

County of Kane

KAREN McCONNAUGHAY
Chairman

OFFICE OF COUNTY BOARD
Kane County Government Center
719 S. Batavia Avenue
Geneva, IL 60134

Telephone: 630-232-5930
Fax: 630-232-9188
kmcconnaughay@kanecoboard.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2007**

**CONTACT: KAREN McCONNAUGHAY
(630) 232-5930**

COUNTY ANNOUNCES NEW DOLLARS FOR FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM

Leaders unveil signage to mark preserved county property

GENEVA, IL – Kane County Board Chairman Karen McConnaughay on Friday announced the county will receive more than \$1.3 million in federal funding to preserve 313 acres of agricultural land and further fuel its successful Farmland Protection Program.

The announcement came as Kane County Board members and representatives of the Kane County Farm Bureau visited the Flanders property, a Kaneville sesquicentennial farm being run by its fifth generation of family members. The farm is a part of the 4,263 total acres preserved under the county Farmland Preservation Program since 2001.

“Our Farmland Protection Program is a vital part of our long-term planning, and essential in preserving the proud agricultural tradition of Kane County,” McConnaughay said. “This program is a model in our state and its success is a testament to the tremendous teamwork of our county and federal governments and our farmers.”

McConnaughay specifically thanked 14th District Congressman J. Dennis Hastert, not only for supporting the most recent wave of federal funding but for his on-going efforts to identify dollars to advance Farmland Protection. With Hastert’s support, the Federal Farmland and Ranchlands Program has provided nearly \$9.3 million in funding for the county initiative, while the County Board has allocated nearly \$16 million in Riverboat Funds for the effort.

Beyond the funding announcement, McConnaughay joined board members and the Flanders family in unveiling signage that will mark the 30 Kane County farms protected by the program.

“These markers will serve as a reminder of the county’s commitment to encouraging agriculture and protecting farmland,” McConnaughay said. “At the same time, they will honor the land owners who have worked so hard to ensure that their properties continue to be farmed for generations to come.”

The federal funding announced Friday will specifically be used to protect 229 acres of the Dienst Family Farm in Virgil Township and 84 acres at the Schramer Farm in Burlington Township. In addition to the Flanders family farm, board members on Friday toured other properties protected through the program and the Hintzche Feed & Grain operation.

###