

FACT SHEET



CONSERVING FARMLAND

More than half of America's land is used for agriculture. It's critical that these lands, which provide food for our tables and habitat for wildlife, are managed in a way that balances production with conservation. By promoting responsible stewardship and strengthening public policy related to farmland, the Izaak Walton League is working to ensure that American farms meet our need for food while also conserving soil, wetlands, grasslands, and other natural resources.

STEWARDSHIP

Through publications, public forums, and on-the-ground projects, the League teaches farmers about ways they can practice stewardship on their land, such as reducing fertilizer application, putting up fences along streams to keep cattle out, and allowing land that's prone to erosion to lie fallow and provide habitat for wildlife. Many League chapters set a positive example in their communities by enrolling their own properties in agricultural conservation programs offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and other local, state, and federal agencies—protecting wetlands, native grasslands, and other vital habitat.

FEDERAL POLICY

At the national level, the League advocates for public policy that balances the needs of farmers, rural communities, and natural resources. The largest piece of legislation affecting farmland is the federal Farm Bill. Through it, billions of taxpayer dollars are invested in conservation. The League has played a leading role in strengthening the Farm Bill's conservation programs since the legislation was created. Today, we work to increase the incentives to farmers to practice conservation, as well as to ensure that the government does not reward farming practices that harm soil, water, and wildlife resources.

We shape the Farm Bill and other public policies through both education and direct advocacy. League staff and members write articles and opinion columns and serve as expert sources for the media, reaching millions of Americans through the press. We also identify and draft legislative proposals, analyze the effectiveness of existing legislative programs, build coalitions, and participate in legislatively established advisory panels, committee hearings, and agency forums. Whether in a public town hall or in the halls of Congress, we make sure America's agricultural policies are crafted with conservation at their core.

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