and September 30, 2014.

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Please keep posted through September 30, 2014