



## **The Izaak Walton League of America Farm Bill Forum Summary Columbia, MO May 1st, 2007**

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**The Izaak Walton League of America held its sixth Farm Bill Forum in Columbia, MO on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Representatives of the following groups attended the meeting:**

Missouri Department of Conservation	Missouri Agribusiness Association
Missouri Department of Agriculture	Quail Unlimited
Missouri Natural Resource Conservation Service	Local Missouri farmers
Missouri Farmers Union	<u>Congressional office:</u> Sen. McCaskill staff

**Media reports included:**

Brownfield Radio Network  
Shepherd Group-Regional Radio Network  
KMMO-AM & FM  
Missouri Public Radio  
Columbia Daily Tribune, Columbia, MO  
KOMU-TV NBC, Columbia, MO  
Missouri Public TV- "Show Me Ag"

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](mailto: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.)

- ❖ Fund research and development of biofuels that prioritizes conservation of soil, water, air, and wildlife. Biofuel development should be community-based.
- ❖ Support implementing the Sodsaver provision in the 2007 Farm Bill as an economical and conservation-based priority.
- ❖ Prioritize conservation programs to:
  - Produce water, soil, air, and wildlife benefits.
  - Be readily accessible and flexible for producers, with appropriate technical assistance funding.
  - Have a sign up process that is efficient and effective.
- ❖ Prioritize rural development targeting opportunities for young, beginning, and socially disadvantaged farmers, and emphasizing:
  - Diverse, value added products.
  - Eco-credits as economic development tools.
  - Expanded broadband accessibility so rural areas may surmount the rural/urban technology divide.