

The new CEO shares his vision for the future of the NWTf.

## Meet Our New Chief

# George C. Thornton



by Burt Carey

George and Beth Thornton with Lucy, their black Lab

**G**eorge Thornton is certainly a man in heavy demand. In just over three months on the job as the new CEO, he's shaken the hands of dozens of leaders of conservation and hunting organizations, talked to hundreds of NWTf volunteers, and has met or personally talked with every employee of the Federation. And somehow he's found the time to reorganize the Federation's operational field staff and put a plan into effect that has energized staff and volunteers alike.

As letters of support began pouring into NWTf headquarters from state chapter boards across the nation, NWTf members started

to get a glimpse of the man selected to lead the organization through the next phase of its storied history.

An established leader in agribusiness, Thornton was named chief executive officer of the NWTf June 2, and began his duties immediately.

Thornton is well known throughout the agribusiness community, most recently as president and chief executive officer of Agriliance, LLC, a leading agricultural input distributor in North America that provides retailers and producers with crop nutrients, crop protection products,

seed and equipment. Thornton, who retired from Agriliance in August 2007, also served in various sales, financial, management and volunteer positions throughout his career. In 2006, George was named Agribusiness Leader of the Year by the National Agricultural Marketing Association.

*Turkey Call* Editor Burt Carey sat down to interview Thornton on behalf of the Federation's staff and volunteers. Portions of that interview follow. You can listen to or watch the full interview online at [www.nwtf.org/meet\\_the\\_ceo.html](http://www.nwtf.org/meet_the_ceo.html).