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NEWS RELEASE

Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever hire Jeff Folkerts as Wetland Specialist Farm Bill Biologist

Folkerts will serve as a Wetland Specialist in Chillicothe

CHILLICOTHE, Mo. – June 15, 2022 – Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever in Missouri is excited to announce the hiring of Jeff Folkerts as a Wetland Specialist Farm Bill Biologist. Folkerts is joining a growing Missouri team and his work will add to the wetland conservation efforts happening across Missouri. He started his new role on June 13. Folkerts will be stationed in the Chillicothe, Mo. USDA Service Center and cover the counties in northwest Missouri.

The Wetland Specialist positions on the Missouri team are supported through our partnerships with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) and the Missouri Dept. of Conservation (MDC). Folkerts will work as a member of the USDA-NRCS Wetland Emphasis Team and Farm Bill Biologist Team to provide wetland restoration assistance in his service area, as well as with the MDC Wetland Services Biologists to help with delivery of wetland-related Farm Bill programs. This will include enrollment, design, protection, enhancement, management, and restoration of wetlands and associated upland habitats that are important to migrating waterfowl, upland wildlife, and other species.



“Jeff brings diverse experience and a wealth of knowledge about wetlands and other natural resources to the Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever in Missouri team,” said Missouri State Coordinator Andrew White. “I am excited to see what he accomplishes in his new role!”

Folkerts graduated from Elon University in 2012 with a B.Sc. in Environmental Science and Ecology. Since then, he served as a technician throughout the southeastern U.S. working on projects investigating forest health in response to climate change for Duke University in North Carolina and Puerto Rico, wetland health and biodiversity in Illinois, Georgia, and Kentucky, and surveying Gopher Tortoise populations throughout Florida as a consultant with the Joseph Jones Ecological Research Center. In 2018, he began working with the Wildlife Health Team at



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MDC to monitor CWD throughout northwest Missouri as the region's Wildlife Health Aide. In addition to his efforts with the Wildlife Health Team, Folkerts has participated in MDC's efforts to safeguard Pallid Sturgeon populations as part of the MORFS crew out of the MDC Chillicothe Office. He is excited to join the Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever team and have the opportunity to contribute to wetland conservation and restoration in northwest Missouri.

"I believe the best way to achieve conservation goals is to foster public interest and investment in our natural resources," said Folkerts. "I am excited to have the opportunity to aid landowners in conserving and improving valuable wetland resources in northwest Missouri."

If you are interested in learning more about how our Wetland Specialists can assist with wetland restoration or wetland-related Farm Bill programs, contact Folkerts at jfolkerts@quailforever.org or 203-980-9269.

About Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever

[Pheasants Forever](#), including its quail conservation division — [Quail Forever](#) — is the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to upland habitat conservation. Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever have more than 130,000 members and 750 local chapters across the United States and Canada. Since creation in 1982, Pheasants Forever has spent over \$1 billion on 567,500 habitat projects benefiting 22 million acres nationwide. Visit the [Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever in Missouri website](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

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