



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



Andrew White - Livingston, Linn, and Carroll Counties

April – June 2019

Position Update

A majority of the beginning of this quarter was spent tying up loose ends with landowners that had enrolled in the RCPP Monarch program with seeding verification visits. The rest of the quarter was spent at various meetings and professional trainings and conducting National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative breeding bird surveys in Carroll County. Additionally, I continued to provide technical assistance to landowners within my work area, as well as mentoring and providing guidance to other MO QF team members.

The Power of Pollinators!

National Pollinator Week. How does PF/QF in Missouri celebrate? We coordinate and hold several landowner information workshops and field tours, of course! For me, the best way to learn is through hands-on opportunities and the landowners which attended these workshops across the state were able to receive exactly that!



16 landowners from northwest and central Missouri attended the Power of Pollinators workshop I hosted, in conjunction with Scott Roy of MDC, as well as Jacob Swafford and Josh Marshall of QF on June 22. During the workshop, these attendees learned how to landscape using native wildflowers and grasses, the importance pollinators have in our lives as a civilization, and also learned how to install and maintain larger plots. Putting everything together they learned in the classroom portion, the attendees were treated to a field visit to a pollinator plot that was enrolled in the EQIP Monarch program. With the plot being in its first growing season, it allowed in-depth discussion on what to expect and how to care for these larger plots to ensure success.

For future workshops and other informative events, please be sure to check out the **NEW** and improved website at www.missouripfqf.org!

Conservation Planning

- 43 Landowner Contacts
- 24 Site Visits
- 13 Conservation Plans Written/Modified
- 19 Status Review/Checkout
- 3 Eligibility/Ranking Assessments
- 1 Rx Burn Plans Completed

| Programs | Acres Impacted |
|--------------|----------------|
| FSA | 209.88 |
| NRCS | 113.7 |
| OTHER | 5.7 |
| TOTAL | 329.28 |

Missouri PF/QF's NEW Website!

For the past several months, we have been working diligently to update and continue to maintain our website. The hard work has morphed the site into a place where information on habitat installation and management, staff, chapter and event information can all be found quickly. We have also committed to uploading our Quarterly Reporting Documents, like this one, to the site in order for our visitors to see what we have been up to across the state throughout the year.

We encourage everyone to visit the site and check it out. Be sure to come back and visit from time to time to see what has been added and what new events are available to attend. To view the site, please visit www.missouripfqf.org and let us know what you think. We look forward to hearing your feedback and how we can further improve the site!



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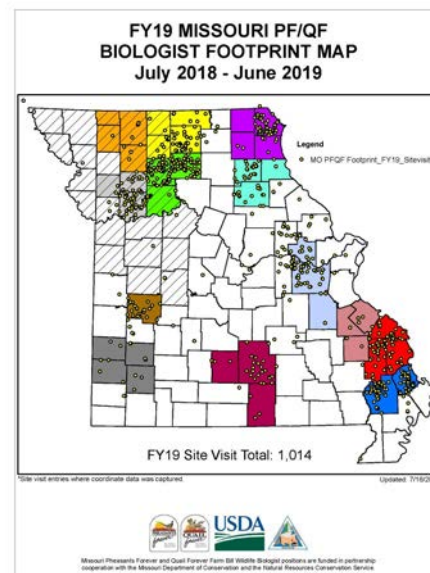
Andrew White - Livingston, Linn, and Carroll Counties

April – June 2019

| Training/Meeting Type | Outcome |
|--|---|
| Carrollton Pollinator Project | Met with Lee Metcalf, PLC, and other Carrollton city employees to discuss how to better manage low-usage areas within the parks system. |
| NRCS Monthly Programs Webinar | Listened in as NRCS State Office staff covered updates and other relative information regarding current and future costshare program policies. This webinar is part of a monthly training series to keep the needle moving for conservation. |
| NRCS Area 1 Consplanner Meeting | Attended several meetings for Area 1 conservation planners meeting to receive updates and guidance when working with NRCS programs. |
| PF/QF National Staff Meeting | Participated in several professional development breakout sessions during this year's national meeting. |
| Bobwhite Bootcamp | A majority of the Missouri team attended a training in Mississippi, which was designed to be immersive, which covered everything bobwhite quail related. This included ecology, biology, population dynamics, and habitat management. |
| Native Pasture Walk | Attended a native grassland pasture walk put on by Hamilton Native Outpost. During the event, we toured diverse native grasslands and learned about establishing natives, grazing as a management tool, and the benefits of such to wildlife. |

Outreach & Education

- Hosted Power of Pollinators Landowner Workshop/Field Tour
- Assisted the Shortgrass Chapter
- Have been meeting and will continue to meet with local QF chapters to assist with youth and women's event planning
- Met with Corteva, MDC and Corner Covey Chapter leaders to discuss PF/QF pollinator project



Looking Forward

- Assist with District Chapter Meetings across the state
- Conduct vegetation sampling as part of a Monarch Joint Venture's Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program throughout Q1 in FY20
- Coordinate the State Habitat Meeting Committee efforts to plan our 2020 State Habitat Meeting and related events
- Continue with RCPP Monarch monitoring time lapse photo project.
- Corner Covey Chapter pollinator event at Corteva in Miami, MO
- Continue to provide quality technical assistance to partners and landowner within my work area

If you would like to discuss habitat projects on your land or if you know someone else that is interested in wildlife habitat work, please contact me using the information below.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist



Quarterly Partners' Report

Colby Sharp - Texas, Wright, and Howell Counties

April – June 2019

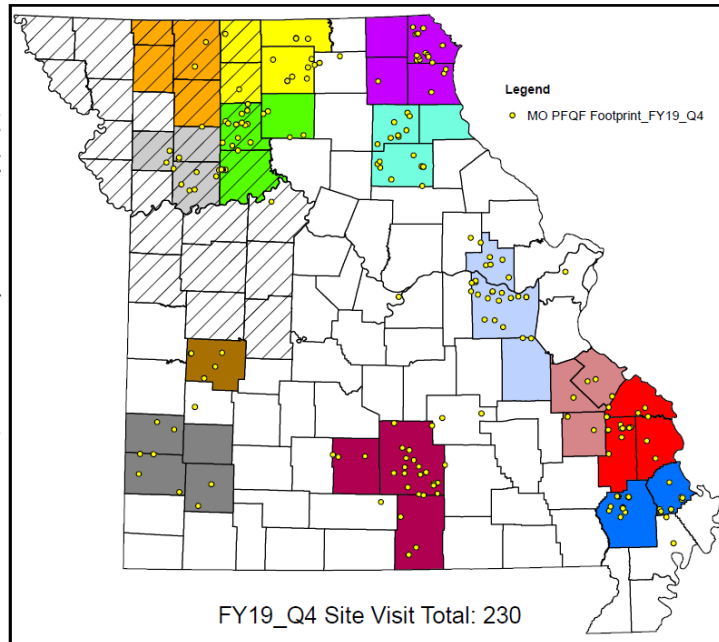
Spring is for Growing

This past spring was one of growth, not only for the landscape but for myself, with knowledge and understanding of program planning, workshop organization, plant identification, and figuring out “What Matters”.

When I wasn't in the field, attending meetings or participating in partner trainings, I was in the office assisting landowners with questions regarding grazing, wildlife habitat, and forest management. While also in the field offices I assisted NRCS professionals with EQIP contract map making, reviewing seed mixes, and practices checkouts such as pollinator planting, and prescribed burning. I also worked with several landowners to plan practices such as forest stand improvement, prescribed burning, and native warm season grass planting, in their EQIP contract to help them to reach their land management goals. If you check out the map above you will see the Missouri QF team has been hard at work, using their expertise to provide technical assistance to landowners across Missouri.

Missouri PF/QF Biologist Footprint Map

April – June 2019



Missouri Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist positions are funded in partnership cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Conservation Planning

- 61 Landowner Contacts
- 30 Site Visits
- 8 Conservation Plans Written

| Program | Acres Impacted |
|---------|----------------|
| EQIP | 707.2 |



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Colby Sharp - Texas, Wright, and Howell Counties

April – June 2019

“From Cedars to Diverse Natives”

During the burning season I had the chance to visit Mr. Steve Covington’s property and assist with a prescribed burn on one of his fields. After talking with Steve I found out just how quickly a property can be turned around. Ten years ago the field, pictured to the right, was completely covered by eastern red cedar and had little to no vegetation underneath. To make use of the field, Steve’s father removed all of the cedar and planted it with a combination of fescue and orchardgrass to be used for hay production.



Fast forward to 2018 and Steve inherited the property, which had grown up significantly with sericea lespedeza. Since Steve always enjoyed small game hunting and especially loved to quail hunting when he was a kid and the property didn't have enough open ground for a cattle operation, he made it his goal to restore quail populations on his property and manage for health timber.



After discussing his goals with private lands conservationist Cody Roberts, he decided to convert the fescue/sericea pasture to native

Post prescribed burn (top) and 4 months later (bottom) on old fescue pasture conversion to diverse native vegetation through herbicide and fire.

grasses and forb mixture for bobwhite quail and small game wildlife species. He kicked off his management with a herbicide treatment on the fescue and sericea, which gave native grasses and forbs a head start for the growing season. This combination of herbicide treatment and a dry summer knocked back cool season grasses and invasive vegetation so much so that by the fall Steve saw his first covey on the property in over 20 years. He followed up his herbicide work with a prescribed burn early this spring where we flushed a covey that had survived the winter most likely by taking advantage of the diverse vegetation from the prior year’s work. To increase the diversity on his property, Steve plans incorporate more native grasses and a diverse pollinator mix. It just goes to show you that some times all it takes is a little sweat equity and an increase in diversity to provide habitat for quail in the area.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Colby Sharp - Texas, Wright, and Howell Counties

April – June 2019

Outreach & Education

- Attended Lions Club meeting where I introduced my position, discussed wildlife management, and farm bill programs.
- Attended Texas County Cattlemen's Association meeting, where I discussed wildlife management on working cattle farms.
- Organized "Morning Coffee With Pollinators" workshop and tour at MSU's Journagan Ranch, where the importance of pollinators and pollinator/NWSG management was discussed.



Great turnout at pollinator workshop and tour at MSU's Journagan Ranch.

| Training/Meeting Type | Outcome |
|--|--|
| MDC Plan Development Training | Attended plan development training in Jefferson City, where I learned about conservation planning with farm bill and state cost-share programs. |
| NRCS Soil Health and Sustainability Training | Attended soil health and sustainability training to further my understanding of best management practices for soils of south central Missouri. |
| Missouri Ozarks Landowner Fire Ecology Workshop | Went to fire ecology workshop where I got a better understanding of the history of fire in the Ozark region and spoke with landowners on the tour about the importance of fire in woodland ecosystems. |
| PF & QF National All Team Meeting | Attended the Pheasants and Quail Forever national meeting where we discussed What Matters to us personally, professionally, and as an organization. |
| MDC Plant Identification Training | Attended plant identification class where I learned about common species of plants found in Ozark woodlands. |
| Bobwhite Bootcamp in Mississippi | Participated in Bobwhite Bootcamp put on by Mississippi State and Georgia where I got a more in-depth review of the biology and management of bobwhite quail. |
| Hamilton Native Outpost Pasture Walk | Attended a field day and pasture walk on Hamilton Native Outpost property where I got a look at their seed operation and diverse native grazing systems. |

Looking Forward

- Attend Texas Co. Grazing School to better my understanding of grazing systems.
- Present at Ozark Grazing Group pasture walk in Wright County.
- Attend National Bobwhite Technical Committee Meeting in Illinois.
- Attend NWSG Interagency Grazing Workshop in Dade County.
- Continue to assist with Farm Bill programs, while training on CRP, CSP, and State Program LAP.

**If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.*

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

April-June 2019

Habitat on the Brain

Pollinators, Quail, Grazing and Fire! The focus of this 4th quarter has revolved around these four topics. From my very first site visit to my very last training, discussions of habitat improvement were rampant.

A suite of landowner site visits flooded my calendar in early April. As we dodged the raindrops I met with several passionate landowners itching to develop a workplan for their unfarmed acres. Excited to formulate a strategy and transform these acres to be wildlife friendly, plans were developed to convert fescue fields to native pollinator species, hard edges along open fields were scheduled for edge feathering next winter, and old tree/shrub plantings were evaluated for enhancement.

Quarter Highlights

Conservation Planning

- Landowner Contacts **107**
- Site Visits **20**
- Projects with Acres **14**
- Youth Outreach **1**
- Workshops/Tours **3**
- Publications **4**
- Trainings **15**

Total Acres Impacted: 55 acres

Results make the heart grow fonder...

In addition to properties that will soon receive great enhancements, I had the pleasure of traversing a property that has already responded to an incredible amount of work done by a local quail enthusiast. Wes, a landowner that I have recently started working with, is by no means new to the conservation arena. Having worked with my predecessor, Wes put to use his personal dollars along with federal and state cost-share programs to benefit wildlife. On this particular parcel, he implemented habitat buffers (CP33) for upland birds surrounding his row-crop acres, established pollinator habitat (CP42) in several whole fields and seeded native warm season grasses in his wildlife friendly waterways (CP8).



While this greatly improved nesting and brood rearing habitat, Wes took it one step further. He knew he lacked escape cover. With a new goal in mind, he decided to establish several covey headquarters. When I say several, I mean many; Wes purchased 1200 bareroot trees/shrubs to make this enhancement. The local FFA students helped plant false indigo, wild plum, dogwood, and several other species in 12 designated covey headquarters locations. A great opportunity to get students involved with conservation efforts. As we walked, we talked, and I quickly became aware of his passion for the outdoors and more specifically for the Bobwhite Quail. He shared stories of when he was a young man hunting the numerous coveys around the family homestead and now how hopeful he was for his neighbors to follow suit after witnessing the rewards of his efforts so far. Wes is inspirational, dedicated and already looking for ways to do more. Most definitely an exciting day in the field.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

April-June 2019



Fire between raindrops

The Mark Twain PBA struggled to get fire on the ground this year. When the moisture wasn't against us, the high winds were. However, we were able to complete four burns equaling a total of 102 acres. No matter the struggles this dedicated group took advantage of every opportunity and had fun doing it!

Fueling the Fire!

In April, the Mark Twain Prescribed Burn Association was asked to host the Missouri Annual Prescribed Fire Council Workshop and Field Tour in Monroe County. Quick to accept the challenge, we created a committee to help guide the event planning. After several meetings over the next few months and collaboration with MDC personnel, QF biologists, Mark Twain Army Corps of Engineers, and the Missouri PFC, we pulled together a great event. On June 8th, over 50 people from all corners of the state met at the M.W. Boudreaux Memorial Visitors Center for the workshop. We first held the PFC business meeting, followed by presentations and discussion of the Missouri PBAs, PBA operations, and forest management strategies. At the end of the day we headed to the field and observed forestland surrounding Mark Twain Lake. Allen Mehrer provided a great location to observe the differences in local forests where we compared acres managed by fire and acres that haven't seen fire for over 80 years. Sam Lord, Natural Resource Steward, lead conversation in the field and offered great insight from his experience. To finish the day, all of the attendees were invited to a cookout at the Frank Russel Shelter house where we enjoyed good food and continued discussions of the day. This unique experience offered an opportunity to share ideas, information, and techniques, and helped to inspire more people, impact more acres, and create more habitat.



PBA meeting at the MW Boudreaux Memorial Visitors Center.



Discussions about PBA burn trailers.



Attendees take a look inside the Mark Twain burn trailer.



PBA attendees visit Mark Twain National Forest.

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April-June 2019



Fellow QF biologist, Haley Lockard and I walked through an exercise with local 4th & 5th graders teaching the importance and role of pollinators.



S130/S190 Field Training

Outreach...

- **May 15th** SWCD Outdoor Classroom– Shelbina, Mo
- **May 20th** Article for Soil Conscious Newsletter– Shelby County
- **Jun 8th** Missouri Prescribed Fire Council Workshop and Tour– Perry, Mo
- **Jun 17th** Feed The Bees Pollinator Workshop– Paris, Mo



Quail Forever Team Meeting

Workshops & Training...

- **Apr 5th** Conservation Planning Training– Jefferson City, Mo
- **Apr 6th** S130/S190 Prescribed Fire Field Training– Chillicothe, Mo
- **May 7th-9th** Soil Health Workshop– Chillicothe, Mo
- **May 20th-23rd** National Quail Forever Team Meeting– Moravia, Ia
- **May 28th** Managing Oak Forests for Bobwhite- Webinar
- **Jun 19th-20th** Quail Restoration Landscapes– Chillicothe, Mo
- **Jun 24th-27th** Bobwhite Bootcamp– West Point, Ms
- **Jun 28th** Hamilton Native Grazing Tour– West Plains, Mo
- **Jun 30th** All online NRCS Apprentice Conservation Planning Training completed



QRL Meeting

Miscellaneous Meetings...

- **Apr 2nd** Mid MO Young Guns Quail Forever Chapter meeting and update
- **Apr 9th** Mark Twain Quail Forever Chapter Meeting
- **Apr 10th & May 29th** Mark Twain Prescribed Burn Association Planning Committee Meeting



Bobwhite Bootcamp



Upright Coneflower @ QRL



Feed The Bees Pollinator Workshop



Hamilton NWSG Grazing Tour

**If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.*

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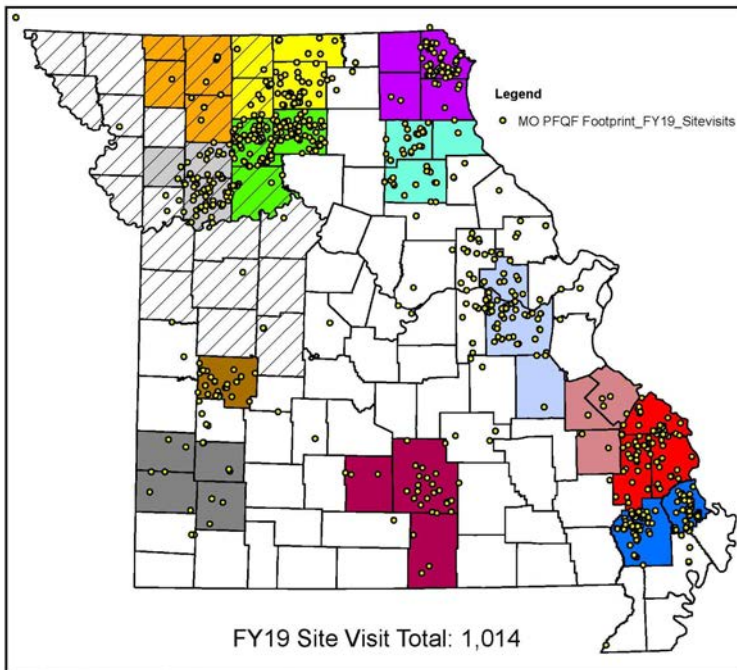
Courtney Nicks - Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

April-June 2019

Looking Forward, I will...

- Meet with landowners to provide technical assistance and promote wildlife friendly practices
- Serve on the Quail Forever State Habitat Meeting Planning Committee
- Conduct bi-monthly monitoring on a local CP42 site that received a Monarch incentive through state cost-share
- Attend the Missouri Department of Conservation Staff Meeting
- Attend Quail Forever Chapter District Meeting
- Attend Women Caring For The Land workshops in Columbia and Jefferson City
- Attend Soil Mechanics training in Novelty, MO
- Serve on the Quail Forever Dove Hunt Planning Committee

FY19 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP July 2018 - June 2019



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 7/16/2019



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Upcoming Opportunities

Staying connected to the community and assisting with outreach are things I take very seriously. Here are two upcoming events serving our local youth and landowner community.

SAVE THE DATE!

Three Mentored Dove Hunts
10 acre sunflower field near Santa Fe, MO

Sep 13th Afternoon Hunt
Sep 14th Morning Hunt & Afternoon Hunt

Youth Ages 8 -18
&
Adults Who Have Never Hunted

REGISTER NOW!
Limited Spots Available
<http://mtqf.eventbrite.com/?x=73968092>

To Mentor or Volunteer sign up at
<https://volunteersignup.org/2849347>
For more information contact Courtney Nicks at
nicks@quailforever.org or (573) 694-5316

WOMEN LANDOWNER MEETING

Regenerate your land! Learn more about soil health and water quality improvement for your farm.

Columbia, August 13, noon at the Extension Offices
Jefferson City, August 20, 8:30 a.m. at the Punga Nature Center
Kansas City, MO, August 21, noon at The Gorman Center
Kansas City, MO, August 22, 9 a.m. at the Woodneath Library

For more information:
www.wfan.org/Missouri-2019/ or you may contact
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Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Erin Forsythe– Jasper, Lawrence, Barton, Dade Counties

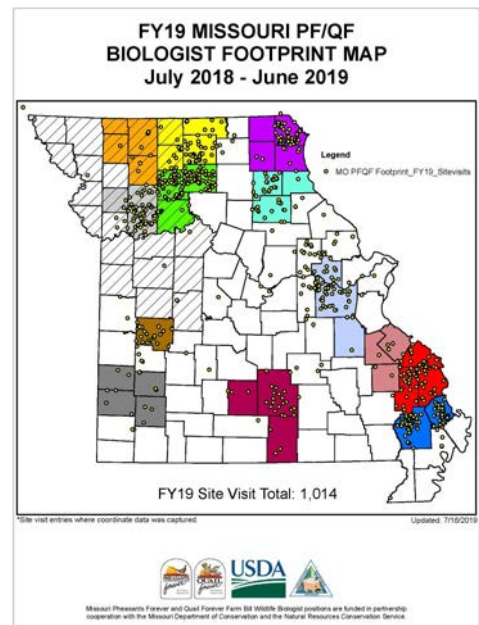
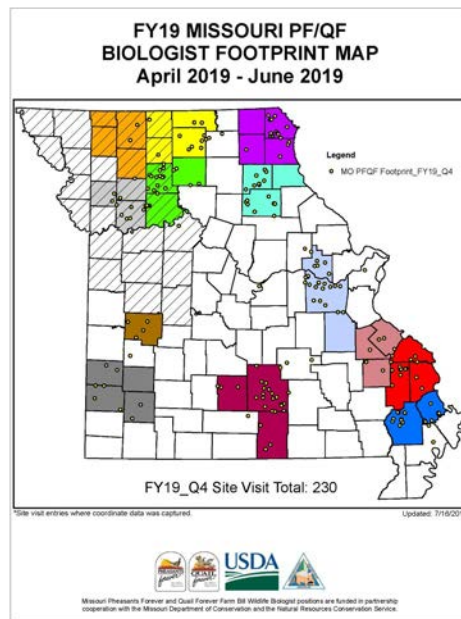
April-June 2019

This Past Quarter...

Time has been flying by! I am already finishing up my second quarter down in Southern Missouri. These past few months have been very busy and eventful with trainings, unsuccessful turkey hunting, landowner outreach, more trainings, goose round up, conference calls, vacation, non stop raining, and site visits. To do list and my planner have been the key to this quarter's successes. In May we were able to start the process of creating a Joplin area Quail Forever chapter known as the Spring River Chapter. We have all our officer positions filled, and I will be serving as habitat chair.



You never know what you might see on a site visit.
Fawn hiding under a deer stand



Conservation Technical



- (8) Landowner Contacts
- (4) Site Visits
- (6) Trainings/ workshops
- (0) Burn
- (1) Outreach
- (1) CSP Applications

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Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Erin Forsythe– Jasper, Lawrence, Barton, Dade Counties

April-June 2019

| Training/Workshops | Outcome |
|---|--|
| MDC Plan Development | Learn more about the ins and outs of MDC cost share |
| MDC Forest Health | Learn how to identify common tree disease |
| Grazing School (Mount Vernon) | Increase base knowledge of grazing to help assist future producers |
| NRCS Area 4 Technical Training | Weed ID and Forest Stand Improvement Training |
| MDC Woody Cover Control | Different mechanisms to control dogwood and sumac encroachment |
| CSP 2019 Training for Area 4 | Learn about deadlines and how 2019 signups for CSP should be conducted |
| Quail Restoration Landscape Workshop | Learned about what challenges are happening within the QRL's in Missouri and practices being utilized the most in each |
| Bobwhite Boot Camp | Bobwhite ecology and bobwhite basics |

Looking Forward

- Pollinator Workshop in Jasper County
- Pollinator Workshop in Dade County
- Pollinator Booth at the Barton County Fair
- Invasive versus natives booth at the State Fair
- NWSG grazing workshop Dade County
- Prairie pasture walk
- Quail Forever District Meeting
- Grasslands Technical training
- Outreach for drawing up landowner interest for EQIP in Jasper County
- Women in Agriculture State meeting
- Monarch Monitoring
- Forestry Training



Barn Owl Chicks

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

April – June 2019

Position Update

I have continued to serve the farmers and landowners of Ray, Caldwell, and Clinton Counties as a QF Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist. This quarter saw the icy doldrums of winter quickly melt into a frenetic pool of activity, with workshops, landowner visits, program contracting, and trainings all jockeying for position on the calendar. Now that I have my EQIP participants up and running, I am turning my attention to this year's CSP applicants to help guide them as they restore wildlife habitat on their properties.

The Cost of a Covey

This quarter has provided me with numerous opportunities to meet with quail experts from across the country to discuss recent and ongoing research, habitat management techniques, and to help us collectively hone our craft. While at "Bobwhite Bootcamp" in Mississippi in June, we received a detailed education on Northern Bobwhite genetics, mating systems, and population ecology. During a pasture walk at Hamilton Natives Outpost I learned of the nuances in mixing native C3 and C4 grasses in single grazing paddocks. While at the MDC Quail Restoration Landscape Workshop in Chillicothe our topics ranged from landscape-level conservation planning to minute details concerning bird sampling protocols. Even with all the terrific knowledge-sharing at these gatherings, the two major recurring themes that struck me most of all were: 1) both the acreage minimums and management resources needed to maintain quail populations are seemingly *astronomical*, and 2) despite significant efforts, bird populations are either still declining or remaining stagnant in many areas across Missouri.



MDC and Quail Forever personnel discussing habitat nuances during a field visit at the 2019 Quail Restoration Landscape Workshop in Carroll County.

Continued on next page

| <u>Conservation Planning</u> |
|------------------------------------|
| • 92 Landowner Contacts |
| • 21 Site Visits |
| • 11 Conservation Plans Written |
| • 1 Workshop / Tour Hosted |
| • 1 Prescribed Burn Plan Completed |

| Program Involvement | Acres Impacted |
|--|----------------|
| Environmental Quality Incentives Program | 110.3 |
| Conservation Stewardship Program | 1.6 |
| Total | 111.9 |

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

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Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

April – June 2019

The Cost of a Covey *continued*

We commonly plan habitat projects on 30-40 acre blocks of private land, and though we know the landscape context of these patches is crucial, I may have underestimated the extent of adjacent usable habitat required for these parcels to hold quail. Research is showing that 700—800 acres of accessible habitat is likely needed for quail to *occupy* an area, and that as much as several thousand acres may be needed for a productive, huntable population. Moreover, the cost associated with maintaining these acres in early-successional habitat is tremendous. Thus, the question is: with small private land parcel sizes, relatively underwhelming CRP offerings and sign-ups the last two years, and dwindling state budgets for quail management in these areas, how do we stabilize and reverse the population trends for a species we are tasked with protecting? I believe the answer lies in *community*.

I had the pleasure of hosting my first landowner workshop and tour this past June. We had a great showing, with existing collaborators and new faces showing up in equal amounts. The participants had traveled from as far as two counties over to learn how they could implement quail and pollinator habitat on their farms and gardens. Shortly after arriving at our demonstration plot, I overheard people asking one another about their farms, where they were located, and if they had ever tried planting natives before. People started constructing maps of the county in their head and one participant gleefully exclaimed “we can connect the eastern third of Ray County if we all do this!”



Workshop participants scouring a demonstration pollinator plot for insects and flowers

I, of course, was ecstatic. Here were complete strangers devising landscape-level quail habitat networks, and their enthusiasm is already making my job easier. I have since met with and taken EQIP applications from several landowners who were referred by their neighbors who attended the workshop. I also know for a fact that several of these former strangers are now fast friends that are egging each other on to try to do more for wildlife on their properties. Now, more than ever, I believe the answer to conserving quail and other

declining wildlife species lies in people. Beyond simply educating them, we are helping to cultivate a community of friends by giving them something to share with one another.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

April – June 2019



Attendees learning about grazing management and forb palatability during a pasture walk at Hamilton Native Outpost in June.



Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever staff learning about pendulum seeders, native seed drills, and other planting options while at the national team meeting in Iowa in May.

| Training/Meeting Type | Outcome |
|---|---|
| S130/190 Field Day | Attended the S130/190 Fire Training Field Day at Poosey CA in April. The course offered some great hands-on experience with weather equipment, evaluating fuels, constructing fire-lines, and discussing life-like scenarios with the sand table. |
| MDC Plan Development Training | Attended an MDC plan development training in April that provided a fantastic overview of programs, mapping, customer relations, and other skills essential to sound and thoughtful conservation planning. |
| Quail Forever National Team Meeting | We traveled to Moravia, IA for several days this May to attend the Pheasants Forever / Quail Forever national team meeting. This proved an excellent meeting/training that allowed me to connect with Farm Bill Biologists from across the country and learn new skills and strategies to bring back home to NW Missouri. |
| Quail Restoration Landscape Workshop | In June I attended a Quail Restoration Landscape workshop hosted by MDC in Chillicothe. The workshop was an excellent opportunity to learn what has and hasn't worked at quail focal areas across the state, and just how much drive and determination is needed to keep quail on a landscape. |
| Bobwhite Bootcamp | I, along with the rest of the Missouri PFQF team, traveled to Mississippi for several days in June for an in-depth training on quail population ecology, habitat management, and working-lands considerations hosted by Quail Forever, The University of Georgia, and Prairie Wildlife. |
| Hamilton Natives Pasture Walk | Toured Hamilton Native Outpost's diverse native grazing systems to learn how native cool season and warm season grasses and forbs all fit together in single paddocks. |

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

April – June 2019

Launched!

Over the last three months, myself, Lisa McBrayer, our habitat partnership specialist, and the rest of the website committee have worked extremely hard to overhaul our Missouri PFQF website. We are now thrilled to announce that our effort has gone public, and the site can now be viewed at www.missouripfqf.org. The new site is a one-stop-shop for chapter information, biologist contacts, events calendar, and much more!



Looking Forward

- With summer's arrival has come a flood of contracting, new program applicants, field visits and practice checkouts. The coming months promise to be full of many challenges, but more so opportunities to continue improving and increasing quail and other upland wildlife habitat in NW Missouri.
- Now that we have received our list of pre-approved CSP applicants, I am eager to begin the planning and contracting phase of the program.
- I am excited to continue helping my local QF chapters with their habitat goals and outreach and education mission. This quarter will include the Heartland Chapter's first-ever Pint Night in August, an event we hope can reach a new audience and one we are excited to host.
- I am excited to attend July's National Bobwhite Technical Committee meeting to meet quail professionals from across the species range to learn how I can improve my conservation delivery efforts in Northwest Missouri.
- The next three months will come with additional training opportunities. Among these will be an MDC Plant ID workshop and a grazing school.

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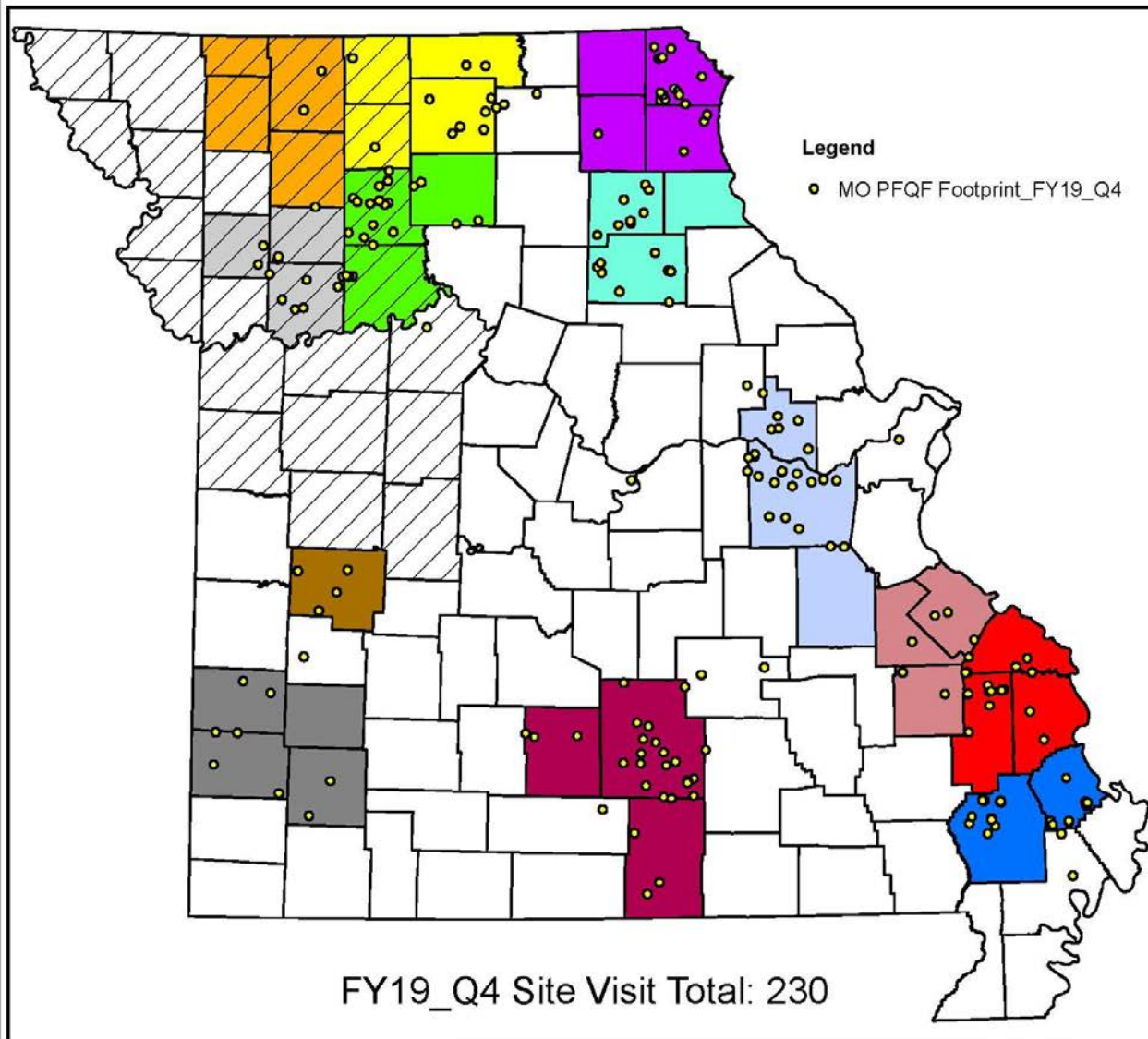
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

April – June 2019

FY19 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP April 2019 - June 2019



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 7/16/2019

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Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

April – June 2019

Habitat at Home

One of the greatest joys working as a wildlife biologist is helping landowners realize the potential their property holds to provide great wildlife habitat. To the best of my ability I try to practice what I preach on my grandfather's property by mixing the old and new techniques to figure out what works for us. We have always managed it for wildlife, but in the last 7 years we have undertaken a massive overhaul of habitat improvement including prairie restoration, planting trees/shrubs, timber stand improvement, and early successional habitat development. All with good results. However, the work doesn't stop with just getting the seed in the ground, it takes a commitment of continued management and a little patience to maintain great wildlife habitat. This spring we were able to find one dry-ish Saturday to complete a prescribed burn on 2 three-year old native plantings. The fire hammered the remnant fescue, as well as locust and multiflora rose encroaching on the fields. The response has been great from the native grasses, especially eastern gama grass that was previously absent from the field. Of course common ragweed has momentarily taken over but the turkeys are loving it and for the first time in 20 years there is a covey of quail on the property. Next year, I anticipate seeing more of the native forbs that were originally planted.



Day before the burn freshening up the fire lines. Notice the green fescue and woodies on the right.



2.5 month post-burn. Eastern gama grass and common ragweed is coming in strong.

Conservation Planning

- 41 Landowner Contacts
- 3 Habitat Plans
- 19 Site Visits
- 1 seed mix review

| Other Programs | Acres Impacted |
|---|----------------|
| CTA Conservation Cover, Covey HQ | 16.1 |
| Habitat Challenge Grant Edge Feathering, Pollinator seeding | 3.4 |
| Total | 19.5 |

| CRP | Acres Impacted |
|---|----------------|
| Status Review Expiring Contracts | 78.2 |
| Field Review of New plantings | 236.2 |
| Total | 314.4 |

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Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

April – June 2019

Outreach & Education

- On April 2nd, the **Clark County SWCD** celebrated their **75th Anniversary** with an open house for landowners and former employees to share the conservation successes of the past and visions for the future.
- For the **Clark County SWCD annual newsletter**, I contributed a staff introduction and an article regarding the benefits of pollinators to producers; buzzing in the air and dollars in the pocket.
- On May 15th, I assisted FBB Courtney Nicks in teaching 4th and 5th graders about pollinators at the **Shelby County Outdoor Classroom** in Shelbina. The kids learned what pollinators are and then played a relay game to understand how pollination works.



Butterflies, Bees, and Dragon flies oh my! These kids embraced their inner pollinator.

- The **2019 Missouri Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting & Workshop** was a huge success. The event held in Perry, MO brought together Missouri's Prescribed Burn Associations, Council members, PFQF staff, partners, and landowners to discuss how to get more flames on the ground.
- Along with FBB Courtney Nicks, we hosted **Feed the Bees landowner workshop** in Paris, MO to celebrate national Pollinator Week and provide landowners tools to develop habitat.



On the field tour during the MO PFC meeting, we were able to see side-by-side comparisons of a woodland managed with prescribed fire and one that hasn't seen fire in 30+ years. The woodland pictured here was burned in March at Mark Twain State Park.

| Outreach & Education | Count |
|----------------------|----------|
| Presentations | 2 |
| Newsletter Articles | 2 |
| Total | 4 |

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Missouri Quail Forever

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Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

April – June 2019

Turning Acres Green



During the National All Team Meeting, I took the opportunity to tour a local dealership to learn all the ways John Deere is incorporating Precision Agriculture practices in their equipment and services. Pictured here PFQF staff were able to get up close and personal with the equipment to see how precision technology is assisting landowners.

| Training/Meeting Type | Outcome |
|--|--|
| MDC Plan Development | MDC Private Land Conservationists and numerous PF/QF biologists gathered in Jefferson City to review protocol for developing conservation plans and available programs. |
| MDC PLS Staff Meeting | Northeast region staff and PFQF biologists met to discuss projects and potential needs. This was also my first opportunity to get reacquainted with MDC staff in the region. |
| PFQF National All Team Meeting | Staff from across the country gathered in Moravia, Iowa for a busy week of professional development and team building. This meeting provided an opportunity to learn from the successes and struggles in other states to get habitat on the ground. |
| Quail Restoration Landscape Meeting | MDC and QF staff met in Chillicothe to provide updates on the current QRL's and focus areas. We also discussed the road forward to make sure we don't lose quail in Missouri. |
| Bobwhite Bootcamp and MO Team Meeting | Over 40 QF staff completed training on all things quail management in West Point, MS. The training was put on by numerous partners to make sure new QF Working Lands for Wildlife biologists had all the tools to succeed. It was also a great refresher for the seasoned biologists on the MO team. With the MO team together we also outlined our goals for the next year. |
| Hamilton Native Outpost Diverse Natives for Grazing field day | On our way back from MS, the MO team stop by Hamilton Native Outpost's field day featuring how they establish and graze diverse native prairie restorations. |

Looking Forward

- National Bobwhite Technical Committee meeting July 22-26 in Carbondale, IL.
- MDC PLS Staff Meeting August 7th.
- NRCS Soil Mechanics Training August 27th.
- MO Women in Agriculture Conference Sept. 16-18 in St. Charles, MO.
- Work on projects for the PFQF & MDC Habitat Challenge Grant.
- Continue to assist landowners with habitat management and NRCS with planning for CSP.
- Assist Missourians 4 Monarchs with monitoring of completed habitat projects in NEMO.

**If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.*

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Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Harrison, Gentry, Worth, Daviess Counties

April – June 2019

Position Update

The end of last quarter wrapped up 7 years with the “Habitat Organization” for me and July will make 3 years as part of the Missouri PF/QF Team. Over the last several months, I’ve kept busy providing technical assistance to landowners working to establish monarch and quail habitat through Farm Bill programs and participating in trainings to improve my understanding of soil health, conservation planning, and Bobwhite Quail conservation. As always, a large part of my time is spent coordinating Monarch-RCPP efforts for Missouri as well as for Indiana and Illinois. I’ve also had the opportunity to present at several pollinator workshops in NW Missouri as well as at PF/QF’s National Staff Meeting. Additionally, I’m honored to have been selected to participate in PF/QF’s Leadership Development Program over the next year; only 12 individuals are picked each year and Missouri has been represented in each of the 3 classes so far. As I start my 8th year with the organization, I look forward to working with our amazing team and the incredible partners we have here in Missouri. There’s nowhere else I’d rather be!

Farm Bill Programs Focus at PF/QF National Meeting

This May, at PF/QF’s National Staff Meeting in Iowa, approximately 150 of our Farm Bill Biologist spent an afternoon learning about several Farm Bill programs that have tremendous potential for impacting wildlife habitat. The goal of this session was to train and inspire our biologist on the use of Farm Bill Programs with a focus on wildlife practices and options outside of the commonly used Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Biologist rotated through sessions focusing on the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), learning from peers and hearing from NRCS experts on each program. I helped coordinate the CSP session and spoke about the success Missouri’s had establishing monarch and pollinator habitat with CSP. These sessions were extremely beneficial to our team and were well received. With ever changing priorities, programs, and funding, it’s important for our biologists to understand how each of these programs work and to encourage them to take advantage of these opportunities to put habitat on the ground.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist learn about CSP, ACEP, and EQIP, in sessions lead by NRCS and experts within the organization while attending this years PF/QF National Meeting in May.

Conservation Planning

- 36 Landowner Contacts
- 9 Projects with Acres
- 9 Eligibility/ Ranking Assessments
- 4 Site Visits

| Programs | Acres Impacted |
|--------------|----------------|
| EQIP | 94 |
| CSP | 0.5 |
| Total | 94.5 |

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Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Harrison, Gentry, Worth, Daviess Counties

April – June 2019

| Training/Meeting Type | Outcome |
|---|---|
| Soil Health Training | Attended Soil Health and Sustainability Training hosted by NRCS in March. This training provided additional experience with soil health, biology, conservation, and methods for achieving these in our agricultural systems. |
| AgLearn Planner Certification Training | During this quarter I worked to compile and complete the Apprentice Conservation Planner course work I need to maintain my planner certification. This included several webinars and many AgLearn courses along with several trainings I had already completed but provided certificates for. Next I'll work on the Certified Planner courses. |
| RCPPI Partners Meeting/Call | Worked to coordinate and lead a Partners Call involving all 8 states of the RCPPI as well as NRCS, NFWF, and PF/QF. This call focused on the Monarch Regional Conservation Partnership Program and its delivery over the next year. Plans were made to move funds to meet needs and ensure that acres are going on the ground wherever possible. |
| Quail Boot Camp | The Missouri PF/QF Team had an opportunity to attend a terrific training focusing on Bobwhite Quail management and conservation planning. The training was held near West Point, Mississippi and provided everything from great refreshers on quail biology to new research. This was also a chance to see what quail habitat looks like in other parts of the country. |

Outreach & Education

- Gave presentations at two of Missouri QF's Pollinator Week workshops, Trenton and Chillicothe, focusing on the beneficial insects and the benefits of pollinators.
- Developed two press releases promoting Missouri's CSP signup as well as Indiana's RCPPI signup.
- Attended PF's National Staff Meeting in May and helped coordinate the Biologist Breakout Session.
- Attended Conservation Federation of Missouri's (CFM) Conservation Day at the Capitol to meet with landowners.
- Participated in Hamilton Native Outpost's pasture walk and field tour.

Additional Work

- Coordinated with Indiana NRCS and PF/QF Biologists to assist with a RCPPI-CSP signup for FY19.
- Wrapped up reporting for the Monarch RCPPI and continued to assist with delivery across its range.

Looking Forward

- I will assist with conservation planning FY19 CSP contracts in Area 1.
- Begin to coordinate and plan a RCPPI Partners Meeting follow up in October to discuss financial assistance balances for the final year of the agreement.
- Work with Indiana NRCS staff to plan and develop Monarch-RCPPI CSP contracts.
- Working with Monarch Coordinators from Oklahoma and Iowa, we will continue to deliver RCPPI efforts across its range.
- I'll be attending the Independence QF District Meeting to provide updates to chapters.
- Participating in PF/QF's Leadership Development Program over the next 9 months.
- I will continue providing technical assistance to landowners in Harrison, Gentry, Worth, and Daviess counties who are interested in establishing habitat for Monarchs, quail, and other upland wildlife.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Joshua Marshall - Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties

APR – JUN 2019

Quarterly Overview

The Fourth Quarter of fiscal year 2019 seemed to fly by. It started with prescribed fire, involved a lot of traveling and great team time. I also had quality conversations with landowners, and we wrapped up the year with exciting new goals, and a future that looks promising for habitat restoration in Missouri.

Traveling, Team Time, and Future Goals

April 2nd marked my one year anniversary with the Habitat Organization and I am still blessed to be part of such a great team. I was reminded on multiple occasions just how passionate the employees of Quail and Pheasants Forever are and why we love to work with people helping them reach their goals and restore native habitat on the landscape.

During the week of May 20-23rd the entire Missouri Quail Forever team joined approximately 250 employees of Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever for our Bi-annual All States Meeting at Honey Creek Resort in Iowa. During those three day we discussed successes over the past two years, looked at current operations throughout the United States and discussed future goals and opportunities. I thoroughly enjoyed hearing from Biologists and employees in other states. As they shared what they have learned in the past two years I was inspired to take some new approaches in my everyday work to better help the landowners I come in contact with.

At the end of June, we had our Missouri Team Meeting in West Point, Mississippi at Bobwhite Boot Camp. This training was put on by The University of Georgia's Gamebird and Managed Ecosystem LAB. Prairie Wildlife generously hosted us and during these three days we heard from quail and wildlife professionals who presented in depth how to better manage working lands for wildlife, specifically quail. Everyone on our team learned something new and we all agreed it was an excellent course. We explored several topics that will help me engage working lands landowners. I feel more equipped to talk with them about how to incorporate wildlife management into their operation.

We ended the week with a Native Grazing Field Tour at Hamilton Native Outpost and setting our FY 2020 team goals and tasks. We recapped last year's goals and set some great new goals. I am excited for the great year ahead of us and look forward to all the planned activities, habitat projects and outreach opportunities.



Working with an Arkansas and Missouri QF Biologists at Bobwhite Bootcamp

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Joshua Marshall - Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties

APR – JUN 2019

Sustaining the Fire Culture

I started off April completing prescribed burns with the Green Hill Prescribed Burn Association (GHPBA). This spring the GHPBA conducted burns on the property of 4 members and we burnt approximately 92 acres. The burns were highly successful and several members expressed interest in conducting more burns on their property. We also discussed burning in the late summer or early fall to increase the plant diversity on various properties. At the end of May, I completed my S130/S190 Field portion and received my accreditation as S130/S190 Fire Qualified. The next week I attended a very successful landowner and PBA workshop put on by the Missouri Prescribed Fire Council. There were representatives from four out of five Prescribed Burn Associations in Missouri and one Prescribed Fire COOP. While there, I presented a short summary of the GHPBA's fire season. We discussed fire legislation that is in the works and how PBAs across the state are overcoming challenges to increase prescribed fire on Missouri's landscape. At the end of the day, we toured a Missouri State Park's Timber Unit that is being managed with prescribed fire.



Prescribed Burn with the GHPBA



Field Tour During the Pollinators and Wildlife Workshop

Pollinators and Wildlife

One of our team's goals was that every biologist host a pollinator workshop or tour during Pollinator Week. I held my Pollinators and Wildlife Tour on June 21st at North Central Missouri College, Barton Farm Campus. It was great night of talking with local folks about how pollinator plots benefit all wildlife and how it can increase their property's wildlife habitat. We toured the pollinator plot at Barton Farm Campus and discussed plot construction and management. Nineteen people attended the event and we received a lot of positive feedback from the tour and presentations. The Missouri Department of Conservation Private Lands Conservationist also assisted with this event and provided a lot of knowledge from his work over the years with pollinator plots and gardens.

Landowner Assistance

Throughout this quarter several of my landowner contacts included questions about food plots. I used these opportunities to explain how native plants can create an excellent food plot and how to increase native cover and habitat around their food plots to increase wildlife use and retention. I also had the opportunity to provide technical assistance to several landowners and review some EQIP edge feathering contracts. Throughout all these contacts my main goal was to assist landowners with increasing the usable habitat for wildlife and bettering their soil and water health.



Edge Feathering

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Quarterly Partners' Report



Joshua Marshall - Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties

APR – JUN 2019

| Training/Meeting Type | Summary |
|---|---|
| QRL Meeting | The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) hosted a meeting to discuss the future goals of the Quail Regional Landscapes |
| Missouri Team Meeting | Attended Bobwhite Boot Camp, Native Grazing Tour, recapped our past year successes and set new team goals |
| All States Meeting | Joined 250 Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, and Habitat Forever Employees for our Bi-Annual Meeting |
| Pollinators and Wildlife | Conducted a field tour and presentation in partnership with the MDC, and the NCMC Barton Farm Campus |
| Consplan Development Training | MDC Hosted a Conservation Planning Workshop for PLCs and Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist (FBWB) |
| State Wide Prescribed Fire Council annual Meeting | Attended the Missouri Fire Council's Annual Meeting and PBA workshop |
| Quail Forever Missouri: The Mission and Goals of Quail Forever | Gave a presentation to the Trenton Rotary Club talking about who Quail Forever is and what we do |
| The Power of Pollinators | Assisted FBWB Andrew White with his Pollinator Presentation in Chillicothe MO |
| S130/S190 Field Day | Completed my S130/S190 Federal Fire Training |

Looking Forward

- **Conducting Wildlife Habitat Evaluations for CSP Applications.**
- **Finish Continuous CRP Field Checks.**
- **Completed Pollinator Monitoring for Missourians for Monarchs and the Monarch Joint Venture.**
- **Co-Host a Prairie Field Day with the Pure Air Wildlife Management Cooperative.**

If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.

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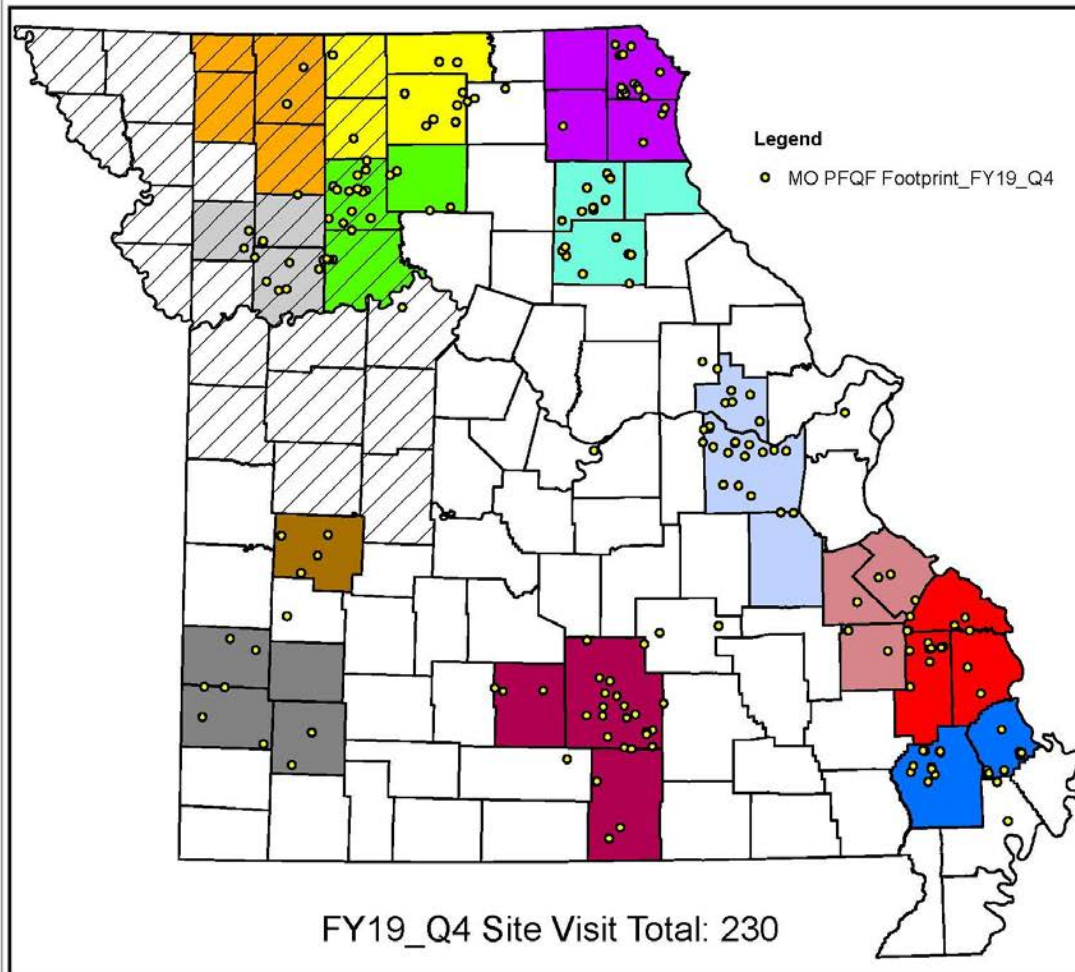
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Joshua Marshall - Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties

APR - JUN 2019

FY19 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP April 2019 - June 2019



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 7/16/2019



Missouri Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist positions are funded in partnership cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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Coordinating Wildlife Biologist **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



Len Gilmore—St. Clair Co.

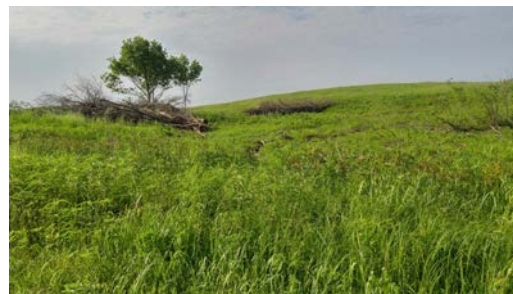
April – June 2019

Position Update

So the question that comes along with any position is how much training is considered enough for that position? The longer we work at a job the more experience we gain at doing that job. But do we ever reach the pinnacle of knowledge for that job? No. Early this summer I travelled with the MO QF team to a Bobwhite Boot Camp in east-central Mississippi. During that week of training I found my ideas about quail habitat and management being tested. What I concluded is no matter how long a person works at a job there is always room to learn more. Training is an ongoing part of a job. The training in Mississippi raised questions about habitat management that caused me to search for answers. And the searching for answers is what keeps me going in my job.

Woody Control Critical in Missouri Grasslands

In June I participated in a Woody Control workshop held by Missouri Conservation Department. There were experienced grassland managers from Kansas and Oklahoma that talked about the struggles of managing woody succession that occur on all grassland systems. If grass fields are left idle tree seedlings will begin shooting up and hiding among the grasses. A few years pass by and the seedlings turn into trees. The cost of setting back woody succession goes up tremendously as the woodies grow in size. Prescribed fire is the first line defense in top killing woody sprouts while they are still small. I recently visited a large farm that was predominately grassland. Portions of the grassland are covered in remnant prairie. I helped the landowner burn on the farm a couple times over the past years, but lack of burning led to many of the drainages growing up to trees. The landowner participated in cost-share programs that have removed the trees which allow the prairie to become healthy again where the trees stood. As a result the restored areas of the farm with native forages once again are occupied by grassland birds, including Northern Bobwhites. Quail could be heard in all the restored portions of the farm. The landowners was thrilled. And so were the grassland birds.



Landowner removed trees from a drainage on their prairie. Grassland birds including quail were heard in this stretch of prairie.

Northern Bobwhites were seen and heard during May/June Roadside Bird Counts.

Conservation Planning

- 29 Landowner Contacts
- 17 Site Visits

| Other Programs | Acres Impacted |
|----------------|----------------|
| EQIP | 13 |
| FWS Partners | 21 |
| CTA | 76 |
| Burn | 28 |
| Total | 138 |





Coordinating Wildlife Biologist **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



Len Gilmore—St. Clair Co.

April – June 2019

Outreach & Education

- Attended St. Clair Co. Grazing School and field tour. Discussed grazing native forages in a grazing system.
- Participated in pasture walk on Clubine farm grazing native warm-season grasses and forbs. Discussed the importance of native forbs for pollinators and cattle grazing. Thirteen landowners attended.
- Discussed grazing plan and grazing best management practices to 20 students at the Missouri Conservation Dept. Private Land Services training in Jefferson City.
- Attended Quail Restoration Landscape meeting in Chillicothe as representative from the Upper Osage Grassland geography. Discussion included best monitoring methods and what an average population size would be for bobwhite quail.

| Training/Meeting Type | Outcome |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Woody Control Workshop | Attended this MDC workshop in Pettis Co. to discuss the best way to limit or reduce woody plant succession on grasslands. Field tour looked at various methods to manage woody plants. |
| MO Prescribed Fire Council | Represented the Upper Osage Prescribed Burn Assoc. in burn training the council provided for PBA members. |
| Bobwhite Boot Camp | Attended several day training in West Point, MS on quail habitat and management methods, and quail biology. |
| Native Forage Field Tour | Hamilton's Outpost hosted a field day to show the benefits of native forages used in pasture system. |

Looking Forward

- Help prepare and conduct landowner grazing native forage workshops in Dade County in southwest MO and Bollinger Co. in southeast MO.
- Help set up and hold partner staff training on native forages held in Area 4 the last of July and in Area 3 the middle of August.
- Attend PF/QF District meetings in Harrison, Arkansas and in Kansas City, MO.
- Participate in a Landowner Invasive Species workshop to be held in Vernon County at Nevada.
- Help lead a tour of the Partners for Pasture in a patch-burn graze system at the WKT prairie.
- Help conduct Monarch surveys under the integrated monarch monitoring program with MJV.
- Hold two landowner grazing native forages workshop in northern Arkansas in August.
- Discuss the importance of native forbs in native grass mix for pastures during a landowner pasture walk at the Clubine farm in mid July.



Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Rachel Settle — Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve Counties

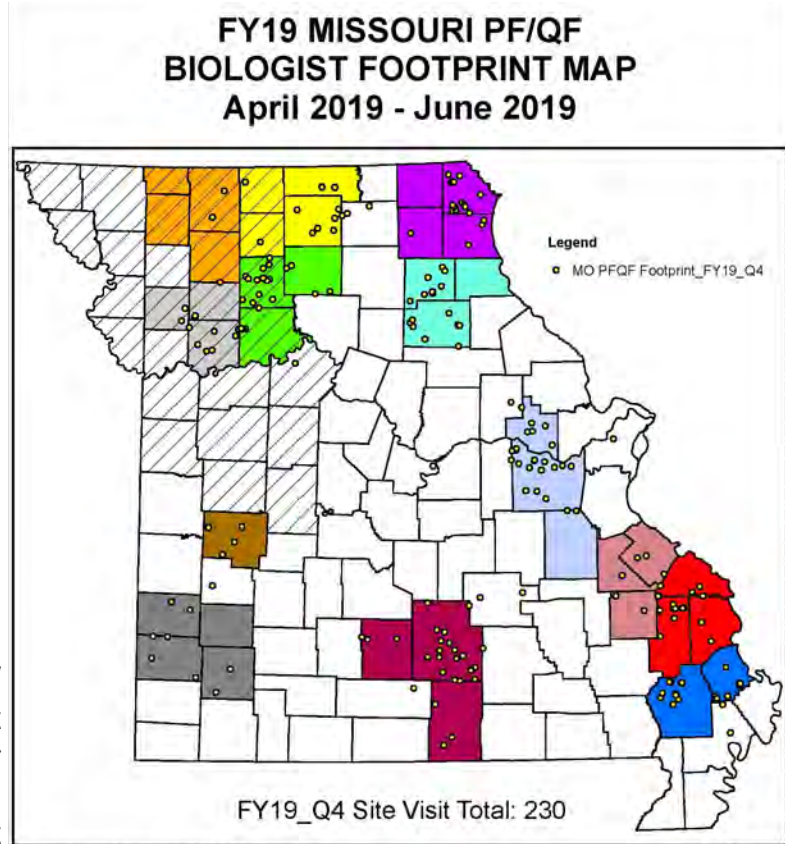
April—June 2019

Wrapping up FY 2019

The last quarter was a busy one that brought me as far north as Iowa for our Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever All Team Meeting and down to the south for Bobwhite Bootcamp in Mississippi. One of the major highlights from the last few months was hosting my first landowner field tour in June. Thirty-four participants representing seven counties were present at the event.

I have continued to engage with landowners in my counties and provide conservation technical assistance. Some examples of things I've been working on include writing seeding plans for EQIP pollinator/monarch plantings, checking out completed conservation practices for MDC LAP, EQIP, and CSP, and providing recommendations to treat invasive species, especially *Serecia lespedeza*.

As a team, our Missouri QF/PF field staff have been busy all over the state providing conservation technical assistance for Farm Bill programs and putting quality wildlife habitat on the ground. See the biologist footprint map to the right to see where we've been!



PF/QF Biologist Footprint for April-June 2019

Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

| <u>Conservation Planning</u> | Program | Acres Impacted |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 Landowner Contacts • 14 Site Visits • 2 Pollinator/Monarch seeding plans written • Assisted with 6 practice checkouts | EQIP | 1.2 |
| | CSP | |
| | MDC LAP | |
| | QF Chapter | |
| | Non-Program | |
| | Total | 1.2 |



Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Rachel Settle — Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve Counties

April—June 2019

Loehnig Family Farm Pollinator and Quail Habitat Tour

June 17—23 was National Pollinator Week and what better way to celebrate than to showcase a family farm dedicated to pollinator-friendly practices. Leo and Mark Loehnig own and operate approximately 795 acres near the junction of Perry, Ste. Genevieve, and St. Francois Counties. Their father first purchased the farm in 1972 which was once used for grazing cattle. The farm is now actively managed for quail and enrolled in various Farm Bill programs including the Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and the Conservation Reserve Program. Although the Loehnig's primary goal is to manage for quail, it's very clear that pollinators and other wildlife are benefitting as well.

The tour was hosted by Quail Forever, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. The setting could not have been more perfect; several wildflower species were in full bloom, monarchs were fluttering around the milkweed, the bobs were whistling in every direction, and even a turkey hen made an appearance. We started at the barn where the Loehnigs gave a history of the farm and overview of the current management practices. Conservation partners from Quail Forever, Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Quality Deer Management provided information on pollinator benefits, landowner financial assistance programs, and landowner cooperatives. For a majority of the evening, we toured through the fields of the farm as Mark and Leo spoke about the management of the pollinator plots. Invasive plant management, pollinator plot site preparation, and prescribed burning were some key topics discussed during the tour. One of my favorite things about the event was the focus on the landowner's perspective. Although the biologists were there to provide insights and facilitate the event, my goal was to create an environment where attendees and the Loehnigs could engage in conversations with each other. I wanted to not only highlight their successes, but to also mention some of the struggles and helpful tips they learned along the way. I believe this type of engagement is important for landowners to hear others' experiences and is something that biologists can't always provide in a classroom setting.

Quail Forever and its conservation partners greatly appreciate the work the Loehnigs are doing in the name of conservation and thank them for allowing us to showcase their property! I hope that their efforts inspire others to consider the importance of establishing pollinator and other wildlife habitat.

Right: The group toured through established pollinator fields.

Bottom left: Milkweed was plentiful throughout the farm.

Bottom right: Mark and Leo gave a history of the family farm.





Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Rachel Settle — Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve Counties

April—June 2019

| Training/Meeting Type | Outcome |
|---|--|
| MDC Plan Development Training | Learned about Farm Bill Planning, Landowner Assistance Program, burn plan writing, and conducting heritage reviews |
| NRCS Cultural Resources Parts 1 & 2 | Completed AgLearn and in-person training required for Apprentice Conservation Planner |
| NRCS Conservation Planner Training Part 1 | Completed AgLearn training required for Apprentice Conservation Planner |
| NRCS Overview of Water Quality Resource Assessment | Completed AgLearn training required for Apprentice Conservation Planner |
| NRCS Introduction to Field office Technical Guide | Completed AgLearn training required for Apprentice Conservation Planner |
| NRCS Nitrogen Management and Concerns | Completed AgLearn training required for Apprentice Conservation Planner |
| NRCS Sediment Management | Completed AgLearn training required for Apprentice Conservation Planner |
| NRCS Water Bodies | Completed AgLearn training required for Apprentice Conservation Planner |
| PF/QF All Team Meeting | Networked with other PF/QF Biologists, attended breakout sessions about invasive plan management and Farm Bill implementation/policy |
| Management Intensive Grazing School | Learned about grazing systems to better serve producers in my counties |
| New Employee Partners Meeting | Met with partners to establish my position's goals, expectations, and training needs |
| MDC Monarch Butterfly and Native Pollinator Training | Learned about native pollinator identification, habitat needs, and managing pollinators on agricultural lands |
| Boone County Pollinator Tour | Toured various pollinator-managed properties including MO Soybean Farm and A.L. Gustin Golf Course |
| Bobwhite Bootcamp | Learned about farm bill programs, quail-friendly practices, grazing and forestry systems, and conservation plan writing |
| Hamilton Native Outpost Pasture Walk | Learned about managing native grasslands and NWSG establishment |
| Ste. Genevieve SWCD Board Meetings | Provided updates of current habitat projects |

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Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Rachel Settle — Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve Counties

April—June 2019

Outreach & Education

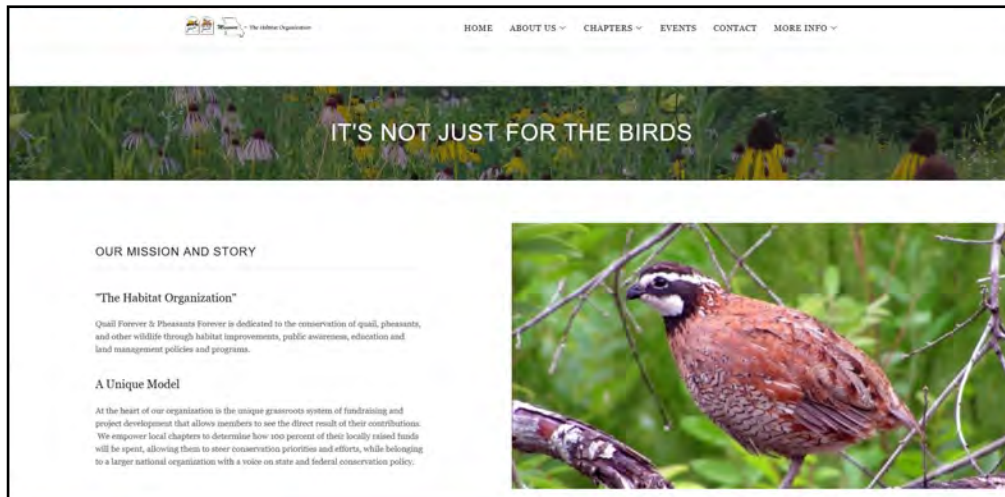
- Represented QF as a keynote speaker at St. Francois County Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Dinner Meeting

Looking Forward

- Obtain NRCS Apprentice Conservation Planner certification
- Complete MDC Prescribed Burn Manager training
- Host at least 1 tour and 1 workshop in FY20
- Start Monarch Monitoring project in Perry County with QF FBWB Wes Buchheit
- Continue getting to know landowners in my counties and building relationships with partners



QF/PF Field Staff at Prairie Wildlife for Bobwhite Bootcamp



Check out our new website for upcoming events, biologist reports, and more information about our Missouri team !

www.missouripfqf.org

**If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.*

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Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

April-June 2019

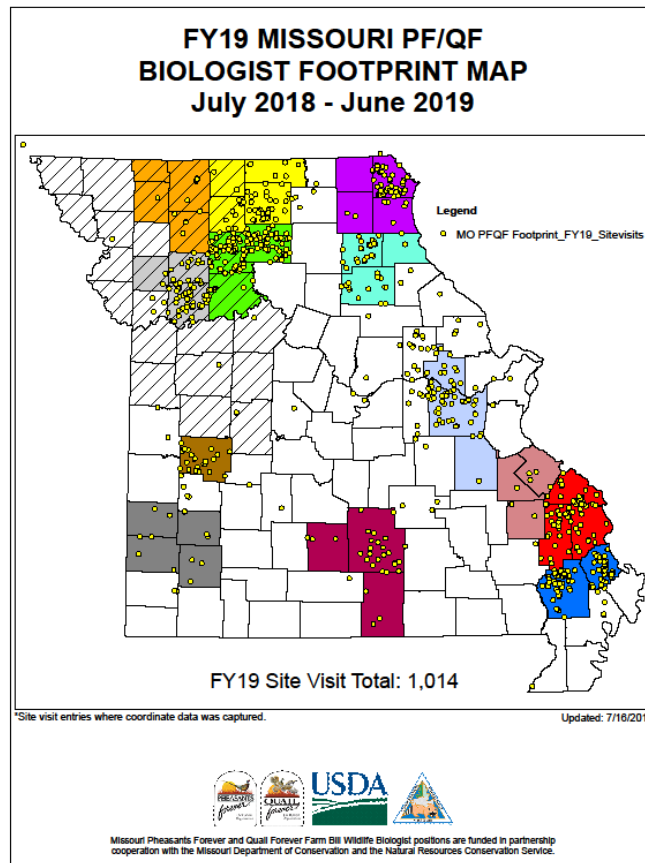
Wrapping up FY19

Planning was the name of the game for the 4th quarter—planning workshops, facilitating a Forest Stewardship Plan for a landowner, assisting NRCS with EQIP plans, and starting the planning process for CRP reenrollments. Planning is one of the most important activities for the Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist to assist our partners with their workload and provide technical

| <u>Conservation Planning</u> | Conservation Program | Acres Impacted |
|--|----------------------|----------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 113 Landowner Contacts • 29 Site Visits • 15 Conservation Plans Written • 9 Practice Checkouts • 4 Workshops | EQIP | 203.6 |
| | CRP | 259 |
| | CSP | 3.4 |
| | MDC LAP | 162.4 |
| | QF Chapter | 12.1 |
| | Non-Program | 39.2 |
| | Total | 679.7 |

guidance to landowners for wildlife practices. Many of the landowner projects planned this past quarter include: monarch and pollinator plantings, invasive species treatment, and grassland and woodland prescribed burning. See the table to the left for a summary of the assistance.

The Missouri Quail Forever Team was busy doing the same, helping landowners and partners put habitat on the ground through our partner programs. Over the past year, we collectively made 3,024 landowner contacts, conducted 1,061 site visits, and impacted more than 18,000ac. We surpassed our outreach goals by presenting to more than 4,700 workshop participants with habitat and program information to help meet their conservation goals. See the map on the right that shows where our Team has worked to make impacts in Missouri. We look forward to further success as our Team continues to build relationships with partners and landowners to get more habitat on the ground.



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Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

April-June 2019

Prescribed Fire Reaching MO Landowners:

The Missouri Prescribed Fire Council held its annual summer meeting on June 8 at Mark Twain Lake with topics including an update on HB978: Prescribed Burning Act, burn equipment and training financial support for prescribed burn associations (PBA's), and discussion of funding opportunities for a prescribed fire coordinator position. For the second year in a row, the annual meeting was open to the public and incorporated a workshop and field tour for PBA members, landowners, and anyone interested in learning more about prescribed fire. Four of the five PBA's located across the state were represented by members who shared their experiences of how their PBA's operate during a facilitated discussion to improve PBA efficiency. The event moved forward with a presentation about woodland management with prescribed fire and then we took to the outdoors to tour two adjacent woodlands on US Corps of Engineer land to see the difference in the plant and animal communities of woodlands managed with and without fire. The event was a big success with great discussion between the 48 participants (pictured below). Thanks to the Mark Twain Prescribed Burn Association and the MO QF Prescribed Fire Committee for the assistance in organizing the event!



| Training/Meeting Type | Outcome |
|---|--|
| MDC Southeast Private Lands Staff Meeting | Provided an update on MO Quail Forever happenings and participated in discussions about landowner natural resource assistance in the region. |
| Pheasants/Quail Forever All Team Meeting | The entire PF/QF organization of 250+ employees met in Moravia, IA for training and team building events with the theme of "What Matters". I attended presentations on seeding equipment, federal programs, "day in the life of..." different PF/QF positions, and more. |
| NWCG Wildland Firefighter and Fire Behavior Training | Completed the federally recognized S-130 and S-190 courses to further fire qualifications/experience and to be able to assist federal partners with prescribed fire. |

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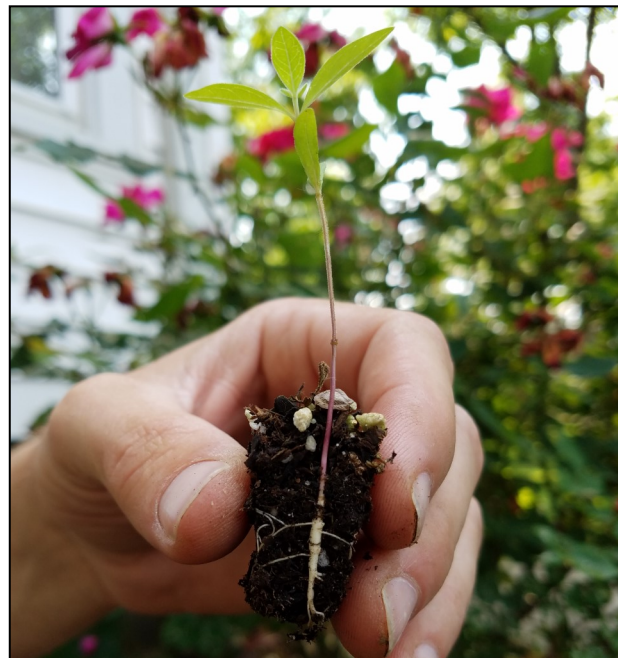
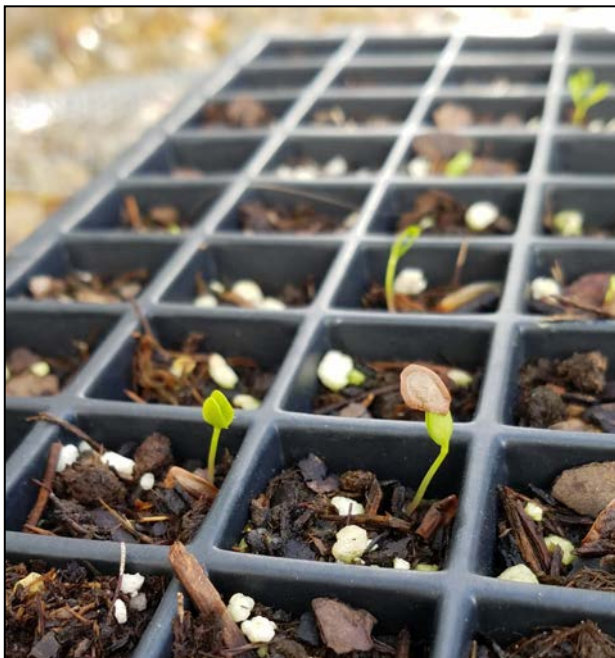
April-June 2019

Outreach & Education

- Hosted a landowner demonstration burn near Patton with 17 landowners that received hands-on fire experience with the help of Mayfield Holler Wildlife Coop participants and MDC staff.
- Assisted Rachel Settle with the Quail & Pollinator Habitat Tour in western Perry County.
- Assisted Daniel Bollinger with the Pollinator Habitat Tour in Stoddard County.

Looking Forward

- Quail Forever Chapter District Meeting August 12 in Poplar Bluff.
- Landowner Native Warm Season Grass Information Meeting & Pasture Tour August 13 near Patton.
- Native Warm Season Grass Interagency Grazing Workshop August 14 near Patton.
- Landowner Prescribed Burn Workshop October 5 hosted by the Black River QF Chapter in Poplar Bluff.
- Continuing the NRCS Work Cycle Time Study through September 1.
- Continue to assist landowners with site visits to identify landowner objectives and habitat opportunities.



Propagating locally collected native seed including: purple milkweed (pictured), swamp milkweed, common milkweed, and prairie blazing star.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

April–June 2019

Position Update

During the past three months I have continued to work with private landowners to reach their conservation goals and worked with our local partners to ensure we are putting good conservation on the ground. I have also attended trainings and workshops so that I can better help land owners in our area.

Pollinator Week

June 17th-23rd was national pollinator week. During that week I worked with NRCS, MDC, and a local Warren County landowner to put on a workshop the evening of June 18th. The 28 participants learned the importance of our native pollinators, why they are important to us as well as the ecosystem, and how to establish and maintain high quality pollinator habitat. The workshop location allowed attendees to see the difference between three and ten-year old plantings. This is important because it takes diverse plantings of native grasses and wildflowers several years to fully establish. Continuing with the theme of pollinators later that week I attended a training on native pollinators and their habitat hosted by MDC, MU,



Attendees of the June 18th pollinator workshop learned the importance of pollinators and their habitat.

St. Louis Zoo, and Missouri Soybean Association. This training, geared toward resource professionals, providing an in-depth dive into our native pollinators and why native grasslands are so important. Trainings like this are important to ensure wildlife biologist are up to date on the most current information to guide important conservation work that happens on private and public land.

Conservation Planning

- 50 Landowner Contacts
- 30 Site Visits
- 3 EQIP Contracts

| EQIP Practices Contracted | Acres |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Conservation Cover—327 | 69.9 |
| Tree and Shrub Establishment—612 | 0.8 |
| Prescribed Burn—338 | 51.5 |
| Herbaceous Weed Control—315 | 23.8 |
| Total | 146 |

| Training/Meeting Type | Outcome |
|---|--|
| 2 NRCS FOSA Staff Meetings | Updated NRCS staff on what I have been working on and received updates on NRCS programs. |
| MDC Conservation Planners Training | Refresher on MDC project planning process. |
| NRCS Cultural Resource Training | Learned how do identify and how to handle cultural resources during conservation planning for NRCS practices |
| Bobwhite Bootcamp | Learned more about bobwhite quail ecology and how to incorporate their habitat into working lands. |

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Quarterly Partners' Report



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and

April-June 2019

Native Pasture Walk

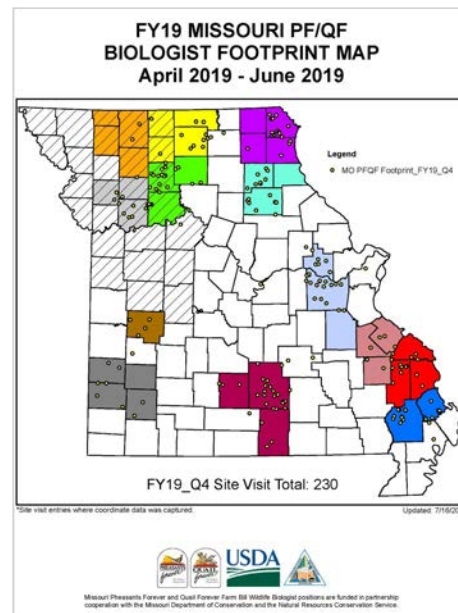
Incorporating wildlife habitat into working lands is becoming more important, whether that be the use of precision ag on crop ground or using native grasses and forbs for high quality livestock forage. The predominant forage for cattle in Missouri is tall fescue, which is not wildlife friendly and provides very little forage during the hot summer months. A solution that is slowing catching on is the use of diverse mixtures of native warm-season grasses and forbs. On June 28th I was able to see first hand that cattle can do well on native forages and that if properly grazed these pastures can provide quality habitat. Cattle producers near Houston, MO have been successfully grazing cow-calf pairs on native forages for a couple of decades and have eliminated the need to purchase hay. During the pasture walk quail could be heard calling and a variety of native pollinators and insects were seen buzzing throughout the pasture.



Cattle grazing on diverse native forages near Houston, MO.

Outreach & Education

- Attended the Gateway Chapter's first ever Pint Night to talk habitat with those who attended.
- Helped instruct a landowner prescribed burn workshop hosted by MDC reaching 21 landowners.
- Lead a discussion on Prescribed Burn Associations at the MO Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting with 50 PBA members and landowners in attendance.



Looking Forward

- On August 6th I will be attending the local district meeting.
- During July-September the MO QF team will be surveying monarch habitat in native seedings across the state.
- On August 26th I will be presenting on the benefits of grazing native forages during the Pike County grazing school.
- I will continue to assist FSA and NRCS throughout the current continuous CRP sign-up.
- Through landowner contacts I will continue to share the Quail Forever mission and help get anyone interested involved with their local QF chapter.

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