

**RESOLUTION 08-51**  
**FARMLAND PRESERVATION POLICY**

**WHEREAS**, the majority of land in Ford County is used primarily for agricultural purposes while at the same time the number of non-farm residences in the agricultural district continues to increase thereby creating the potential for conflict between non-farm residents and existing farmland; and

**WHEREAS**, residents who live within a rural area in Ford County may encounter a number of practices that area farmers have been and will be doing in their normal farming practices carried out for agricultural purposes such as, but not limited to the following:

- 1) Wide, slow moving farm equipment on roads or in fields at various times of the day or night.
- 2) Dust and odors from the operation of machinery as well as herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, and manure being applied to the farmland.
- 3) Debris, such as cornstalks, soybean residue, husks, etc. displaced by wind or water.
- 4) Airplanes applying herbicides, pesticides or other material.
- 5) Odors from livestock operations and occasional stray livestock.
- 6) Drainage problems both above and below ground and flooding which may occur during heavy rainfall.

**WHEREAS**, 740 ILCS 70/1-5 provides farmers with a statutory defense against nuisance suits where a farm has been in operation for more than one year and operated according to the established standards of the farming community for the type of operation being conducted; and

**WHEREAS**, this farmland preservation policy is expressed in the current zoning ordinance as follows:

AG-1 Agricultural District Preamble: The intent of this ordinance in establishing an agricultural district is to allow maximum freedom of operation for bona fide agricultural purposes and to protect such use from encroachment by other uses which are permitted in the district, but which are subject to the regulations and requirements for permit specified herein.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Ford County Board that it is the official stated policy of Ford County to encourage development within the county to occur in such a manner as to minimize conflict between farming and other land uses; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Ford County Board hereby adopts this Farmland Preservation Policy.

Dated: September 8, 2008

Debbie Smith, Ford County Board Chairman

Attested: Linda Kellerhals, County Clerk