

nerships have helped to the successes of the WSFR program to become what it is today.

“The WSFR programs have not only supported fish and wildlife conservation, they have also supported small businesses that manufacture and sell hunting and fishing equipment,” said Myke Lynch, general manager of Green Top Sporting Goods in Richmond, Virginia. “The industry supporting sportsmen has a multi-million dollar impact on the nation’s economy, and it depends on healthy fish and wildlife populations.”

The WSFR 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary will include participation in various fish and wildlife conservation events and conferences throughout the year, to culminate with National Hunting and Fishing Day in September 2012.

For more information about the WSFR program and its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2012, visit:

- <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/>
- [www.wsfr75.com](http://www.wsfr75.com)
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WSFR75>
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/wsfr75](http://www.twitter.com/wsfr75)

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands*

*and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov). Connect with our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/usfws](http://www.facebook.com/usfws), follow our tweets at [www.twitter.com/usfws](http://www.twitter.com/usfws), watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfws>*

## IOWA DNR, PF Can Tailor CRP Plantings to Wildlife’s Needs

A relatively mild winter may help pheasants and upland bird populations come back after five hard winters and wet springs have taken their toll on the populations.

However, landowners can help upland bird populations rebound through the general [Conservation Reserve Program](#) (CRP). Landowners with CRP provide habitat that helps increase pheasant, quail, turkey, duck or songbird numbers on their land.

SignupatlocalU.S.D.A.FarmService Agency offices ends April 6. Biologists with DNR and Pheasants Forever can help Iowa landowners tailor habitat types to meet their wildlife goals, whether it’s deer, quail or songbirds.

“The general CRP is a great opportunity for landowners

to plant grasses, wildflowers and trees to attract the wildlife species they are seeking,” said Todd Bogenschutz, DNR’s state pheasant biologist.

“Rental rates have been updated for people who are re-enrolling land, making CRP more attractive in many counties,” he added. “Most important, it’s a way to provide critical nesting, brood and winter habitat that upland birds need to survive.”

Bogenschutz recommends a diverse mix of grasses and wildflowers to provide nesting and brood rearing areas for hens and young birds. Managing the grasses by disking, burning or interseeding is critical after three to five years to allow chicks to move through it. He recommends taller grasses like big bluestem, Indian grass, and Canada wildrye mixed with a few wildflowers for nesting habitat. The taller grasses help the hens hide from predators. “Also upland birds nest on the ground, so habitat needs to be placed in areas far from water,” he said.

“The best new tool that CRP has to offer is pollinator habitat,” said Matt O’Connor of Iowa’s Pheasants Forever. “Not only does this add essential habitat for our native pollinators and honey bees, which are in serious decline, it’s also good for pheasants and quail brood rearing and nesting.”

Pollinator habitat is a mix of shrubs, legumes and wildflow-