



## **HABITAT NEWS**

by Jim McGannon, Habitat Chair

### **2008 FARM BILL: What's in it for America?**

Congress approved the 2008 Farm Bill in May.

"Production agriculture is an essential part of the economy and vital to our nation's security", Dr. John R. Anderson, Monsanto Farm and Wildlife Management Center, Arkansas. This is from an article taken out of the March/April, 2008, Ducks Unlimited (DU) magazine. What does DU have to do with Pheasants Forever or any other conservation organization for that matter?

Everything. Why? Because with all the habitat projects that DU accomplishes, upland game and "big game" benefit in countless ways. Upland game birds and waterfowl each use the "other's" habitats interchangeably. They "are not" mutually exclusive! This year's Farm Bill, just like all the Farm Bills in the past, have direct benefits for all America. The agriculture programs that are funded and yes, many do subsidize agriculture, by Federal, State, and other sources are a major reason that America has a healthy and strong base of land and water projects. When DU and other Upland Conservation organizations, like Pheasants Forever (PF), collaborate with farmers and ranchers there are many opportunities to participate in government programs. The more significant ones are: Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Farm Service Agency are the main contacts for the administration of these programs. It behooves all of us to support our local, national, and state natural resource agencies by expecting professional management to be funded. That is one of the important components of the Federal Farm Bill. I encourage you to stay apprised of and support the lobbying efforts of DU and PF. You can do that by supporting these organizations. Start with the latest edition of [Pheasants Forever](#).

### **UNDERSTANDING THE OUTDOORS**

(excerpted from University of Minnesota SOULUTIONS, 2008)

Dr. David Fulton, Associate professor, Dept. of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation, Univ. of Minnesota, is researching why hunting and fishing passions are fading. This is a scary thought to me. Are we experiencing our natural world more and more through a "screen"? Whatever the reasons, Dr. Fulton theorizes that "...less engaged participants (hunters/fishers/others?), are less likely to join sporting organizations, less engaged in conservation issues and less willing to contribute time or money to conserve habitat."

"The health of our natural resources depends on a collaborative relationship between landowners, hunters, and anglers. Perhaps with greater understanding a solution can be found," Fulton says.

We'll stay tuned for the results of this research.

I encourage you to visit our website to learn more about our Habitat efforts:  
[www.pikespeakpheasantsforever.org](http://www.pikespeakpheasantsforever.org) (click on NEWS).

**HABITAT IS WHERE IT'S AT...**