The Izaak Walton League of America

Farm Bill Forum Summary
Detroit Lakes, MN February 12, 2007

The Izaak Walton League of America held its first Farm Bill Forum in Detroit Lakes, MN on February 12th. Representatives of the following groups attended the meeting:
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Farmers Union
Ducks Unlimited
Red River Valley Sugar Beet Growers
Center for Rural Affairs
Local Minnesota farmers
Local Izaak Walton League members
Congressional offices:
Rep. Collin Peterson staff
Sen. Norm Coleman staff
Sen. Amy Klobuchar staff

Media reports included:
Linder Farm Network
Minnesota Farm Network
Red River Farm Network
KDLM radio, Detroit Lakes, MN
AgWeek, Grand Forks, ND
Agri-News, Rochester, MN
Dakota Farmer, Fargo, ND
The Forum, Fargo, ND
KVRR-TV FOX, Fargo, ND

The morning session involved time for each group to present their vision and policy platform for the 2007 Farm Bill. Notes on the main points that each group presented are available by emailing Anne Morris at almorris@iwla.org or calling her at 651.649.1446.

During the afternoon session of the meeting, the following common points of intersection and interest were recorded. (Note: Congressional and state agency staff acted as observers only.)

- Prioritize increased and adequate funding for conservation technical assistance.
- Continue support and funding for conservation programs, including the Wetlands Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Program, and other Title II programs.
- Maintain the safety net function of the commodity title to keep farms profitable and enduring.
- Support closing loopholes that allow recipients unlimited payments.
- Support the Sodsaver provision to achieve conservation and budget savings.