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NEWS RELEASE

Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever and partners hire Farm Bill Biologist interns to assist with conservation program implementation across Missouri

Interns will work with resource professionals in nine counties on projects related to wildlife habitat management

COLUMBIA, Mo. – May 30, 2023 – Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever in Missouri is excited to announce that nine strong candidates were hired for the Farm Bill Biologist (FBB) internship positions. This is the second year for the FBB internship program in Missouri. The new interns started on May 22nd and are stationed in USDA Service Centers in Benton, Chillicothe, Harrisonville, Houston, Kahoka, Milan, Moberly, Shelbyville, and Union.



From left to right: Ethan Hoerr (Chillicothe), Stephen Coy (Milan), Max Korniak (Kahoka), August Saunders (Shelbyville), Korben Tucker (Benton), Drew Summers (Harrisonville), Jenna VanBooven (Union), Krista Cockrum (Houston). Not Pictured: Rob Bentley (Moberly).

The FBB interns on the Missouri team will work in a joint capacity with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Missouri Dept. of Conservation, Quail Forever, and other partners to assist in the implementation of Farm Bill and other related wildlife conservation programs. They will work closely with local NRCS field staff and wildlife biologists, assisting with various projects related to wildlife management and other activities like CRP contract reviews, site assessment, and reporting.



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“The interns have expressed immense excitement and eagerness to learn about private land conservation, and we are extremely excited to welcome them to our Missouri team,” said Senior Farm Bill Biologist, Courtney Nicks. “As they will be paired with some of our seasoned Farm Bill Biologist staff, we hope to offer mentorship that will pave the way for their future success in conservation.”

Our newest brood of interns is a strong group with diverse background knowledge and experiences related to wildlife management. From hands-on experience in habitat management to knowledge of environmental policy and agricultural business, and with education backgrounds in environmental science, forestry and wildlife ecology, this year's FBB interns are sure to have an impact on wildlife habitat in Missouri. As the interns hit the ground running, they will no doubt provide lift to the high demands of our conservation programs and assist our partner staff with additional needs. Not only will this be an opportunity for them to explore a multitude of conservation career paths, but they will also play a pivotal role in our ability to impact more acres and better serve our communities.

“I am excited to play a role in the implementation of conservation programs that benefit landowners, wildlife, and the land,” said Krista Cockrum, the FBB intern in Houston, MO. “I am really passionate about the conservation of Missouri birds and so grateful for this opportunity!”

If you have questions about the Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist interns, or if you are interested in learning how to establish high quality wildlife habitat on your property or working lands, contact Andrew White at awhite@quailforever.org or 660-619-1719.

About Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever

[Pheasants Forever](#) and [Quail Forever](#) make up the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to upland habitat conservation. This community of more than 400,000 members, supporters and partners is dedicated to the protection of our uplands through habitat improvement, public access, education, and advocacy. A network of 754 local chapters spread across North America determine how 100 percent of their locally raised funds are spent — the only national conservation organization that operates through this grassroots structure. Since its creation in 1982, the organization has dedicated more than \$1 billion to 575,000 habitat projects benefiting 24 million acres. Visit the [Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever in Missouri website](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

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