



The Izaak Walton League of America
Farm Bill Forum Summary
Sioux Falls, SD April 10, 2007

The Izaak Walton League of America held its fifth Farm Bill Forum in Sioux Falls, SD on April 10th. Representatives of the following groups attended the meeting:

South Dakota Farmers Union	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation
South Dakota Farm Bureau	Partnership
South Dakota Wheat, Inc.	Local South Dakota farmers
South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts	Local Izaak Walton League members
South Dakota Soybean Association	<u>Congressional offices:</u>
Ducks Unlimited	Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin staff
Natural Resource Conservation Service	Sen. Tim Johnson staff
– USDA	Sen. John Thune staff

Media reports included:

American Ag Network
WNAX 570-AM, Yankton, SD
KWAT 950-AM, KS93-FM, Watertown, SD
KELO-AM 1320, Sioux Falls, SD
The Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, SD
The Press and Dakotan, Yankton, SD
KELO-TV CBS, Sioux Falls, SD

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.)

- ❖ Increase funding for the farm bill.
 - a. Increase funding for conservation to 2002 authorized levels (if budget constraints require cuts in the farm bill, cut all titles proportionately).
 - b. Maintain the safety net function of the commodity title.
- ❖ Analyze the structure and monitor the delivery of programs to make sure they are meeting their intended goals.
- ❖ Evaluate and enhance federal and state interagency cooperation. Listening to local voices on any changes should be a priority.
- ❖ Support the Sodsaver provision to achieve conservation and budget savings.
- ❖ Maintain CRP on environmentally sensitive lands.
- ❖ Promote research and development of biomass sources and processes in a conservation framework.
- ❖ Recognize that South Dakota's farmers and ranchers are great land stewards.