

3.5.1.4 Agricultural Land Use

Approximately 1,028 working farms occupy 330,561 acres in Jefferson County according to the 2002 U.S. Department of Agricultural National Agricultural Statistics Service (Census of Agriculture, 2006). The leading agricultural products in Jefferson County include: dairy products (78.1 percent), cattle and calve products (9.3 percent), hay and silage products (5.3 percent), colonies of bees and honey products (1.6 percent), and 1.6 percent as corn used for grain (Yarnall, 2002). According to U.S. Census Bureau (2006) statistics, 3.4 percent of the population was engaged in farming in 2000.

The Project Area affects one agricultural district (Jefferson County Agricultural District #2 North) and the entire Project Area is located in this district. Agricultural land use is a significant component of the Project Area with approximately 6,280 (80 percent) acres of the Project Area in row crops, field crops, or pastureland. The Project Area includes approximately 60 working farms, most of which are dairy farms. The patchwork of fields and farms located in the many valleys edged by ridge tops with steep slopes is what defines the landscape/community character of the majority of the Project Area. Within the Project Area, approximately 60 percent of the area is designated as prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance (Table 3-22).

Table 3-22
Summary of Prime Farmland¹ in the Project Area

Farmland Class	Total Acres by Farmland Class	Total Percent by Farmland Class
Prime Farmland	77.9	14
Prime Farmland if Drained	101.0	18
Not Prime Farmland	111.2	20
Farmland of Statewide Importance	256.5	47

¹ Source: Soil Survey Staff, Natural Resource Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Database for *Survey Area, State* [Online].

3.5.1.5 Future Land Use

Other than the proposed Project, future land use patterns in the area are anticipated to remain largely unchanged for the foreseeable future. Inquiry with the Town of Cape Vincent found one proposed industrial development (1 acre of land bought by the Town for water storage) outside of the Project Area. Various residential developments, including a proposed seasonal trailer park development would be dispersed throughout the Town. Inquiry with the Town of Lyme found no commercial or industrial proposed or planned future developments. Several residential developments have been proposed in the Village of Chaumont and on the outskirts of town. BP