

Pheasants Forever heads to D.C. to support conservation priorities

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Pheasants Forever leadership and chapter members recently met with legislators in Washington, D.C., to voice support for critical 2013 conservation initiatives across the country's landscape.

A contingent of Pheasants Forever staff and members met with U.S. senators and House representatives from Minnesota, Illinois, Ohio and Colorado to garner focused support for Protect our Prairies legislation and the passage a five-year Farm Bill capable of delivering a suite of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) voluntary incentive-based private lands conservation programs.



Colorado Pheasants Forever members Riley and Dee Ann Dubbert, pictured at left, and Bruce Rosenback, pictured at right, all of Holyoke, meet in Washington, D.C., with legislators like Sen. Mark Udall, pictured in center.

Minnesota, Illinois, Ohio and Colorado are vital states for conservation initiatives, and there is no better voice to speak for conservation programs than those landowners who use the programs in those states on a daily basis.

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Landowners, farmers and conservationists are an integral part of the land and the U.S. economy, and to give them the opportunity to showcase real-world land management experience and speak to the importance of programs like the Conservation Reserve Program is invaluable for the future health and well-being of these conservation programs.

A major facet of the meetings was to inform policy makers of the necessity of a five-year Federal Farm Bill. The current 2008 Federal Farm Bill extension is a temporary patch which is set to expire in 2013. Without the passage of a healthy Farm Bill by Congress, the nation's natural resources and rural economic viability will suffer.

In addition, members were asked to lend their support for Protect our Prairies legislation. This legislation, introduced by Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN) and Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD), would reduce crop insurance assistance for the first four years for crops grown on native sod and certain grasslands converted to cropland.

In attendance representing Colorado were Riley and Dee Ann Dubbert and Bruce Rosenback, all of Holyoke.

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