



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

## Quarterly Partners' Report



**Andrew White - Livingston, Linn, and Carroll Counties**

**January – March 2019**

### Position Update

January 13, 2019 marked the start of my 8th year with PF/QF in Missouri. During this time, I have not only seen numerous conservation wins, but have also seen our team grow from 3 biologists across the state, to now having 13. Our team's growth and the efforts in conservation here in Missouri would not have been possible without our partners. Together we are putting quality habitat on the ground and as I look back on the past six years, I am astounded at how much we have accomplished together.

### Missouri State Habitat Meeting - The Place To Be

Last month, Missouri PF/QF hosted their 6th State Habitat Conference. This annual event is a chance for producers, chapter members, partners, and other like-minded conservationists to come together to share and learn from each other. During the conference, attendees get to hear about conservation and population updates, habitat and hunting how-to's, and other topics that interest them.

This year, the event was held in Columbia, March 15-16. It kicked off with keynote addresses by QF's very own Tim Caughran, Director of Field Operations as well as Brandon Butler, Roeslein Alternative Energy's new Director of Communications. Additionally, attendees were able to choose from 18 presentations with topics that ranged from predator control to integrating agriculture and conservation. Overall, it's clear that this was the best year yet with tons of positive feedback from our 200 attendees.

One of my favorite facets of this conference is the awards ceremony, where we recognize chapters, partners and others for their commitment to conserving the natural resources that make Missouri a leader in the field. This was a big year for awards in the Northwest region. See a few photos below. If you have not yet made it to the State Habitat Convention, I strongly encourage you to attend. The Missouri PF/QF team strives to improve every year, so I am confident that 2020 will be even better! Be on the lookout for our Save The Date coming out later this year!

**Conservation Planning**

- 90 Landowner Contacts
- 32 Site Visits
- 23 Conservation Plans Written/Modified
- 25 Status Review/Checkout
- 3 Eligibility/Ranking Assessments
- 1 Rx Burn Plans Completed

Programs	Acres Impacted
<b>FSA</b>	340.59
<b>NRCS</b>	199.60
<b>OTHER</b>	68.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>546.99</b>



**NRCS Area 1 Staff:** Partner of the Year for RCPP Monarch efforts.



**2C QF Chapter:** Acre Maker and Mission Monarch Awards



**Lee Metcalf:** Partner of the Year Award for his work with MO PF/QF Staff



**Shortgrass QF Chapter:** Brood Builder Award



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**Andrew White - Livingston, Linn, and Carroll Counties**

**January – March 2019**

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>Landowner Rx Burn Workshop</b>	Co-hosted Rx burn workshop for landowners with MDC PLC, Rich Crowe and MU Extension's Valerie Tate in Linn County at the MU Forage Systems Research Center.
<b>The Missouri Natural Resources Conference</b>	Attended presentations and meetings with natural resource professionals from across the state. This is a great networking and continuing education event.
<b>NRCS Monthly Programs Webinar</b>	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.
<b>S130/S190 Fire Training</b>	Completed the online courses this quarter and will finish out with the field test in early April. This training aligns with the Missouri PF/QF team goals to have a subset of our staff S130/S190 certified.
<b>MRBI Watershed Planners Meeting</b>	Met with Linn County NRCS staff and a representative from the State Office to outline priorities for a potential Missouri River Basin Initiative sign up.
<b>Certified Conservation Planning Training</b>	Completed various continuing education training courses on AgLearn to maintain my Conservation Planner's certification. These courses will continue and are due to be completed by June 30, 2019.
<b>Livingston County SWCD Meeting</b>	Attended the SWCD Annual Meeting in Chillicothe and provided recommendations to several landowners regarding their current program contracts and supports local SWCD and NRCS partners at their event.

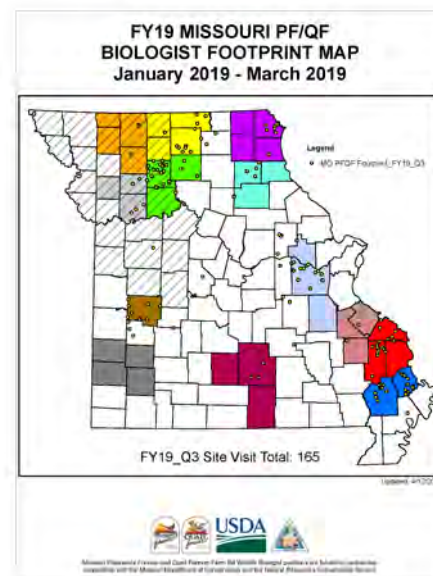
### Outreach & Education

- Attended the Missouri PF/QF State Habitat Convention
- Assisted the Shortgrass and 2C QF Chapters at their annual banquets
- Assisted the Shortgrass Chapter with annual Conservation Night at the YMCA in Chillicothe
- Have been meeting and will continue to meet with local QF chapters to assist with youth and women's event planning

### Looking Forward

- Plan Development Training, MDC Headquarters, April 5
- 2C Chapter Annual Seed Day, Carrollton, May 4
- PF/QF National Staff Meeting, Iowa, May 20-23
- Co-Hosting Landowner Workshop/Field Tour during National Pollinator week with MDC PLC, Scott Roy, Chillicothe, June 22
- Assist NBCI and MDC partners in conducting the NBCI Spring Breeding Bird Surveys, 2C Focus Area, June
- Continue to provide technical assistance to partners and landowners 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

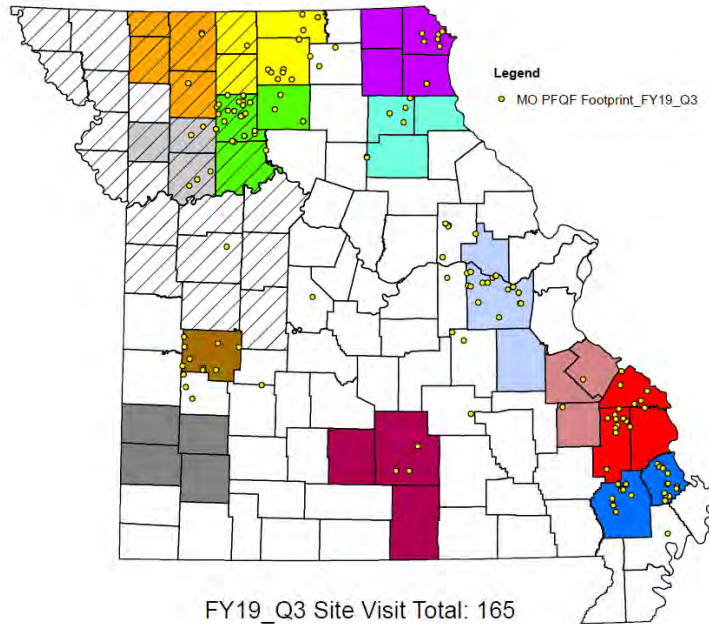
January – March 2019

### “Welcome to the Ozarks”

The last week of January my wife and I left the 60 degree days of Louisiana and jumped straight into winter, with Missouri welcoming us to the Ozarks with a brisk –8 degrees our first day as Missouri residents. That next Monday I was officially brought on as the new Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist (FBWB) in Houston, Missouri, covering Texas, Wright, and Howell counties. That first week was spent getting to know some of the MO Quail Forever (QF) team and speaking with landowners, producers, and partners about QF and attending workshops at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference.

Since that first week it has been full speed ahead this quarter with trainings, meetings, and getting to know the area through landowner and producer site visits. Along the way I have continued to speak with landowners and producers about how their property can provide better habitat for wildlife using programs like EQIP and MDC’s Landowner Assistance Program, while still being a working farm. 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 and producers across Missouri.

### Missouri PF/QF Biologist Footprint Map January – March 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

- 16 Landowner Contacts
- 4 Site Visits
- 13 EQIP applications completed, ranked & cost estimated.



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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Colby Sharp - Texas, Wright, and Howell Counties

January – March 2019

### Burn Baby Burn!

It has been said many times since I have begun my work in south central Missouri that much of the community is less inclined to use prescribed fire as a tool for land management, though there are cedars steady encroaching in on their pastures. Many believe that the reason for this is because the community does not understand the benefits of fire, but in my time speaking with landowners I have found that many simply do not know how to contain the fire, when it is best to do a prescribed fire, and that there are resources available through MDC and NRCS to help create a burn plan for a safe prescribed burn on their property.

With this in mind, I wanted to ensure that I would be able to answer landowner's questions regarding how to burn, when to burn, and provide them with information on all of the resources available for prescribed fire planning. So over these past couple months I have taken the opportunity to expand my understanding of prescribed fire in Missouri through trainings, workshops, and best of all putting fire on the ground.

In the short time that I have been in Missouri, I have already been able to put these trainings to work, by assisting with multiple burns, explaining the benefits of prescribed fire to landowners, and given recommendations on planning for prescribed burns to private landowners throughout the Ozarks. I also had the opportunity to assist the burn pictured above, where the landowner had almost completely converted a fescue pasture to native warm season grasses and was already seeing the benefits, with a covey of quail moving into the area he is managing after not seeing any on his property for years.

As I go forward, it is my goal to continue to expand my understanding and educating the area on why prescribed fire is a land management tool worth using on both recreational and working lands throughout the Ozarks.



Prescribed burn on pasture in the process of being converted from fescue pasture to native warm season grasses.



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Colby Sharp - Texas, Wright, and Howell Counties

January – March 2019

### Outreach & Education

- Attended the Missouri Natural Resources Conference and worked the Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever (PF&QF) information and career fair booths.
- Attended MDC's Burn Workshop in Houston, Missouri where I assisted with workshop explanations for landowners and with questions regarding prescribed burn planning.
- Attended Piney River Covey QF Chapter Banquet, where I introduced myself to the banquet's attendees and explained what my position can provide to them as landowners.



Great time working Youth Table during the Piney River Covey QF Chapter Banquet. Great work by the chapter getting youth involved and giving away 2,000 dollars worth in shotguns.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>Missouri Natural Resource Conference</b>	Assisted with QF booth and attended workshops on, the Scenic River Partnership, Invasive Species of Missouri, Native Bees, and Bobwhite Quail.
<b>Ozark Region District Conservationist Meeting</b>	Attended district meeting where I introduced myself and the new QF position responsibilities to all divisions of MDC in the Ozark region.
<b>MDC Fire Management Level 1 Training</b>	Participated in MDC fire training in Columbia where I completed my Level 1 fire management certification.
<b>35<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference</b>	Expanded my understanding of Missouri forages by attending workshops on management-intensive grazing, proper stocking rates, native warm season grass establishment, production and grazing, and mitigation of fescue endophyte.
<b>Missouri 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Farm Conference</b>	Worked PF&QF information booth at the 70th Annual Missouri Tree Farm Conference. Assisted landowners with land technical assistance and finding a QF or MDC biologist near them.
<b>NRCS Soil Composition, Structure, and Judging</b>	Participated in NRCS soil training where I evaluated the characteristics of soils and how to judge them in Carthage, Missouri.

### Looking Forward

- I will be attending a MDC Plan Development Training.
- Attend the NRCS Soil Health and Sustainability training to further my understanding of best practices for soils of south central Missouri.
- Complete EQIP contract checkouts regarding forestry and wildlife practices through my 3 counties.
- I will be putting on a Pollinator Workshop and Tour of the Journagan Ranch in June.

*\*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

Jan-Mar 2019

### Quarter Highlights

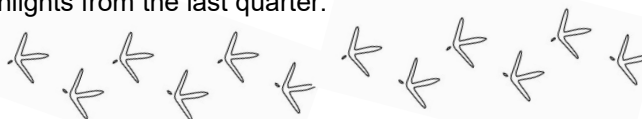
#### Conservation Planning

- 89 Landowner Contacts
- 14 Site Visits
- 3 Projects With Acres
- 6 Outreach Events
- 1 Outreach Publications
- 6 Trainings

**Total Acres Impacted: 154 ac.**

### Time Flies When You're Having Fun!

Who knew so much could be bottled up in one year? Not only have I worked with amazing professionals in conservation but I have worked with extremely passionate landowners. This has made my first year as a Quail Forever Biologist fly by. January 19th began my second year here in the Shelbyville office. From rewarding habitat improvements, to great trainings and networking events my position continues to keep me on my toes. Here are a few highlights from the last quarter.



### Reaching Landowners Where it Matters Most

The past few months have been packed with outreach. Workshops, site visits, and meetings have been used to spread the Quail Forever mission.

#### *SWCD Contractors Meeting*



Local contractors kicked off their busy season by attending the FOSA contractor's meeting held in Shelbina, MO. Nearly 70 contractors received information concerning their business and new developments that would impact the work they will do this year. A catered breakfast was followed by several speakers. I had an opportunity to speak with many contractors about the work they do and introduce myself as the local biologist. This networking opportunity was well worth the time spent.

#### *Landowner Burn Workshop*

Quail Forever biologist, Haley Lockard, and I assisted with a landowner burn workshop in Paris, MO led by MDC's Jamie Ebbesmeyer and John Pinkowski. Having approximately 25 participants the material was received very well and many attendees inquired about the Mark Twain Prescribed Burn Association (MTPBA). Since the workshop, we have acquired 3 new members to the MTPBA.

#### *State Habitat Meeting*

March 15th, the Missouri Quail Forever team held the State Habitat Meeting in Columbia, MO. Nearly 200 Chapter members and/or landowners attended the event. A full day of seminars packed with valuable information followed by an appreciation dinner and live band. It was a chance for our growing Quail Forever team to socialize with landowners and discuss the Quail Forever Mission.



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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

Jan-Mar 2019

### State Habitat Meeting Continued....

Many of our seminars were a hit, however, the retrieving demonstration was a particular favorite! Not only did Joe Rabbitt talk about key training tips but invited us outside for a live demonstration as his dogs were put to the test. Blind retrieves, double retrieves, and so much more!



### In the Field

Dusting off the cobwebs and lacing up their boots, landowners are headed to the woods anxious to improve habitat. Now that another deer season is behind us many people are looking to increase opportunities for next season. Prescribed burning, TSI, fescue eradication, and shrub planting has been the topic of conversation during many of my site visits.

#### Dave Graber and Norbert Giessman,

Monroe County landowners, got out the drip torches and used prescribed fire to clean up leaf litter and set back invasive species throughout their wooded acres.

**John Behr**, Shelby County landowner, is an active manager of his acres and has been making even more enhancements since we met. John had already established some great quail and pheasant habitat on his property through shrub plantings and native warm season grass establishment. He had gone as far as implementing a three year prescribed fire rotation on his fields. John, being an active manager, knew more could be done. After meeting with him, we developed a plan to enhance cover along his wooded field edges and increase brood rearing habitat. As the months have passed John has implemented several edge feathering structures, removed woody encroachment from his fields, and has begun a fescue conversion for two pollinator plots. Celebrating his retirement in mid-March, John expresses enthusiasm for the enhancements he will be initiating in the years to come!



Fire is a great way to start a fescue conversion! Dave and Norb plan to follow up with several herbicide treatments and plant pollinator species on 4 acres.

Not only are these folks managing for great habitat but they are making memories to last a lifetime!



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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

Jan-Mar 2019

### Workshops & Training...

- **Jan 29<sup>th</sup>** MDC Level 3 Fire Training- Springfield, Mo



- **Feb 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>** Missouri Natural Resources Conference-Tan Tara, Mo
- **Feb 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>** MDC Level 2 Fire Training-Cape Girardeau, Mo



- **Mar 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>** NRCS Terrace Training-Palmyra, Mo
- **Mar 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>** QDMA Stewardship - Columbia, Mo
- **Mar 28<sup>th</sup>** MDC Tree Planting Training-Monroe County

### Miscellaneous Meetings

- \* **Jan 9<sup>th</sup>** MDC Quarterly PLS Meeting
- \* **Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>** MTQF Chapter Budget Meeting
- \* **Jan 16<sup>th</sup>** Mid-Mo Uplander Chapter Meeting
- \* **Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>** Shelby SWCD Board Meeting
- \* **Feb 27<sup>th</sup>** MTPBA Meeting
- \* **Mar 12<sup>th</sup>** MTQF Chapter Meeting

### Landowner Opportunities...

- **Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>** Landowner Burn Workshop- Paris, Mo
- **Mar 5<sup>th</sup>** Contractors Meeting- Shelbyville, Mo
- **Mar 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>** State Habitat Meeting- Columbia, Mo

### Looking Forward, I will...

- Continue to provide technical assistance to landowners.
- Complete Plan Writing training April 5th.
- Complete the field portion of S130/S190 fire training April 6th.
- Complete Plant ID training Jun 11th-12th.
- Continue the NRCS Conservation Planner Apprentice training.
- Attend NEMO Soil Health Workshop in Monroe City, MO.
- Assist with the Shelby County SWCD Outdoor Classroom event.
- Help coordinate QF/NWTF/MDC Dove Plot establishment in Monroe County.
- Co-host two pollinator workshops during pollinator week in June.
- Attend the Quail Forever National and State Team Meetings.
- Host Annual PFC Meeting June 8th.

### PERSONAL NOTE

I am very excited for this upcoming turkey season. I hope that the season brings beautiful weather, lots of gobbles, and great memories with family and friends. May my fellow turkey and mushroom hunters have a chance to get in the woods and experience all spring has to offer!

**GOOD LUCK OUT THERE!**

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

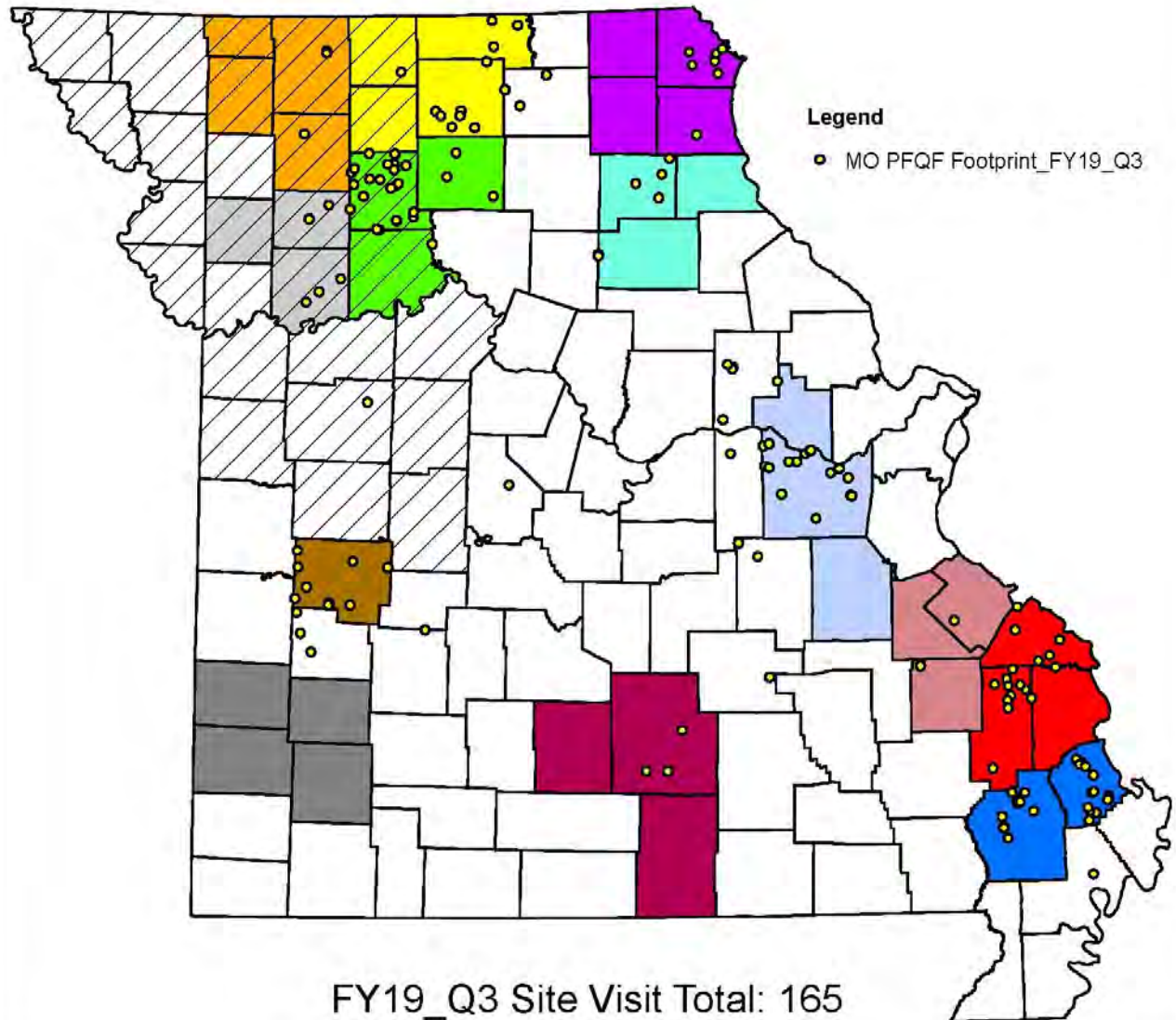
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# FY19 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP January 2019 - March 2019



Updated: 4/12/2019



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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



**Daniel Bollinger - Scott and Stoddard Counties**

**January– March 2019**

### Position Update

As a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, I continue to provide advice to landowners who share an interest in improving wildlife habitat and conserving natural resources. Much of my work this time of year involves working with landowners to manage wildlife habitat, control invasive species, and evaluate CRP acres for upcoming reenrollments. Whether landowners are enrolled in federal, state, or local cost share programs; or doing habitat work on their own, it is my pleasure to provide technical guidance.

### Wildlife Management Workshop

To kick off the new year, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Inc. hosted a CRP and Habitat Management Workshop at the Stoddard County USDA Service Center. Participating landowners gained knowledge about strip disking, herbicide application, prescribed fire, shrub establishment, and downed tree structures. Several landowners gave testimonies about their success and difficulties while conducting management practices. Other landowners were eager to carry out management practices. Since the workshop, I have worked with several landowners who did in fact complete management practices such as prescribed fire and strip disking. Other landowners plan to burn or apply herbicide in the coming months. It is always a pleasure to have landowners attend these workshops; and even more satisfying when landowners take what they learned and apply it in the field.

If you missed this workshop, don't fret because MDC, NRCS, and Quail Forever Inc. will host a Pollinator Habitat Tour from 1-4pm on June 20th. Everyone is welcome to participate in the tour to learn more about pollinator habitat establishment and management. We plan to visit two properties with pollinator & wildlife habitat established through cost share programs. Cory Stevens with Stevens Bee Company will discuss his success with pollinators. In addition, Tony Thorn will speak about managing CRP fields. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by June 12th to Daniel Bollinger at (573) 545-3593 ext. 8007.

*Prescribed burn completed by workshop participant*



- Conservation Planning**
- 108 Landowner Contacts
  - 27 Site Visits
  - 18 Expiring CRP Reviews
  - 3 Presentations; over 110 participants
  - 2 Prescribed Burn Plans Completed

CRP Practices	Acres Impacted
<b>CP1</b> Introduced Grass and Legume Establishment	35.40
<b>CP33</b> Field Buffers	54.09
<b>CP38</b> Early Successional Quail Habitat	39.94
<b>CP42</b> Pollinator	94.46
<b>Other CRP</b>	64.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>287.95</b>

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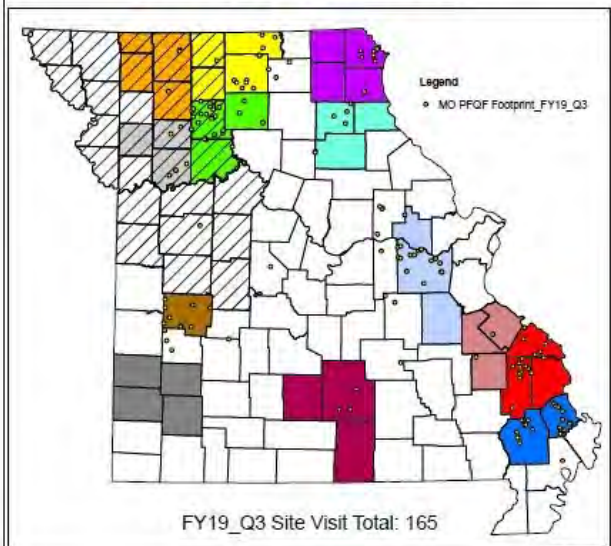
# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Daniel Bollinger - Scott and Stoddard Counties

January– March 2019

## FY19 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP January 2019 - March 2019



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Map of Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist landowner site visits Jan-Mar 2019

## Outreach & Education

- Conducted a CRP and Habitat Management Workshop with MDC for landowners
- Presented wildlife practices and cost share options at Pioneer/Corteva Grower's Meeting
- Assisted MDC with Prescribed Fire Workshop

## Additional Work

- Participated in the QF State Habitat Meeting
- Participated in MDC Level 3 Fire Training
- Attended NRCS FOSA meeting and NRCS Area 3 Programs Update
- Attended and participated in NRCS Soil Health and Sustainability Course
- Communicated with contractors and seed vendors
- Attended Beef and Forage Conference
- Completed S130/S190 Fire Computer Courses
- Participated in QF New Employee Orientation
- Attended MDC Private Land Services Staff Meeting
- Attended Annual SWCD Meeting

## Looking Forward

- I will continue to engage with State, Federal, and NGO partners to improve wildlife habitat and create new habitat opportunities.
- I will continue providing technical assistance to landowners in Scott, Stoddard, and surrounding counties, who are interested in improving or managing habitat for monarchs, quail, and other wildlife.
- I will conduct a Pollinator Habitat Tour with MDC and NRCS during June 2019.
- I will assist the Bootheel Bobwhite Quail Forever Chapter with planning and conducting youth events.
- I will continue to complete Ag Learn courses for becoming an Apprentice Conservation Planner.

- I will assist MDC and USDA with St. Dennis Elementary Farm Day exhibits.
- I will attend NRCS Cultural Resource Training.
- I will attend MDC PLS Staff meetings and NRCS FOSA meetings.



The Quail Forever Missouri Team is growing!

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# Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Erin Forsythe– Jasper, Lawrence, Barton, Dade Counties

January–March 2019

## This Past Quarter...

I recently joined the Quail Forever team January 14th of this year. I graduated from the University of Missouri in May 2018 with a Bachelor of Sciences in both Animal and Plant Science. Before accepting a position with Quail Forever I worked for Montgomery County SWCD and also NRCS. I am excited getting to work in southwest Missouri as it is unique in still having several ruminant prairies.

These past few months I have worked very closely with the NRCS, MDC, and SWCD staff in my duty location. I have gone out with the MDC private land conservationist to become more familiar with the area and increase my wildlife knowledge. I have been working on networking in my counties to make landowners aware that I am here to help assist them with wildlife promoting practices. I have also been asked to assist on the grazing committee for our Missouri Quail Forever team, and look forward to what all we can accomplish this year.

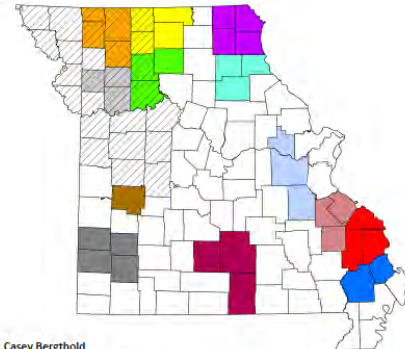


Photo taken on family farm in Montgomery County

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



## Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

- (6) Landowner Contacts
- (4) Site Visits
- (8) Trainings/ workshops

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# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Erin Forsythe– Jasper, Lawrence, Barton, Dade Counties

January–March 2019

Training/Workshops	Outcome
<b>QF New Employee Training</b>	Learned the ins and outs of Pheasants and Quail Forever
<b>MDC Level 1 Burn Training</b>	Stepping stone to be able to write burn plans for producers
<b>Livestock and Forage Conference</b>	Listen to presentations about cattle nutrition and grazing management on Warm Season Grasses and networked with local producers in the county
<b>Spring Forage Conference</b>	Listened to presentation regarding warm season grasses. Reviewed the benefits and process of incorporating warm season grasses into your grazing system
<b>Women in Agriculture Event</b>	Networked with local Women in Ag
<b>State Habitat Workshop</b>	Networked with partners and listened to workshops
<b>Quality Deer Management Training</b>	Learned about quality deer management pertaining to harvest, habitat and much more
<b>Soils Training</b>	Learned more about Web Soil Survey, soil textures, structures
<b>MDC Plan Development Training</b>	Learned about the process behind developing plans, farm bill, maps, LAP requirements, grazing, burn plans, T&E species

### Looking Forward

- Joplin Chapter Start Up meeting May 7th
- Grazing School in Lawrence County May 7th-9th
- National QF/PF meeting May 20th-23rd
- Jasper County Pollinator Workshop June 18th
- Work on obtaining NRCS Apprentice Conservation Planner certification in AgLearn
- Help with prescribed burns in my area
- Work on increasing landowner contacts and accessing more of the counties landowners and promote wildlife benefiting practices
- Attend training and workshops to expand my wildlife knowledge to better assist producers



Monroe county burn in March

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell, & Clinton County

January – March 2019

### Position Update

I have continued to serve the farmers and landowners of Ray, Caldwell, and Clinton county as a QF Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist. After a busy fall helping landowners get their CSP contracts off to a good start, my focus shifted to EQIP. Now that the eligibility and ranking phase of the program is complete, I am eager to move on to planning practices and guiding participants as they work towards their conservation goals.

### Northwest Missouri Success Stories

Landscape alone does not dictate wildlife numbers. The open grasslands of North and Southwest Missouri, for instance, will of course exhibit greater quail potential than the climax forests of the Ozarks, but without tireless effort and dedication to protecting and improving these habitats, we would only be seeing a fraction of the diversity and population densities we are currently witnessing.

At our Quail Forever State Habitat Meeting in March, attendees had the opportunity to see just how much thought, work, and coordination it takes to keep upland wildlife on the 21st century landscape. With presentations from MDC and MU researchers, Farm Bill Biologists, QF Chapter Leaders, agricultural producers, alternative energy companies, and others, we celebrated our past accomplishments and hoped to inspire future efforts. The day also provided us the opportunity to showcase some of the incredible partnerships that allow us to further our mission, and to honor specific groups and individuals for their outstanding accomplishments.



Dave Johnson and Grover DePriest receiving the "Partnership Award" on behalf of NRCS' Area 1 at the 2019 State Habitat Meeting.

<u>Conservation Planning</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 82 Landowner Contacts</li> <li>• 9 Site Visits</li> <li>• 16 Seed Mix Reviews</li> <li>• 5 Eligibility / Ranking Assessments</li> </ul>	Program Involvement	Acres Impacted
	Conservation Stewardship Program	13.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13.3</b>



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell, & Clinton County

January – March 2019

## NW Missouri *continued*

As the awards were announced, it was immediately evident that Northwest Missouri is full of dedicated and talented people who have made their lives about wildlife conservation.

Dave Johnson and Grover DePriest represented all of NRCS' Area 1 as they were awarded a partnership award for their efforts in promoting and implementing Monarch Butterfly Conservation through CSP last summer. Last year's Area 1 CSP contracts include over 2,000

acres getting planted to high diversity forb mixes in support of Monarchs, other pollinators, and upland wildlife. We were also able to honor MDC Private Land Conservationist, Lee Metcalf, for his outstanding achievements within the 2C Quail Focus Area in Carroll County. His efforts, along with the 2C Quail Forever Chapter in Carrollton, MO, have lead to dramatic increases in quail numbers in their area, part of why the 2C group earned our "acre maker" award at the meeting.



Lee Metcalf Receiving the "Outstanding Partner" award at the 2019 State Habitat Meeting.



The 2C Quail Forever Chapter receiving their "Acre Maker" award at the 2019 State Habitat Meeting.

We were also able to recognize the Heartland PFQF chapter in Independence, MO for their dedication to youth outreach and education. In their urban setting, the Heartland group is limited in their ability to impact local habitat, but that hasn't slowed them in delivering PFQF's mission. Through their sponsorship of numerous high school trap teams and youth outdoor camps, and their annual youth hunts, they have given thousands of Kansas City area kids opportunities to experience outdoor recreation that they might not otherwise have had, thus earning their chapter the "No Child Left Indoors Award".



The Heartland Pheasant's Forever / Quail Forever Chapter receiving their "No Child Left Indoors" award at the 2019 State Habitat



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell, & Clinton County

January – March 2019

### Going Further Together

Shortly after arriving here in Ray County, I found that a lack of seeding equipment was hindering our ability to best assist landowners with their wildlife habitat projects. To remedy this, I turned to the National Wild Turkey Federation's Superfund grant in hopes of acquiring a broadcast seeder that could handle diverse mixes of native forbs, grasses, and food plot seed. After getting a pledge of support from the Ray County Soil and Water Conservation District, I reached out to Lee



Kubota VS 330 Pendulum Seeder acquired through the National Wild Turkey Federation's Superfund grant.



The 2C Quail Forever Chapter pictured with the pendulum seeder they helped purchase for Ray and adjacent county use.

Metcalfe and the Carroll County 2C Quail Forever Chapter for additional support. As usual, Lee didn't miss a beat and the 2C chapter promptly contributed a generous portion of the matching funds for the grant proposal. Thanks to the strong wildlife interest in Ray and adjacent counties, and the strong support from our partners, our submission was well-received and we were awarded the funds to purchase our seeder. Ray County is now home to a brand new Kubota VS 330 Pendulum Seeder to help landowners accomplish their wildlife goals!

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>Quail Forever New Employee Orientation</b>	Attended a three-day PFQF New Employee Orientation in St. Paul, MN in January. This meeting provided a great organizational overview, helped us identify our many support systems, and showed great examples of how to best serve the communities we are working in.
<b>MDC Fire Management Level III</b>	Attended a three-day fire management training hosted by the Missouri Department of Conservation's Southwest Region. This training focused largely on prescribed burn plan development, and equipped me with the knowledge and certification to begin writing burn plans for landowners in my area.
<b>Missouri PFQF State Habitat Meeting</b>	Assisted with planning and implementing our annual state habitat meeting in Columbia in March. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to visit with partners and chapter members to celebrate our accomplishments and set a course for our future conservation efforts.





# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell, & Clinton County

January – March 2019

### Looking Forward

- With spring's arrival has come a flood of program updates, landowner inquiries, 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 EQIP 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. Looking forward, this will include food plot seed giveaways this spring, capitalizing on MDC/QF Habitat Challenge Grant opportunities, and assisting with a youth field day in June.
- I eagerly anticipate attending my first Pheasants Forever / Quail Forever all-team meeting in Iowa this May. This meeting will not only further my professional development, it will add to my technical habitat management skills with the new series of field courses being offered.
- I am excited to once again assist with the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative's Spring Breeding Bird Surveys this June. We should then have a little better idea of the effects this past harsh winter had on quail populations within and outside of MDC's focus areas.
- The next three months will come with numerous training opportunities. Among these will be an MDC plan-writing training, an S130/190 fire training field day, a soils training hosted by NRCS, and a plant identification workshop put on by MDC.
- Lastly, April 29th will mark my 1-year anniversary with *The Habitat Organization!* Thanks to incredible teammates and extremely outgoing partners and chapter members, it's been one heck of a year! I am truly grateful.



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

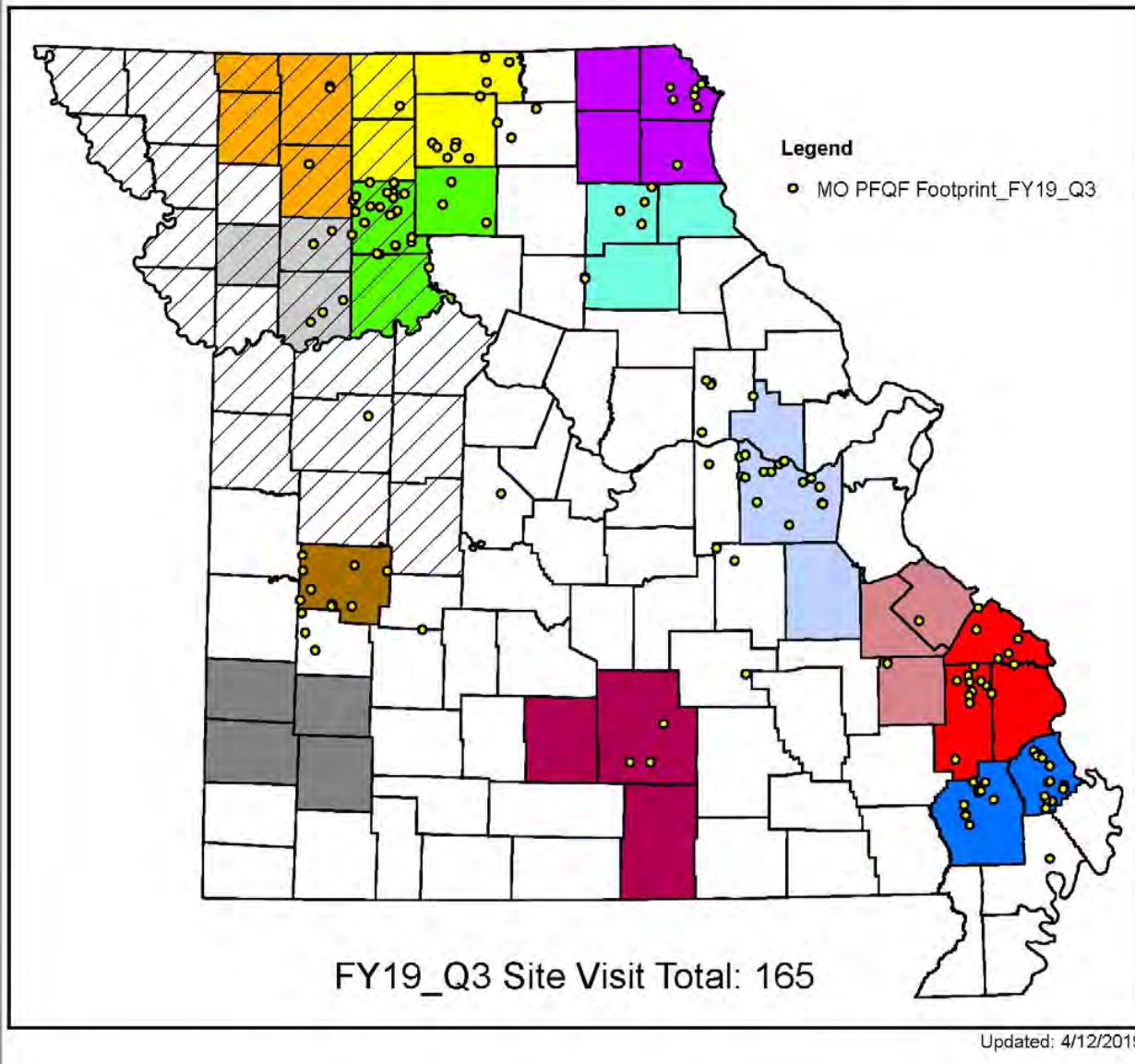
## Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell, & Clinton County

January – March 2019

### FY19 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP January 2019 - March 2019



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# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

Jan – March 2019

### Position Update

In February 2019, I filled the vacant Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist position in Kahoka. Before moving to Kahoka, I worked for Quail Forever as the first biologist in Oklahoma. In the Panhandle and NW corner of Oklahoma, I promoted the Working Lands for Wildlife Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative (LPCI). I was privileged to work with farmers and ranchers on improving grazing systems and removing cedar encroachment from the native prairies. Additionally, I assisted the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation with their new public walk-in access program and associated habitat improvement. Previously, I worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) as the Wildlife Health Specialist within the Deer Program. I am thrilled to be back in my home state to assist the landowners of Northeast Missouri with their wildlife management goals.

In the past 2 months, I have jumped head first to get to know the partner staff and landowners in the area. The weather has slowed some activity, but I have been able to assist with several MDC site visits to get reacquainted with Missouri program procedures and practices. I am excited to continue learning the area and help put habitat on the ground with the landowners and partners.



This photo was taken in March '19 of completed edge feathering in Lewis County. Edge Feathering provides protective cover for quail and rabbits.

### One Acre at a Time

One of the aspects I enjoy most about wildlife habitat management is how a small change can have a great impact. Conservation starts one acre at a time, one landowner at a time. Whether it is a comprehensive whole property management system or a one acre pollinator plot, every bit makes a difference to the wildlife we all enjoy. I am constantly impressed by the power of one acre. A fellow biologist recently told me “conservation radiates”. That is absolutely true. It takes just one person to set aside one acre or try something new to better conserve the resources. Before you know it, the whole neighborhood is on board. Do you have an acre (or more) that you can dedicate to wildlife habitat? No matter the scale, a small start can make a big change in our resources.

Conservation Planning	Other Programs	Acres Impacted	CRP Practices	Acres Impacted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 Landowner Contacts</li> <li>• 3 Seeding Plans</li> <li>• 16 Site Visits</li> </ul>	<b>EQIP</b>	22.2	<b>CP33</b>	22.8
	Conservation Cover, Forage and Biomass Planting		Upland Bird Habitat Buffer	
	<b>Habitat Challenge Grant</b>	2.4	<b>CP21</b>	1.8
	Edge Feathering, Pollinator seeding		Grass Filter Strips	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>CP23A</b>	39.5
			Wetland Restoration	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>64.1</b>

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# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

Jan – March 2019

### Outreach & Education

- At the **Missouri Natural Resource Conference** several PFQF biologists hosted a booth to share the story of Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever in Missouri. This was a great opportunity to meet fellow conservation professionals as well as students. I spoke with several students that were interested in getting involved with the organization.
- At the **Ten Rivers PFQF** annual banquet, I was able to meet several area landowners at the habitat booth. In conjunction with the habitat booth the chapter held a youth raffle to get more kids involved in the organization. I look forward to working with these landowners and the chapter to get more habitat on the ground in Lewis County.
- At the Clark County **Farm City Night** on March 2nd, I assisted partner agencies with an informational booth. We met numerous citizens and spread the word about conservation efforts in Clark county.
- March 15th and 16th were fun filled days at the **Missouri State Habitat Convention**. The PFQF family gathered in Columbia to learn, be motivated, and get re-energized by numerous presentations and fellowship with MO chapters, staff and partners.



This is a photo of our booth at the Ten Rivers PFQF annual banquet.



State Habitat meeting attendees heard from Bill White, MDC Private Land Services Chief, and JR Flores, NRCS State Conservationist (pictured). Both men talked about the successes of the PFQF partnership and their vision for the future.

Outreach & Education	Count
Information Booths	3
Newsletter Articles	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>



# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

Jan – March 2019

### Setting Roots



During the Tree/Shrub planting training we completed several different types of plantings from bareroot to container shrubs. A planting of elderberry cuttings is shown here. Once the planting matures, the elderberries will provide cover and forage for wildlife.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>Missouri Natural Resource Conference</b>	Conservation professionals from across the state gathered in Osage Beach for two days of presentations and continuing education.
<b>NRCS Terrace System Training</b>	This training provided guidance on terrace system construction and conservation benefits.
<b>MDC Landowner Prescribed Burn Workshop</b>	Landowners gathered in Paris to learn about the basic consideration for planning and conducting a prescribed burn. This course is required for landowners that wish to have MDC write their burn plan.
<b>Scotland County Annual Meeting</b>	The appreciation lunch provided the opportunity to meet members of the SWCD board as well as NRCS staff and landowners in the county.
<b>NRCS FOSA Staff Meeting</b>	This staff meeting was great to sit down and make sure everyone has the tools they need to get conservation on the ground in our four county service area.
<b>QDMA Deer Stewardship I Course</b>	The Quality Deer Management Association and MDC hosted an excellent 3 day course on all aspects of managing for deer and associated wildlife. Quail habitat is also great deer habitat. This provides another avenue to get landowners on board.
<b>NRCS Tree/ Shrub Planting Training</b>	This hands-on training demonstrated the steps to planning and planting trees or shrubs. We used a mechanical tree planter, container shrubs, bareroot shrubs, and elderberry cuttings as well as discussed considerations when planting near residences and utilities.

### Looking Forward

- April 5th MDC Plan Development Training
- MDC PLS Staff Meeting April 10th
- In May, PF and QF staff from across the country will gather in Iowa for an all Team Meeting.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) sign-up deadline is May 10th.
- During Pollinator week, I'll co-host workshops in Paris (June 17) and Kahoka (June 18). Join us for "Feed the Bees" and learn how to manage pollinator habitat at any scale.
- Continue to assist landowners with habitat management and NRCS with planning for EQIP.

*\*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**

**January – March 2019**

### Position Update

It's been a long winter, but spring finally seems to be here. I've spent much of this past quarter laying the ground work for a terrific and productive 2019. My focus has been on assisting landowners establishing monarch butterfly habitat through the RCPP (both EQIP and CSP), building my knowledge on prescribed burning and working to expand my certifications, and sharing the success of the Monarch-RCPP with partners through reports, presentations, and interviews. I continue to coordinate Monarch-RCPP efforts for Missouri as well as providing monarch and pollinator guidance to landowners, QF biologists, and partners alike. I'm looking forward to a busy but productive summer full of learning and outreach opportunities.

### NRCS Awarded QF Partnership Award for RCPP Efforts

Each year at the Missouri Quail Forever State Habitat Convention, QF recognizes local partners who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. The QF Local Partner Awards are awarded to the folks who make the great things we do possible through their support, dedication, and passion for our shared conservation mission.

This year, I was honored to be able to recognize the NRCS Area 1 staff for their partnership and support in making the Monarch-RCPP successful. Area Office staff and field staff were critical in the success of the Monarch-RCPP program this past year, which established over 2,130 acres of monarch butterfly and pollinator habitat in Northwest Missouri. Their efforts and partnership with our Quail Forever team resulted in tremendous interest in the new program, including many more CSP applications than could be funded. On top of an already heavy workload, Area 1 staff sought additional dollars and with the help of QF and NRCS state staff, were able to secure double Missouri's original allocation.



NRCS Area 1 staff accept QF Partners Award at the Quail Forever State Habitat Convention in March. Pictured above, from left to right, Casey Bergthold, Andrew White, Dave Johnson, Grover DePriest, Ethan Kleekamp, Jake Swafford, and John Wallace.

This team bent over backwards to put habitat on the ground even through long hours, tight deadlines, and conflicting priorities. This has truly been an example of how a partnership should work, with everyone stepping up to make this program a huge victory for Missouri landowners and wildlife.

### Conservation Planning

- 32 Landowner Contacts
- 17 Projects with Acres
- 31 Eligibility/ Ranking Assessments
- 2 Site Visits

Programs	Acres Impacted
CRP	2.25
EQIP	75.8
CSP	119.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>197.55</b>



# Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



**JAKE SWAFFORD - Harrison, Gentry, Worth, Daviess Counties**

**January – March 2019**

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>S130/S190 Firefighter and Wildland Fire Behavior Training</b>	Completed my S130 and S190 online course work to further my knowledge and experience with wildland fire and prescribed burning techniques. This summer I hope to complete the field portion of the class and complete my certification.
<b>MDC Level 3 Fire Training</b>	Attended Level 3 wildfire and prescribed burn training hosted by the Missouri Department of Conservation Southwest Region in January. This training is an important step to gaining the knowledge and credentials to write prescribed burn plans and assist landowners with wildlife habitat management across my area.
<b>Conservation Federation of Missouri's Annual Convention</b>	Participated in CFM's annual convention where I serve as the vice-chair for the Prairie and Grasslands Committee and on the Youth Conservation Action Committee. I assisted with the Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC), CFM's youth organization, including helping a student pass a resolution establishing a pollinator habitat program.
<b>Grand River Grasslands CCS Meeting</b>	The Grand River Grassland meeting gives partners an opportunity to highlight accomplishments from the past year and discuss future goals within the Grand River Grasslands geography. I gave a short update on monarch and pollinator conservation programs in NW Missouri and the success of the monarch RCPP.

### Outreach & Education

- Gave two presentations at the Missouri QF State Habitat Convention covering monarch butterfly conservation efforts and an outdoor media/photography workshop.
- Provided an interview for the Columbia Missourian newspaper on monarch conservation. Follow link to see article, [https://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/local/if-you-build-it-they-will-come-missouri-habitat-helps/article\\_9c4930a0-497e-11e9-989d-bf5669c44952.html?utm\\_source=Email+Newsletters&utm\\_campaign=Daily+Edition&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_content=read+more&fbclid=IwAR2eOGCIIKgfLELKRFPd1pf7inDijpyvdMfQlcsjvUah2r4V7JahjG8N0](https://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/local/if-you-build-it-they-will-come-missouri-habitat-helps/article_9c4930a0-497e-11e9-989d-bf5669c44952.html?utm_source=Email+Newsletters&utm_campaign=Daily+Edition&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=read+more&fbclid=IwAR2eOGCIIKgfLELKRFPd1pf7inDijpyvdMfQlcsjvUah2r4V7JahjG8N0)
- Presented on monarch/pollinator cost-share programs at the Grand River Grasslands Meeting.
- Developed and shared a press release promoting the Missouri QF State Habitat Meeting.
- Conducted outreach for a prescribed fire workshop in Gentry County.

### Additional Work

- Assisted with State Habitat Meeting planning and outreach and the Birds, Beef, and Brews event.
- Continued working on reporting for the Monarch RCPP; I was assigned as technical lead for project.

### Looking Forward

- I will work to promote the FY19 CSP signup statewide and provide technical assistance to interested landowners in NW MO.
- I will coordinate with QF biologists statewide in planning Pollinator Week workshops.
- Begin to coordinate and plan a RCPP Partners Meeting follow up in June to discuss signup results for FY19.
- Work with Indiana NRCS staff to plan and develop Monarch-RCPP contracts.
- Working with Monarch Coordinators from Oklahoma and Iowa, we will continue to deliver RCPP efforts across its range.
- I'll be attending NRCS Soil Health Training to maintain NRCS planner certification.
- Participating in PF/QF's National Meeting in May and Quail Boot Camp in June.
- 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.

**Jake Swafford**  
**Coordinating Wildlife Biologist**  
 Harrison, Gentry, Worth, Daviess

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JAN – MAR 2019

### Quarterly Overview

This quarter I had the opportunity to travel around the state discovering great opportunities to put more habitat on the ground. Through these travels and work in my core counties, I had opportunity to meet new landowners and strengthen relationships with the landowners that I continue to work with. Some of the highlights from last quarter include completing the first burn with The Green Hills Prescribed Burn Association, New Employee Orientation, State Habitat Meeting, and The Missouri Department of Conservation's Night with Wildlife. There are exciting things happening within the Green Hill Area of Missouri and I know that the opportunities for restoring habitat are endless.

### Fire on the Green Hills

The Green Hills Prescribed Burn Association has been formed for a little over a year and they were able to complete their first burn. My Predecessor assisted with starting the Green Hills PBA before he left. This year they purchased a mobile burn unit trailer and made plans to conduct spring burns. The first burn of the PBA was on the property of Dannie Rhoads. Dannie had 19 acres of warm season grasses and forbs that needed a burn conducted on it. It had been 3 years since his last burn and the dead plant matter was starting to build up on the ground. He also had some wood encroachment from shingle oaks that he wanted to set back. We conducted the burn on March 22nd and it was a perfect burn. Everything went according to plan and we couldn't have asked for better weather. We spent more time prepping and cleaning up than we did on the actual fire. This burn proves that a good fire is 90% preparation and 10% execution. More burns are set to be conducted this next quarter and we are excited to see the PBA grow in the coming years.



A backburn creeps across Dannie's WSG Field



Landowner Dannie Rhoads lights a Backing Fire on his Property





# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JAN – MAR 2019

### Serving, Educating, and Connecting

I had the privilege of attending multiple outreach programs that enables and encourages the public to restore native habitat and implement good conservation practices on their land. I was able to eattaned a few of these outreach efforts during this quarter and use them as an opportunity to help folks implement native habitat and share QF Missouri's story



This year the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) selected Milan Missouri for their Night with Wildlife vendor fair. Both private and state conservation professionals came from across Missouri to set up tables to provide information and education on conservation programs available to the public. I set up a Quail Forever table which allowed me to meet new people in the community and provide information ranging from CRP to Backyard Pollinator Plots. Approximately 68 participants attended the event.

**QF Table at Night with wildlife**

The Mid-Mo Young Guns Chapter of Quail Forever in conjunction with the Missouri National Guard and the Missouri Department of Conservation hosted a disabled veterans hunt. I attended to assist with the hunt and to help tell their story through our Facebook page. The weather was windy and cold but that did not damper the veterans spirits or stop them from going out in the field and hunting some birds. They thoroughly enjoyed the hunt and I enjoyed being able to help them complete the hunt and capture their moments on camera . Eight veterans were in attendance and everyone harvested one bird while most were able to harvest at least two. After the hunt, everyone was treated to a fish fry from MDC's Conservation Agents.



**A veteran makes a successful shot on a rooster pheasant**

Quail Forever Missouri hosted its 6th annual State Habitat Meeting in early March. This meeting is our premier event of the year where we invite chapter members, conservation professionals, and the public to come experience a full day of talks and demonstrations highlighting conservation practices that can be utilized to enhance native habitat. We had a record turnout and the meeting was enjoyed by everyone that attended. On Friday night we had a Birds, Brews, and Beef social event where we highlighted the Audubon's Conservation Ranching program. On Saturday, we held several break out sessions throughout the day and ended with a banquet. I enjoyed the opportunity to visit with chapter members and partners talking about how we can continue to positively influence the landscape in Missouri .



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JAN – MAR 2019

Training/Meeting Type	Summary
<b>New Employee Training</b>	Attended Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever 's New Employee Orientation in Minnesota
<b>Level 3 Burn Training</b>	Completed the Missouri Department of Conservation Level 3 Burn Training
<b>Grundy County SWCD Customer Appreciation</b>	Assisted with the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District Customer Appreciation Day
<b>Night With Wildlife</b>	Set up a table and provided information to members of the public at the MDC Night with Wildlife
<b>Disabled Veterans Hunt</b>	Assisted Veterans on a pheasant hunt at the Macon National Guard Training Site
<b>State Habitat Meeting</b>	Participated in running the Missouri State Habitat Meeting

### Looking Forward

- Assisting landowners with the ongoing CSP signup.
- Completing more burns with the Green Hills PBA
- Attend the All States Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever Meeting
- Complete the field portion for federal S130/190 Burn Training

#### Quarterly Numbers

- 59 Landowners Contacted
- 16 Site Visits
- 5 Counties reached



Missouri Quail Forever Team

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

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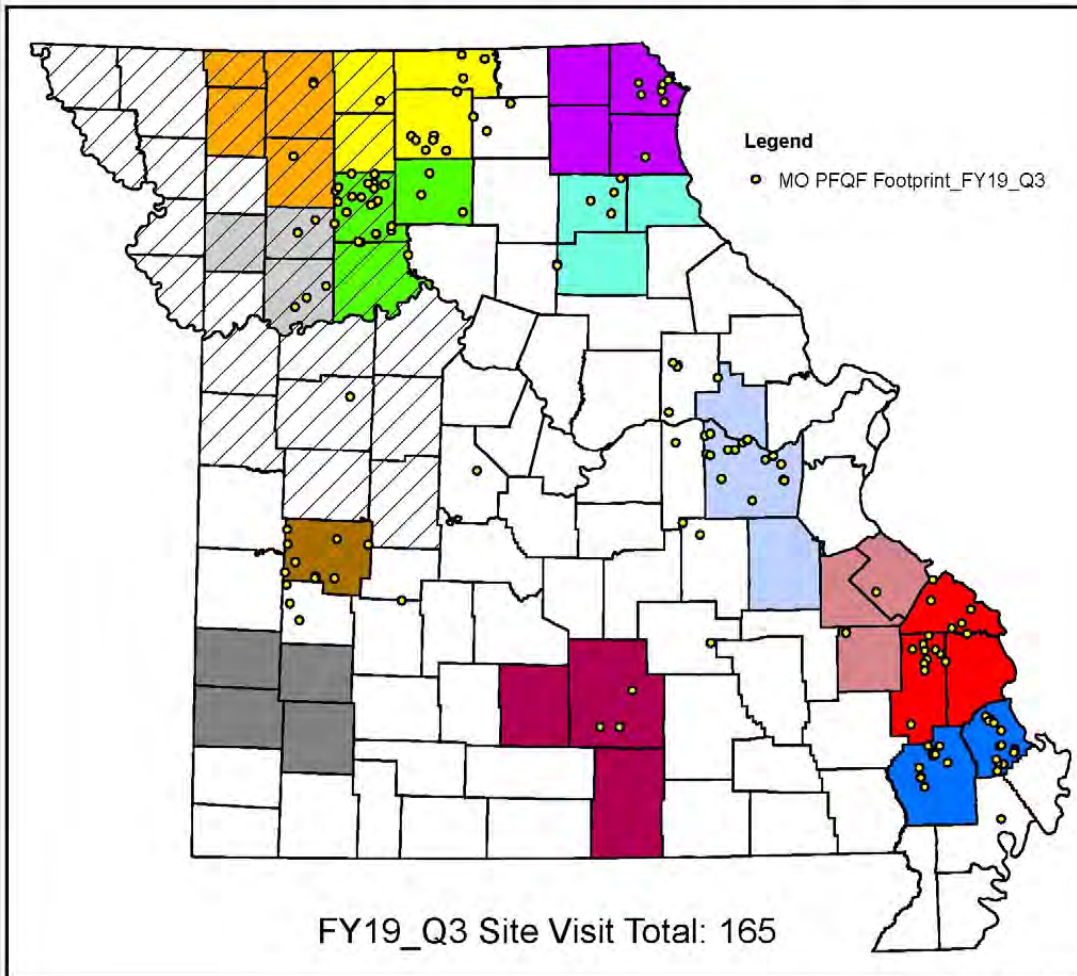
# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JAN - MAR 2019

## FY19 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP January 2019 - March 2019



Updated: 4/12/2019



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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### Position Update

The summer of 2018 reminded most cattle producers that they did not have enough forage to carry their livestock through the summer. Typically, after receiving fall rains farmers soon forget the drought they had during the summer. The use of native warm-season grass was a popular topic during the past summer and continued to be discussed this winter as an added forage to improve grazing systems. With the native warm-season grass promotionals by USDA this winter more producers have come by the office asking questions about this forage. I am gearing up to help promote and establish native forages to grazing systems through upcoming workshops being put on by partners such as NRCS, MDC, UMC Extension, and FWS.

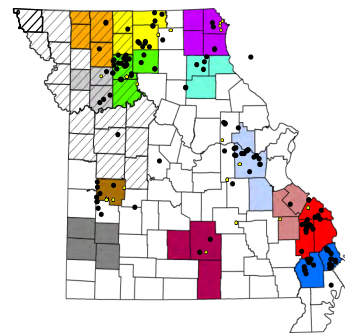
### Northern Bobwhite Winter Survival in Missouri Grasslands

A study was conducted by a University of Missouri grad student on the winter survival of Bobwhite quail. This study covered basically the same areas where the Southwest Missouri Quail Study was done. Within the Upper Osage Grassland geography the study was done in and around the Wah'Kon-Tah Prairie near El Dorado Springs. Location and movement information was collected through the fall and winter. While conducting telemetry on 13 quail in six coveys at the end of January I had the opportunity to walk through this grassland habitat in search of these birds. I was reminded that these birds did not have crop fields or food plots in the community where they could feed. Most landowners I work with are adamant that quail absolutely need crops or food plots to survive. During the four days of tracking these birds one quail was killed by a predator. The remains of the quail were collected including the crop of that bird which was full of food it had eaten. This quail had not seen grain fields or food plots. It lived its life on the prairie grassland. The crop of the bird contained 6% seeds from a variety of forbs, 15% leaf material browsed from forbs, and 79% were seeds from Dwarf Sumac, *Rhus copallinum*. Quail need a variety forbs in their habitat for summer brood rearing and winter food.



Location information on Northern Bobwhite quail was collected as part of a winter survival study conducted within the Upper Osage Grassland geography in St. Clair County.

Missouri PF/QF Biologist Footprint Map  
January 2019 - March 2019



**Conservation Planning**

- 21 Landowner Contacts
- 17 Site Visits

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
EQIP	21
FWS Partners	23
CTA	104
GRP	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>



### Outreach & Education

- Attended the Livestock, Crop, and Wildlife Winter Forum in Montgomery Co. to give a talk about the importance of native forbs as forage in a grazing system.
- Tracked 13 quail in six coveys on Wah'Kon-Tah Prairie in the Upper Osage Grassland as part of a winter quail survival study being done by a Missouri University grad student.
- Met with Jen Mittelhauser to assist with designing a post-grad study on invertebrates in farm ponds affected by various grazing system designs. This study will include the Upper Osage Grassland geography.
- Attended Landowner Warm-Season Grass Workshops put on by the University of Missouri Extension folks under the NRCS + MU Grassland Project. Answered questions that producers had on establishing and managing native warm-season grasses for their livestock.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>Southwest Missouri Forage Conference</b>	Attended this forage conference in Springfield. The main topic of the conference was on grazing and using native warm-season grass for improved forage. Pat Keyser from the University of Tennessee was keynote speaker and discussed the importance of these native forages in a grazing system during the summer.
<b>Upper Osage Grassland Geography</b>	Identified landowners that have prairie or some level of prairie in their pastures and hay fields within the Upper Osage Grassland geography. Those landowners will be contacted to make them aware of their prairie and offer assistance on management.

### Looking Forward

- Missouri Dept. of Conservation Private Land Services will hold a Plan Development Training in April for staff working with landowners. I will discuss grazing plans and grazing terms used in best management practices for grazing.
- St.Clair County Grazing School to be held in May.
- PF/QF National Team Meeting to be held in May up in Iowa.
- Missouri Fire Council will hold a meeting/workshop during June in northeast Missouri.
- Collaborate with PLCs to make landowner contacts within the Upper Osage Grassland.
- The Woody Cover Control workshop will be held June 4-5th in Sedalia.
- Native warm-season grass pasture walk to be held June 20th at the Clubine farm in Benton County to look at his patch burn graze system. During the walk I will discuss the importance of forbs as forage and importance of pollinators.



# Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



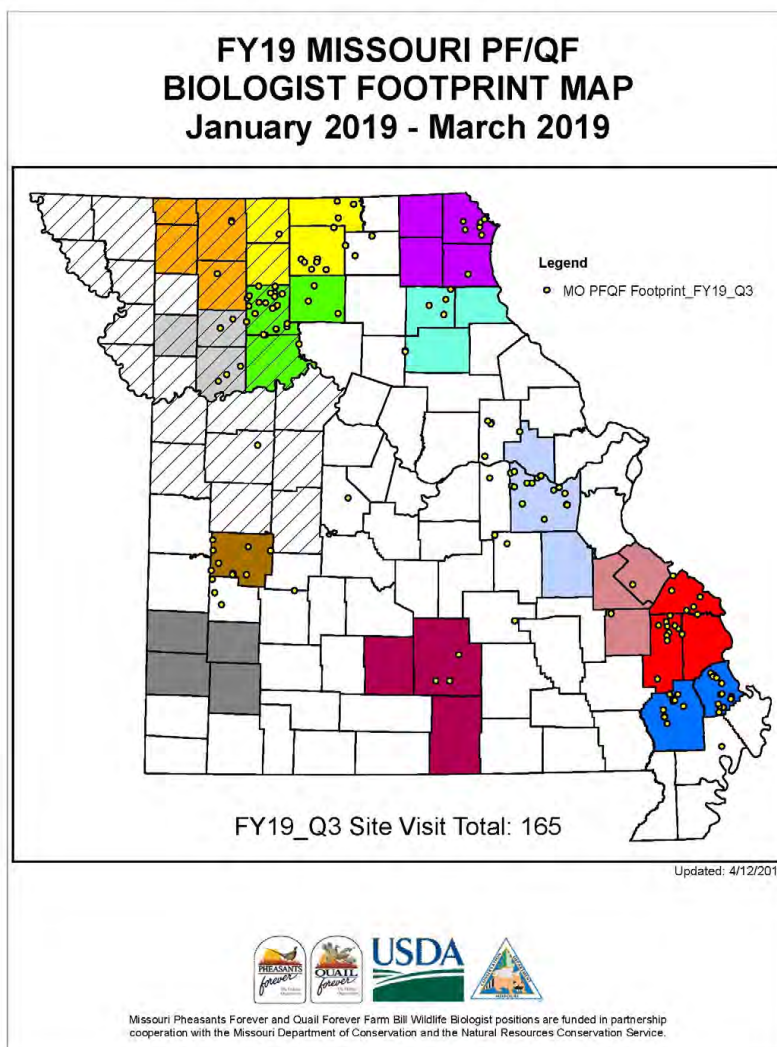
Rachel Settle — Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve Counties

January—March 2019

## My First Quarter...

My first quarter has been a busy and productive one with site visits, various trainings, partner meetings, and getting familiar with the landowners in my assigned counties! As I sit back and reflect, it's hard for me to believe how fast time has flown by since my first day on the job at new employee orientation. I spent my first week of work at the Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota. I was able to network with several farm bill biologists and other PF/QF staff from across the country. One thing is for sure: even though we come from different backgrounds, we all share that same goal of putting quality habitat on the ground in our respective states.

One of the highlights of my first quarter was attending my first PF/QF State Habitat Convention. It was great to not only meet my whole team for the first time, but to recognize our partners and chapters from all over the state. It was our most attended state habitat convention yet!



PF/QF Biologist Footprint for Jan-March 2019

**Conservation Planning**

- 11 Landowner Contacts
- 7 Site Visits
- Assisted with 2 EQIP rankings



# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

January—March 2019

### Slimy Salamanders Measure Habitat Success

From my undergraduate research with southern red-backed salamanders to my graduate thesis project on Ozark hellbenders, it's no secret that I'm a bit of a salamander nerd. There were several times my salamander lab colleagues and I suited up in our waders to go "herping" during the spring and fall salamander migration periods. Happening right now are the spring spotted salamander migrations. These migrations are triggered by warm rains (typically February through April). During this time, salamanders begin their journey to vernal pools or fishless ponds where courtship occurs and females deposit their jelly-like egg masses.



*The terrestrial southern red-backed salamander (Plethodon serratus) belongs to the Plethodontidae family—a family of lungless salamanders. Picture taken during a Madison County site visit.*

Salamanders, like other amphibians, can be a great tool to assess the habitat around us. In fact, their presence or absence in woodlands, forests, and streams can indicate the relative health of those types of habitats and have been used to gauge the success of ecosystem restoration (e.g. Everglades) and recovery (e.g. California redwoods, Appalachian forests). Looking at this on a smaller scale, improving wildlife habitat by supplementing water sources can provide the perfect habitat for salamanders to breed, as shown in the bottom left picture. The landowner who installed the small fishless impoundment may have deer in mind, but it's also a win for the more sensitive species. This past quarter I went on three site visits where salamanders or egg masses were found. All the landowners were quite surprised and it provided me with a perfect opportunity to speak about the importance of amphibians and how wildlife management practices can benefit multiple species; even the more "secretive" ones that aren't as obvious to see.

My hope for these landowners is to give them another perspective when measuring habitat improvement success. Although it may not be an indicator of an entire ecosystem restoration, it's a small victory to showcase to a landowner that their work is paying off. Most landowners put a great deal of hard work into managing their property; why not give them something extra to be proud of?

*Spotted salamander (Ambystoma maculatum) egg masses discovered during site visits in Bollinger (left) and St. Francois (right) counties.*





# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

January—March 2019

### Outreach & Education

- Attended the 89th Annual Soils and Crop Conference in Ste. Genevieve
- Represented QF at Mineral Area College's Industry Exploration Event During FFA Agriculture Day
- Worked the PF/QF booth during the Missouri Natural Resource Conference

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>PF/QF New Employee Orientation</b>	Met state and national PF/QF staff; Learned more about the organization and how we work with partners to impact acres
<b>MDC SE PLC Meeting</b>	Met MDC PLC partners in the southeast region
<b>SEMO Cattleman's Association</b>	Attended presentations on soil health and benefits of NWSG in grazing systems for wildlife
<b>St. Francois County SWCD Board Meetings</b>	Met SWCD board members; chosen to speak at their annual dinner meeting in May
<b>Ste. Genevieve County SWCD Board Meetings</b>	Met SWCD board members
<b>Missouri Natural Resource Conference</b>	Networked with partners; attended presentations on topics including quail management, woodland and forest management, soil monitoring and responses to prescribed burning
<b>Forage and Beef Conference</b>	Attended Dr. Pat Keyser's presentation on the benefits of native forages in grazing systems
<b>MDC Level 2 Fire</b>	Completed training to work towards writing burn plans for landowners
<b>Quality Deer Management Association</b>	Completed QDMA's Deer Steward Level 1 course; learned about writing management plans for landowner's interested in improving deer habitat
<b>PF/QF State Habitat Convention</b>	Networked with several partners, QF chapters, and landowners; attended various presentations including topics such as quail management and prescribed burning
<b>NRCS Soil Health Training</b>	Completed training to work towards Apprentice Conservation Planner certification

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# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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


January—March 2019

### Looking Forward

- Complete AgLearn courses to work towards obtaining NRCS Apprentice Conservation Planner
- Attend NRCS Cultural Resources training in Columbia **April 23-25**
- Attend and give a keynote presentation at St. Francois County SWCD Annual Dinner Meeting **May 2**
- Attend Grazing School and present “Benefits of Grazing Natives” **May 6-7**
- Attend MDC Plant Identification Training in Kirksville **June 11-12**
- Host my first habitat tour on **June 18**
  - ⇒ Pollinator and Quail Habitat Tour @ Mark Loehning Property
- Complete MDC Prescribed Burn Manager training
- Continue getting to know landowners in my counties and building relationships with partners

### Missouri PF/QF Field Staff

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

*We are a growing PF/QF Team! We've added quite a few to the team in the last quarter.*

*\*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

January-March 2019

### This Past Quarter...

It was that time of year when native forbs and grasses were hitting the ground, yes pollinator and monarch plantings were the bulk of those projects. There were numerous visits to the field with landowners to evaluate the site prep so that adequate bare soil was present to be receptive of the seed, and numerous checks of seed mixes making sure they met specs before the seed hit the ground. These plantings were supported through EQIP, CSP, CRP, MDC Landowner Assistance Program, and Quail Forever Habitat Challenge Grant.

This quarter was one of the more popular times for landowners to use fire to manage established pollinator/monarch plantings as well as old field and woodland habitats. I assisted landowners with one of the most important aspects of prescribed fire, planning. I helped landowners layout firebreaks, created burn plans, and discussed weather conditions as they related to burning. In total, I made 110 landowner contacts and 22 site visits to the field this quarter.

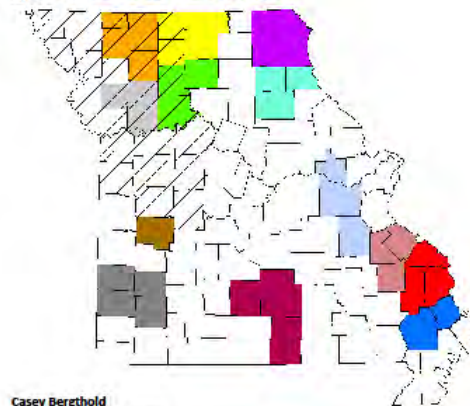
Through this partnership position, I am able to assist landowners using partner programs to implement wildlife practices like the ones above and many more to enhance habitat. Because of our partner support, Missouri Quail Forever was able to create new positions, add new staff, and grow our Team in the name of habitat. See our updated contact map below.

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



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# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

January-March 2019

### Outreach & Education

- Presented “The Benefits of Grazing Native Forages” to the MO Cattlemen’s Association meeting in Jackson.
- Instructed the MDC Landowner Prescribed Burn Workshop and coordinated demonstration burn attended by 15 landowners.
- Presented “Prescribed Fire and Your Property” at the MO QF State Habitat Meeting.
- Assisted with the Mayfield Holler Wildlife Cooperative habitat tour discussing prescribed burning, edgefeathering, TSI, invasive species control, and more.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>Missouri Natural Resources Conference</b>	Attended presentations and networked with numerous resource professionals and students.
<b>Forage and Beef Conference, Cuba</b>	Gained knowledge on grazing native forages from Pat Keyser (University of Tennessee) and 3 producers sharing their experience using native forages.
<b>Cape County SWCD Meetings</b>	Provided overview/update of landowner projects and other position happenings.
<b>NRCS Soil Health Training</b>	Learned the principles of soil health and practices to improve soil functions.

### Prescribed Fire:

I was nominated and serve as the vice chair on the MO Prescribed Fire Council. The council met in February to discuss the proposed legislation on prescribed fire in MO. House Bill No. 978, known as the Prescribed Burning Act, looks to define liability for landowners and contractors using prescribed fire and the bill can increase the responsible use of this vital tool for managing Missouri’s natural communities.



*Reviewing the maps for the landowner demonstration burn.*

The council is in the process of planning the summer meeting which will also serve as a workshop opportunity for prescribed burn association (PBA) members and the public. The MO QF Prescribed Fire Committee has helped coordinate the June 8 workshop agenda which includes discussion of MO PBA happenings and functions, and a habitat tour focusing on woodland management using fire.



# Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report

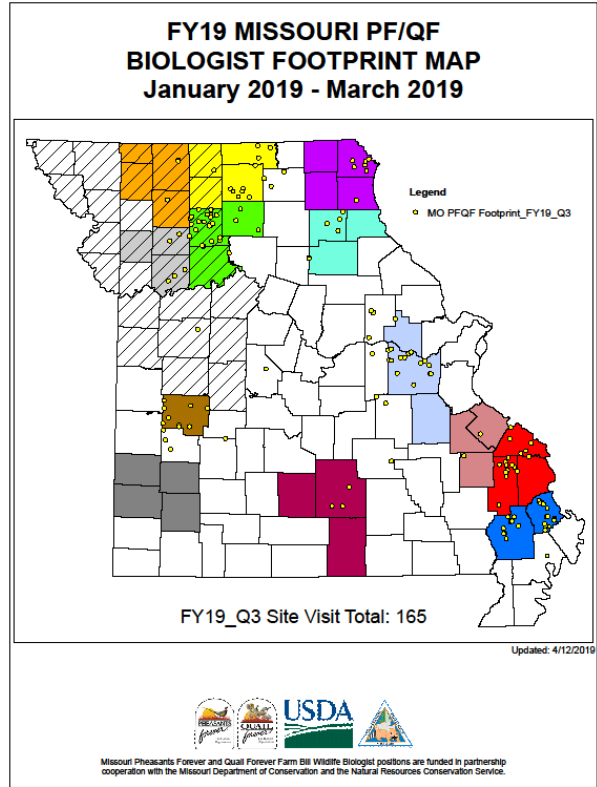


Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

January-March 2019

## Looking Forward

- Complete AgLearn courses to work towards obtaining NRCS Apprentice Conservation Planner certification.
- Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever All Team meeting, May 20-23 in Iowa.
- Complete NWCG S-130 field portion of training and pack test, May 30 at MU Summer Fire School.
- Missouri Prescribed Fire Council meeting and PBA workshop/habitat tour, June 8 in Paris, MO.
- Continue to assist landowners with site visits to identify landowner objectives and habitat opportunities.
- Spend time on the family farm turkey hunting and completing habitat projects.



Above: Map of Quail Forever Biologist site visits.

Left: The growing Missouri Quail Forever Team.

*\*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

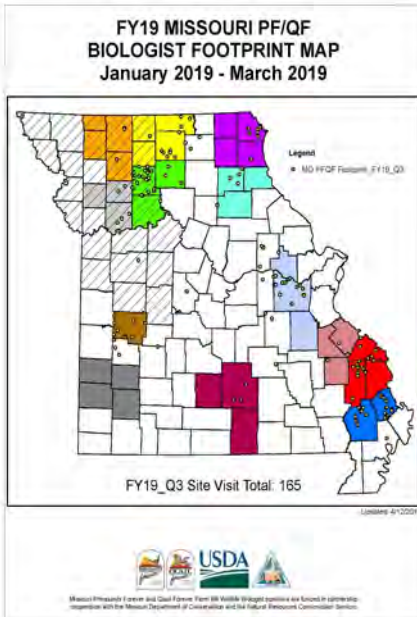


**Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington**

**January–March 2019**

### Position Update

During the past quarter I have worked closely with landowners completing winter habitat projects and helped others plan future management activities. I have also been involved in a number of outreach events both locally and at the state level.



MO Quail Forever Team Footprint Map Jan—March 2019.

### ECPBA Continues to Improve Habitat

Prescribed burn season was slow in our area due to a snowy January and February. A few landowners took advantage early and then a break in the weather allowed for some successful burns during the last couple of weeks of March. Members of the East Central Prescribed Burn Association (ECPBA) played a key role in getting fire on over 220 acres, improving wildlife habitat throughout Franklin County.



ECPBA members ignite the head fire on a burn preparing the site for a native seeding that will be excellent nesting and brood rearing cover in the future.

ECPBA members banded together to burn open woodlands and grasslands that are valuable habitat for quail and a variety of other wildlife. The ECPBA is able to improve wildlife habitat because of the support of the MO River Valley Chapter of Quail Forever, Missouri Department of Conservation, and National Wild Turkey Federation.

#### Conservation Planning

- 74 Landowner Contacts
- 26 Site Visits
- 2 Prescribed Burn Plans Written

Habitat Management Complete	Acres
Timber Stand Improvement	23.4
CRP Mid-Contract Management	88.3
Native Seedings	56.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>168.5</b>

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.
NRCS Soil Health Training	Learned about the importance of soil health to agricultural crop production, grazing forage production, and improving water quality.
MDC Regional Staff Meeting	Updated MDC staff on what I have been working on and received updates on MDC projects and priorities.

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and

January–March 2019

### Connected by Fire

On March 30th, forty private landowners braved cool, rainy weather to attend a habitat management tour held near Robertsville, MO. During the course of the afternoon attendees heard from representatives from PF/QF, NWTF, QDMA, MDC, DU, and USFWS about a wide variety of habitat management practices as well as cost-share opportunities available to landowners. The local Delta Waterfowl chapter provided some excellent pulled pork for those who attended. What do all of these organizations have in common other than raising a lot of money to support habitat improvement and getting youth outdoors? They all have a vested interest in promoting the safe and responsible use of prescribed burning. Educating the public on the benefits of prescribed burning and helping them feel more comfortable with simply seeing others burn or conducting burns themselves, is key in getting this very effective management tool normalized in our communities. Each of the non-governmental organizations may have their species they are passionate about, but all wildlife can benefit from prescribed fire.



Group picture from the March 30th habitat tour near Robertsville, MO.

### Outreach & Education

- Attended the 2019 Winter Forum hosted by the Montgomery County SWCD with the goal of sharing information about good conservation practices with agricultural producers. Len Gilmore and I staffed an informational booth and presented on the benefits of pollinators and pollinator habitat.
- Presented to the Union Rotary Club about who Quail Forever is and what we do as an organization.
- Attended the annual Warren County SWCD open house to show appreciation to landowners and board members for all that they do for conservation.
- Engaged with and networked with PF/QF members from across the state at the 6th annual State Habitat Meeting in Columbia. During this event chapter volunteers were able to attend a variety of presentations on banquet BMPs, habitat management, getting youth outdoors, and many other topics.

### Looking Forward

- On April 18th I will be visiting with chapter volunteers and those interested in becoming more involved with the organization at the Gateway QF Chapter's first ever pint night.
- I will be working with landowners wanting to apply for CSP prior to the May 10th application deadline.
- On May 16th I will be presenting on the benefits of grazing native forages during the Pike County grazing school.
- On June 18th, along with NRCS I will be hosting an evening pollinator workshop in Warren County.
- I will continue to help landowners achieve their habitat management goals utilizing both state and federal cost-share programs.
- 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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