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Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 12/12/2005 11:52 AM CST
Date Sent: 12/12/2005 11:52:55 CST
Date Received: 12/12/2005 11:54:05 CST

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Question1:

Question2:

Question3:

Question4: I have seen the devastation to our land from the lack of proper conservation. In 1997 when the floods hit western MN, my family traveled to the region to volunteer to help in the cleanup. It is of no surprise that as time goes on we see more and more flooding due to the lack of natural wetlands. These wetlands act as natural sponges and absorb excess water run off. As the demand calls for more output from our farmers, they drain these area and attempt to harvest additional crops. The yield off these lands are typically lower and cost more to prepare than the more desirable lands, but the farmers at least get something for the land.

We should be reclaiming our wetlands and putting aside more land for conservation. When excess water condition exists, there is some place for the water to go and not into the farm fields. It has been shown that the farmer benefits from enrolling in the CRP and CREP programs.

As we put aside more land in the CRP program we are offering more opportunities for our youth to learn about nature. These lands are used for hunting and there is much for our youth to learn and observe during these times. Hunting in not about just killing, but rather the environment around us. My boys have seen large migrations of birds and waterfowl (including ducks, geese and swans), eagles, deer, mink, rabbits and the list goes on, while hunting on these public lands. If these lands were not available they would not have had these opportunities. They have grown to respect the wildlife we have in this state.

Without these public hunting lands the average person would not be able to hunt. I see the trend of hunting turning to those who can afford to pay huge amounts to hunting clubs.

Hunting does support the local economy. As the hunter travels and rents motels, frequents restaurants, buys accessories, these dollars help the locals and they live for these seasons.

It is imperative that we stop the elimination of wetlands and actually start reversing that trend. Everyone (including wildlife)will benefit from this policy. The reason the duck and pheasant population had decreased in our state in the past years is the lack of habit. We can turn this around and improve wildlife and conservation conditions by increasing the amount of wetlands.

Question5:

Question6: