



**The Izaak Walton League of America  
Farm Bill Forum Summary  
Madison, WI March 26, 2007**

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**The Izaak Walton League of America held its fourth Farm Bill Forum in Madison, WI on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Representatives of the following groups attended the meeting:**

Midwest Food Processors	Michael Fields Institute
Environmental Law Policy Center	Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association
Hunger Task Force	Local Izaak Walton League members
Wisconsin Farmers Union	<u>Congressional offices:</u>
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture	Rep. Ron Kind
Dairy Business Association	Rep. Steve Kagen
Wisconsin Trout Unlimited	Sen. Herb Kohl
Wisconsin Pork Association	Sen. Russ Feingold
Better Environmental Solutions, Inc.	

**Media reports included:**

Brownfield Network	WPVL-FM 107.7 -AM 1590, WGLR-FM 97.7, Platteville, WI
Farm Report Radio, Madison, WI	WWIS-AM 1260, Black River, WI
Wisconsin Public Radio	WORT-FM, WTDY-AM, Madison WI
WTAQ-AM 1360, Green Bay, WI	WISC-TV, Madison, WI

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.)

- ❖ Increase funding for conservation. The Conservation Security Program should be funded at a level where it can be offered nationally. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program should be funded to authorized levels.
- ❖ Maintain conservation programs. Groups differ on some specific elements, but all should be continued (WRP, CRP, CSP, EQIP, FRPP, WHIP, etc).
- ❖ Support agricultural innovation research, and its application and implementation. This includes research on seeds, livestock, biomass, and precision agriculture so nutrients are applied appropriately.
- ❖ Conduct biomass development within a conservation framework. Research and investments should prioritize diverse sources of energy.
- ❖ Promote and fund local markets to enhance local sources of fresh foods and food for processing.
- ❖ Maintain the safety net function of the commodity title to keep farms profitable and enduring.
- ❖ Monitor programs for real results in order to find savings and spend wisely within budget constraints.