

Feds bring in more gear in Hoffa hunt

■ Officials estimate search of farm in usually quiet Milford Township could take two weeks.

BY LISA MARTINO
The Detroit News

MILFORD TOWNSHIP —

Federal agents are bringing in more equipment today as their search for the body of late Teamsters leader James R. Hoffa enters its sixth day at a Milford Township horse farm.

In an effort to solve one of the most elusive murder mysteries in three decades, FBI spokeswoman Dawn Clenney said investigators will bring in heavy machinery to assist with dig efforts.

Officials have estimated a search of the 85-acre secluded horse farm could take up to two weeks.

Federal investigators have brought in 40-50 agents, geologists, cadaver dogs and earth-moving equipment to search the property once owned by Rolland McMaster, a close former associate of Hoffa's.

William Bass, professor emeritus of forensic anthropology at the University of Tennessee, said it could be extremely difficult to find the body because 30 years have passed since Hoffa

disappeared on July 30, 1975, before a meeting he was to attend at the Machus Red Fox restaurant in Bloomfield Township.

"I hope they find him, but the experience I've had is people will tell you there's a body out there, but trying to find it is like a needle in a haystack," Bass said.



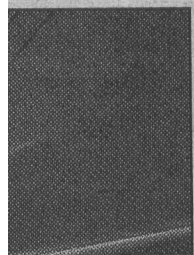
Hoffa

In the meantime, neighbors along the quiet stretch of road off Maple are adjusting to an influx of media attention. "Originally, we thought this would last a couple days," said John Koskovich, who lives adjacent to the horse farm. "We're ready for it to quietly go away."

FBI officials said the tip that fueled the search of the farm for Hoffa came from Donovan Wells, 75, an ailing inmate who briefly lived on the Milford Township property in 1975. Wells is serving time in a prison medical center in Lexington, Ky., for marijuana trafficking.

The Associated Press contributed to this report. You can reach Lisa Martino at (313) 222-5374 or lmartino@detnews.com.

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