



Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District

Stearns County SWCD
110 2nd Street South – Suite 128
Waite Park, MN 56387

Tel. (320)251-7800 ext. 3
Fax. (320)251-9171
e-mail Jason.Selvog@mn.nacdn.net

July 30, 2008

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jason C. Selvog - Pheasants Forever, 320-251-7800 Ext. 3
Dennis Fuchs – Stearns County SWCD, 320-251-7800 Ext. 3

Stearns County Farm Bill Biologist Goes to Washington

Stearns County Farm Bill Biologists Meets with USDA and Elected Officials

Waite Park, Minn. - July 30, 2008 - Last week, [Pheasants Forever](#) (PF) and [Quail Forever](#) (QF) biologists met with officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and political leaders in Washington, DC. The meetings focused on conservation opportunities in the new Farm Bill. For PF/QF, the meetings marked an important transition from the Farm Bill legislative process to implementation.

"It's important to remember the signing of a new Farm Bill into law is only the first step in the conservation process," explained Dave Nomsen, PF/QF's Vice President of Governmental Affairs. "Rules, regulations, appropriations, and promotion of conservation programs are all critical to the magic of turning law into habitat on the land."

Joining Nomsen in Washington D.C. last week were PF/QF Farm Bill biologists Jason Selvog of Waite Park, Minn.; Jason Sykes of Nelson, Neb.; Doug Gorby of New Holland, Ohio; and Jim Ristau of Chamberlain, S.D. The biologists met with a number of USDA officials; including, Undersecretary Mark Rey, Deputy Undersecretary Melissa Simpson, and NRCS Chief Arlen Lancaster.

Selvog, who works out of the USDA Service Center in Waite Park, met with Senator Amy Klobuchar and U.S. Congressman Collin Peterson who is Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture. "Our key message was pretty simple; the Farm Bill biologist model is working spectacularly," said Selvog, "Our mission at Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever is habitat, and the Farm Bill Biologists are definitely succeeding at establishing wildlife habitat. Expanding the Farm Bill Biologist program is definitely part of our plan for implementing the new Farm Bill and fulfilling our wildlife habitat mission."

"While each Farm Bill biologist may have a slightly different focus based on the conservation priorities in their particular state, the model of providing wildlife habitat conservation expertise in partnership with the USDA and other state partners has proven incredibly effective," reported Jim Inglis, PF/QF's Farm Bill Biologist Coordinator. Since 2003, Farm Bill biologists have provided conservation technical assistance to 18,000 landowners. Those relationships have translated into over 1 million acres of habitat improvements.

PF/QF's [Farm Bill biologists](#) work in USDA Service Centers providing conservation technical assistance to landowners. The Farm Bill biologist positions have only been around for five years, but the model of providing conservation technical assistance to landowners through PF/QF has proven incredibly successful.

All programs and services of the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District are available without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.