Pass a 2013 Farm Bill!

Sportsmen Farm Bill Priorities:

- **Maintain/strengthen effective wetland protections, like Swampbuster.**
  For more than 25 years, Swampbuster has served as an effective deterrent to wetland drainage. These protections work because they’ve been linked to commodity support and other incentive programs. As Congress looks to eliminate many commodity support programs and shift these supports to crop insurance (which is not currently linked to Swampbuster), it could open the door to further wetland drainage and habitat loss. Our groups believe farmers certainly need a strong safety net against catastrophic weather events and volatile markets, but we cannot support taxpayer resources being used to incentivize wetland drainage and habitat destruction. Our groups and others are currently working with Congress to ensure these basic conservation provisions remain intact through re-coupling conservation compliance with crop insurance. The Senate Agriculture Committee included an historic agreement between the agriculture and conservation communities in their reported 2013 Farm Bill, requiring conservation compliance for crop insurance to protect both the farmers and our natural resources. Long-term sustainability of wetlands habitats and waterfowl and other wildlife populations depend in part on this provision.

- **Include a national Sodsaver provision to protect native prairie.**
  North America’s grasslands are one of the most imperiled ecosystems on the planet. More than 70 percent of the nation’s original grasslands have been lost and accelerated conversion today threatens the future of continental waterfowl and other wildlife populations and our nation’s hunting heritage. Conversion of native grasslands reduces available grazing lands, increases soil erosion and destroys critical wildlife habitat. The accelerated loss of native prairie has been fueled by technological advancements and unintended consequences of federal farm policy. A national Sodsaver provision is needed to protect native prairie everywhere.

- **Hold the line on no more than $6 Billion cuts to the Conservation Title and reauthorize and provide strong baseline funding for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetland and Agriculture Easements Programs, the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Practice (WHIP) of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Voluntary Public Access Program (VPA.)**
  These voluntary sign-up programs are very popular among producers and provide financial and technical support for habitat restoration on their properties.