



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III



## Quarterly Partners' Report

Andrew White - Livingston, Linn, and Carroll Counties

July – September 2019

### Position Update

The first quarter of FY20 was spent rather busy providing technical assistance to landowners enrolled in federal, state, and local conservation programs. In August, I was promoted to Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III. In this new role, I will serve as a team lead for North Missouri, providing more guidance and mentoring of MO QF staff north of the Missouri River. These new duties will be in addition to the duties I have served in the past. The promotion received was made in an effort to create more structure within the Missouri team for us to better deliver our Mission and be more efficient in the field.

### Monitoring for Monarchs!



Over the course of the summer, your Missouri PF/QF team made it a priority of ours to participate in the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Protocol (IMMP) through the Monarch Joint Venture by performing the IMMP on five sites across Missouri.

Our collective decision to participate was predicated on assisting partners and MJV with their monitoring efforts for the monarch butterfly. The IMMP was designed so that citizen scientists can participate and with that, our team is further contributing to Missouri's monarch habitat and population data. While the IMMP itself covers many aspects of the monarch conservation realm, PF/QF has focused our attention on what we do best, HABITAT.

Within the five sites that were surveyed, we tried to target areas that we planted to a high-diversity mix of forbs and native grasses that were designed to cater to the monarch. Most, if not all of the sites selected, received some sort of incentive cost-share. The site selected in north central Missouri was a 22.2 acre field enrolled in CP42, as well as the CRP Monarch Incentive program that was hosted by MDC, the USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife, and the USDA.

Within the sites, we blindly selected a starting reference point, then measured and staked out our survey plot. From there, we ran transects and captured vegetation on 100 subplots. In addition to the vegetation data, we also collected data on monarchs' various life stages when sited, as well as instances of milkweed species. After each survey session was completed, we performed a meandering walk to survey the plots to see if there were any other monarch-beneficial forbs that had expressed themselves, but were not captured within our subplots. Each site was monitored six times (twice monthly).

Although we are just one state, our hope is that the data collected will help tell the story on how Missouri's habitat efforts are making a positive impact for monarch butterflies and that if you want more monarchs and more wildlife, such as quail and pheasants, we need to have the habitat!

#### Conservation Planning

- 153 Landowner Contacts
- 40 Site Visits
- 23 Conservation Plans Written/Modified
- 27 Status Review/Checkout
- 70 Eligibility/Ranking Assessments
- 4 Rx Burn Plans Completed

Programs	Acres Impacted
FSA	1,389.23
NRCS	412.63
OTHER	10.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,812.06</b>



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## Quarterly Partners' Report



Andrew White - Livingston, Linn, and Carroll Counties

April – June 2019

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>MJV IMMP Training</b>	Training completed to perform MJV IMMP monitoring protocol.
<b>NRCS Vehicle Mgmt Tool Training</b>	Mandatory training completed for new pool vehicle management platform, which enables employees to reserve USDA pool vehicles for use.
<b>NRCS Area 1 GCI Rollout</b>	Teleconference about the Grassland Conservation Initiative within CRP which covered program enrollment and policy procedures.
<b>NRCS EWP Teleconference</b>	Teleconference to discuss the Emergency Watershed Program in response to areal disastrous flooding.
<b>Monthly NRCS Programs Webinar</b>	Listened in as NRCS State Office staff covered updates and other relative information regarding current and future cost share program policies. This webinar is part of a monthly training series to keep the needle moving for conservation.
<b>Indicator Plant ID Training</b>	Organized and attended indicator plant species training near Williamsburg, MO. Training was hosted by Chris Newbold, MDC Natural History Biologist.
<b>QF Team Conference Calls</b>	Bi-monthly team conference calls.

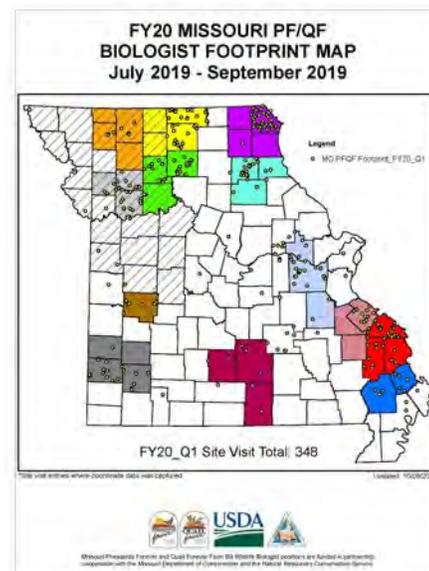
### Outreach & Education

- Presented to chapters during District Meetings
- Co-lead Twilight Tour and FFA Field Day at Hundley-Whaley Research Center in Albany
- Have been meeting and will continue to meet with local QF chapters to assist with habitat projects as well as youth and women's event planning and execution
- Met with Corteva, MDC and Corner Covey Chapter leaders again to discuss PF/QF pollinator project progress

### Looking Forward

- Assist partners with NBCI Fall Covey Counts in 2C QRL
- Co-host Fall Quail Management workshop series for landowners with PLCs Lee Metcalf and Nate Mechlin in 2C QRL geography
- Pollinator Project with Corteva and Corner Covey QF Chapter
- Attend various partner trainings for on the job knowledge and efficiency
- Continued coordination of the planning process for the Missouri PF/QF State Convention
- Continue serving as the daily team lead for North Missouri PF/QF FBB team

*\*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

July – September 2019

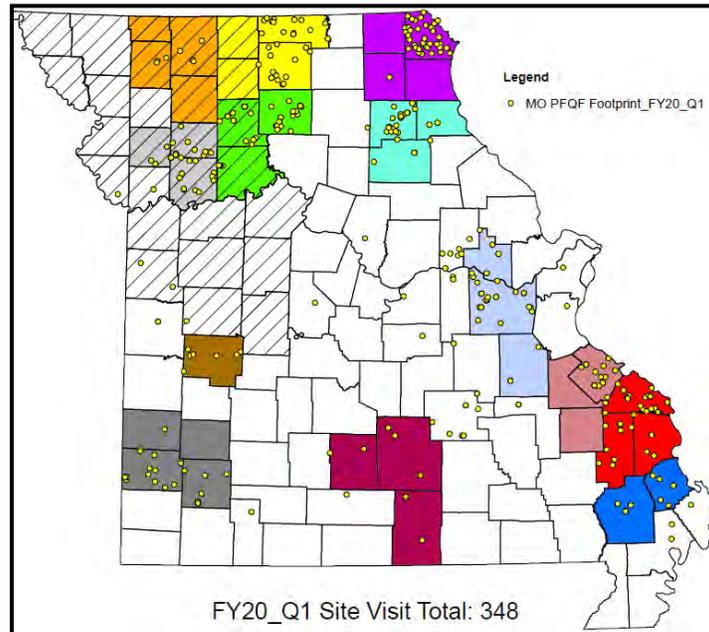
### Closing Out the Summer

These last few months of summer have been spent working with landowners throughout my region discussing practices such as forest stand improvement, prescribed burning, pollinator plantings, and native warm season grass plantings that can be used to help them reach their land management goals.

When I wasn't in the field, attending meetings or participating in trainings, I was in the office assisting landowners with questions regarding grazing, wildlife habitat, and forest management. While in the office I also assisted NRCS & FSA professionals with CRP, CSP, and EQIP contract planning, contract eligibility reviews, map making, and practice checkouts. Check out the map above to see where 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

July – September 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

- 90 Landowner Contacts
- 20 Site Visits
- 10 Conservation Plans Completed
- 4 Status Reviews/Checkouts
- 1 Article Written

Program	Acres Impacted
CRP	9
CSP	21.4



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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Colby Sharp - Texas, Wright, and Howell Counties

July – September 2019

## “Progress Takes Patience”

I received a call from Mr. Crabtree one morning with questions about wilting oaks on his property and after speaking with him about the issue, our conversation evolved into a conversation about wildlife habitat and ended with scheduling a site visit to discuss further habitat improvements on his property.

When I made it out to Mr. Crabtree’s place, he gave me a full tour of the property and explained what had been done over the past eight years. He purchased the property when he retired and quickly got to work, with removing what he consider to be enemy number one, red cedar. Over the eight years he has kept a tally of how many cedars he has cut, with his current number totaling over 5,200 cedars. After that first cedar hit the ground he said he was hooked on habitat improvements. He then pressed on through his property over the past eight years where he has restored and maintains two glades, planted native warm season grasses in openings, and recently planted a monarch friendly pollinator plot all on his own. He has been able to see these improvements impact on his property with more turkeys and deer using the native pollinator and grass plantings and two coveys of quail showing up last fall. Mr. Crabtree plans to incorporate forest stand improvements, prescribed burning, and more glade restoration on his property, and is looking forward to using cost-share programs like EQIP to continue increasing wildlife habitat and create a more native landscape on his property.



Native pollinator area (top), restored glade (middle), and native warm season grass plantings (bottom) all with paths cut for visitors to walk and see.

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Colby Sharp - Texas, Wright, and Howell Counties

July – September 2019

### Outreach & Education

- Presented at Texas County Grazing School where I introduced my position, discussed grazing natives, wildlife management on working cattle farms, and farm bill programs.
- Attended and presented at Ozark Grazing Group pasture walk where I discussed native grass management, grazing natives, and benefits of rotational grazing for wildlife.



Touring a restored glade during the Ozark Plant Identification Training.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>National Bobwhite Technical Committee Meeting</b>	Attended NBTC meeting in Carbondale, Illinois where I participated in the Forestry breakout meeting and attend NBCI conference.
<b>NRCS Native Warm Season Grass Interagency Workshop/Tour</b>	Attended NWSG Interagency Workshop and Tour where I got a more in depth understanding of NWSG planting process, management, and maintenance through Farm Bill programs.
<b>NRCS Agroforestry Planning Training</b>	Attended NRCS agroforestry planning training where I learned the process of assessing a properties eligibility and planning agroforestry practices in the Farm Bill.
<b>MDC Ozark Plant Identification Training</b>	Attended MDC Plant Identification Training covering plants in the Ozark Region. During the class we toured woodlands & glades, as well as created an I.D. book covering 100+ species in these areas.

### Looking Forward

- Attend Private Land Services Annual Conference
- Assist with seed mix planning and practice checkouts.
- Attend Course Work of S-130/ S-190 Wildland Firefighting Training
- Continue to assist with Farm Bill programs, while furthering my understanding of EQIP and State LCAP planning
- Perform Wildland Firefighting Pack Test to attain Federal Red Card

*\*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

July–September 2019

### Activity Highlights

#### Conservation Planning

- 96 Landowner Contacts
- 26 Site Visits
- 13 Projects with Acres
- 4 Trainings

#### Outreach

- 5 Workshops/Tours
- 3 Outreach Events
- 4 Publications

**Total Acres Impacted: 309.34 acres**

### The Beauty of Partnerships...

There is no better way to enter the new fiscal year than having an opportunity to visit a property that demonstrates an incredible success story. As we entered FY20, I received an email from the Mid Mo Uplander Chapter about a pollinator tour hosted by the A.L. Gustin Golf Course. I had been to the Golf Course once before for a youth pollinator event a couple winters ago and was very aware of the annual projects on the property, I was very excited to see the area while in peak bloom.

I accompanied the Mid Mo Uplanders as they gathered at the A.L. Gustin Golf Course to view the vibrant pollinator plots. It was incredible to see what partners in conservation can accomplish. A.L. Gustin Golf Course, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Quail Forever have worked together over the years to make these particular efforts possible. Golf Course Superintendent, Isaac Breuer, led our tour as we jumped into the golf carts and drove from one end of the course to the other. We visited



newly established plots, mature plots, and everything in between. One of the most memorable areas was a glade that had been restored over a decade ago and continues to be managed with fire to maintain its integrity. As we moved from plot to plot, Breuer and MDC's Ryan Lueckenhoff, offered insight about each plot. The passion and dedication for these projects radiated from Breuer and Lueckenhoff as they shared their stories. It was obvious that these efforts go beyond pollinator plots and serve an even greater purpose of outreach for the community. From youth events to the countless conversations with the community, these efforts continue to teach and intrigue. There is no doubt that projects like this have everlasting impacts.



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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

July–September 2019

### July 13th, Annual Mark Twain PBA Meeting

The Mark Twain Prescribed Burn Association held their annual meeting at the Stennemeyer property in July. We had the opportunity to take a look at fields the PBA burned in 2018. After a great meal, we recapped the burn season, voted on committee member changes, and discussed potential fall burns.



#### 2019 MTPBA Summary

Property	County	Acres	Date	Objective
BESS	Monroe	23	4/9	MCM, set back CSG, remove duff
AUBUCHON	Monroe	35	4/9	MCM, set back CSG, remove duff
HARMON	Monroe	28	4/26	MCM, set back CSG, remove duff
FARRARIS	Monroe	16	5/5	non-CRP, set back CSG
<b>Total</b>		<b>102</b>		



### 2019 Mentored Dove Hunt

On September 13th and 14th the Mark Twain Quail Forever Chapter, partnering with the Missouri Department of Conservation and National Wild Turkey Federation, held 3 dove hunts at the Kendrick farm near Santa Fe, MO. We had fewer doves than normal, however, it didn't take away from the great opportunity for our youth and new hunters. We had 31 hunters and 20 mentors join us over the three hunts. They harvested 33 doves and were able to partake in shooting clays and feast on BBQ pork after returning from the field. Sometimes it's hard to tell who's having a better time, the hunters or the mentors. This event takes a lot of time and effort from a multitude of people, but the smiles and laughter make it well worth while. What a great way to kick off the hunting season!



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Courtney Nicks - Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

July–September 2019

### Quail Forever Chapter District Meeting

In August, we held the Annual District Meeting for our local chapters. This was an opportunity to reveal 2020 banquet details and meet new QF staff including our Regional Representative, Outreach Coordinator, Habitat Specialist, and Farm Bill Biologists. A great opportunity to mingle with our dedicated local volunteers.



### Quail Restoration Landscape Meeting

I was able to join QF FBB, Haley Lockard, and MDC's John Pinkowski at the Bee Ridge QRL annual landowner meeting. It was refreshing to see the incredible amount of dedication and excitement these landowners brought to the table. It was inspiring and definitely an effort that should be replicated throughout the state.



### Women Caring for the Land Workshop

The Women, Food and Agriculture Network held a women landowner meeting in Columbia where I served as a Technical Service Provider fielding questions about NRCS programs. This was my second year attending this event and believe there would be value in bringing workshops similar to this to our rural communities.



### No-till Workshop

In July, I attended the NRCS no-till workshop in Annabelle. They had an incredible turnout and provided demonstrations with farm equipment and rainfall simulator. A great way for me to meet more farmers in my community.



### Soil Health Workshop, by Mossy Oak Properties

Mossy Oak Properties hosted a landowner workshop in Palmyra to reach recreational landowners. NRCS, Quail Forever, MDC, and GrowingDeer.com worked together to deliver a unique message of how healthy soil equates to better wildlife. Many deer enthusiast participated in the workshop and were able to visit with Haley Lockard and I at the QF booth. It was great meeting so many excited landowners and share our mission.



*\*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

### Plant ID Training

MDC offered an opportunity for QF FBBs to hit the field and be immersed in the world of plant identification. One of many opportunities MDC offers our team to better serve our landowners and proved the best technical service possible.

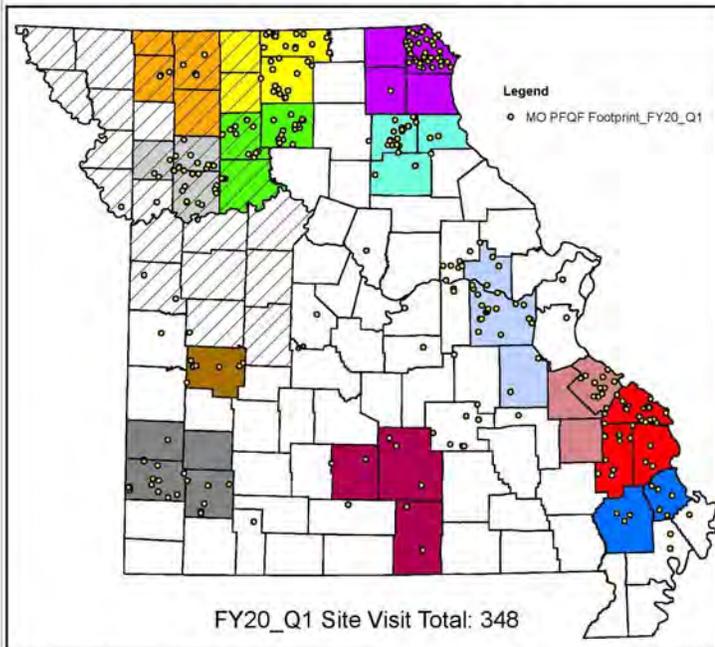


### Monarch Joint Venture Sampling



At the end of September, FBB Haley Lockard and I finished our sixth sampling effort on a property in Shelby County. The 2 hectare plot was enrolled in a practice enhanced with a Monarch preferred seed mix. Throughout the past three months, we identified "in bloom" species within 100 subplots. The transition throughout the season was incredible. The data will be compiled with other sampling efforts across the state to identify the species diversity found within these units.

### FY20 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP July 2019 - September 2019



\*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured. Updated: 10/09/2019



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.

### Looking Forward, I will...

- Continue to meet with landowners and provide technical assistance, promoting wildlife friendly practices
- Serve on the Quail Forever State Convention Planning Committee
- Attend Conservation Planner training
- Assist FSA with CRP field reviews
- Support local Quail Forever chapters
- Help to plan the upcoming women's burn workshop
- Submit an abstract for the 2020 MNRC
- Plan a pollinator seeding at the Shelbina Golf Course
- Continue to capitalize on training opportunities

*\*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



Erin Forsythe– Jasper, Lawrence, Barton, Dade Counties

July-September 2019

### This Past Quarter...

My third quarter working for Quail Forever has been an exciting one. Spending the majority of my work days outside with landowners and assisting them to achieve their goals for their property has been very fulfilling. I have had the opportunity to work with several great producers so far. A Jasper/ Barton County producer has been a great reminder as to why I love my job. He is eager to do what is best for his property and seeks out any and all help possible to give him the best advice. In the short time of having the opportunity to work with this producer I have been able to see the before and after of some of the improvements made so far. He is adamant about improving his native prairie and converting large portions of his property back to its native plant composition. I am excited to see the response from his cattle and the wildlife in the years to come. His property is one of the few in the area to truly utilize natives in his grazing system, and hope to host future field tours to provide a visual for why we should incorporate natives.



Monarch Habitat Monitoring on a Landowner in Lawrence County

### Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

- (40) Landowner Contacts
- (21) Site Visits
- (3) Trainings/ workshops
- (6) Outreach Events
- (2) Workshops Hosted
- (5) Survey and Data Collection

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# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



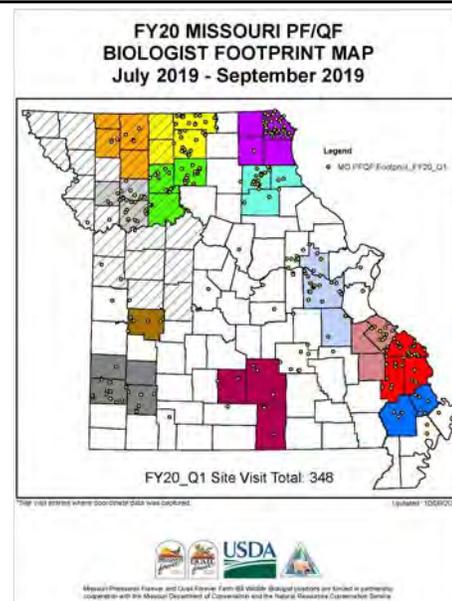
Erin Forsythe– Jasper, Lawrence, Barton, Dade Counties

July– September 2019

Training/Workshops	Outcome
Pollinator Habitat Training	Learn about establishment of pollinator plot, difficulties, and why they are important
Forestry Training	Obtain a better grasp on common forestry practices used in Missouri
Native Warm Season Grass Workshop	Staff training to expand NWSG knowledge dealing with establishment and management
Missouri Department of Conservation Private Lands Division Conference	Networking with partners, and training

## Looking Forward

- Conservation Desktop Training
- Spring River Quail Forever Chapter Banquet
- EQIP signup for Jasper County
- Farm Bill Training
- Assisting with Lawrence county EQIP signup
- Fall Covey Counts
- Conservation Desktop Training
- Additional Training





# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

July – September 2019

### Future Farmers of America

As private land consultants, we carefully choose which words and phrases to use and which to avoid when discussing natural resource conservation with farmers and ranchers, and understandably so. Beyond the esoteric “sciencey” words, we also often avoid the phrases “*global warming*” and “*climate change*” because they have been hyper-politicized and might alienate some landowners. The words “*environmentalist*” and simply “*the environment*” have likewise been co-opted and distorted into polarizing terms. Similarly, any uninvited appeal for an improperly grazing or heavy-tillage farmer to consider their role in maintaining watershed quality or environmental flows might feel accusatory and may be offensive to some. This careful word choice and delicate maneuvering adds to the artistry of private land management, but can be admittedly frustrating at times.



Fortunately, we have the opportunity to more freely engage with an entire generation of *future* farmers. These young people, unencumbered by past land management decisions or voting history, are a perfect audience to freely discuss the science of large, pervasive issues like climate change, gulf hypoxia, and aquifer depletion. *Continued* —>

#### Conservation Planning

- 79 Landowner Contacts
- 37 Site Visits
- 6 Conservation Plans Written
- 4 Presentations Given (214 people)
- 6 Monarch Habitat Surveys

Program Involvement	Acres Impacted
Conservation Reserve Program	100.9
Conservation Stewardship Program	141.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>241.9</b>



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

July – September 2019

### Future Farmers of America *continued*

By maximizing their exposure to these important issues, we can help ensure that science, rather than industry alone, will shape the way these students one day farm.

During a field day at the University of Missouri's Hundley-Whaley Research Center in August, several of my Quail Forever colleagues and I had the opportunity to do just that. Totalling nearly 500 for the day, we led waves of Future Farmers of America (FFA) students through a dramatic stand of rosinweed, sawtooth sunflower, and various other wildflowers. There we discussed the economic and ecological importance of insect pollinators, and the role of prairie plants in the water and carbon cycles. We fielded questions about forb palatability, erosion control, and wildlife value, and saw the wheels turning as we suggested ways in which they might incorporate these plants on their own farms.



Field lessons like this, replete with sounds and aromas, are perhaps the best way to convince young students of the importance of prairie ecosystems. Moreover, hopefully they become inspired to one day help put some carbon back in the ground, prevent contaminants from entering our streams, and to help keep wildlife on the landscape.



### Who's blooming?

This quarter, numerous QF team members and I collected data at monitoring plots to help the Monarch Joint Venture track seasonal availability of nectaring plants on CRP and other federal program-restored lands. For more information about MJV's Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program, follow the link below!

<https://monarchjointventure.org/immp>



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

July – September 2019

### Outreach & Education

In July, I had the opportunity to joint-teach a class on pollinators and prairie function to a group of 6th grade students in Parkville in support of the “Corteva Grows Pollinator Habitat” initiative, a national program co-sponsored by 4-H and Pheasants and Quail Forever, Inc. We had an awesome time learning about the prairie’s ecological processes, like water cycles and plant succession, with talk of wildfires and bison herds generating the most excitement. Perhaps the most satisfying moment was at the morning’s conclusion when one student remarked, “so...in some places, it’s actually okay to cut down trees?” - BINGO!

### Pint Night

Our Heartland PFQF chapter was thrilled to host our first-ever “Pint Night” in early August. Before PFQF began promoting these events throughout the country, we had very few opportunities for casual socializing and new member recruitment, as our banquets are often more “work” than “play”. This evening of great food and drink did just that, and we gained two new board members to show for it! We will certainly look to continue incorporating this type of chapter promotion to reach more people in our Kansas City Region.



Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>National Bobwhite Technical Committee Meeting</b>	Joined quail researchers and managers from across the country for the 25th Anniversary National Bobwhite Technical Committee Meeting in Carbondale, IL to help identify ways to improve quail conservation and landowner outreach and education strategies.
<b>MDC Plant ID Training</b>	Attended a plant identification training hosted by MDC Natural History Biologists at Whetstone Creek Conservation Area where we inventoried prairie, glade, and woodland natural communities.



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



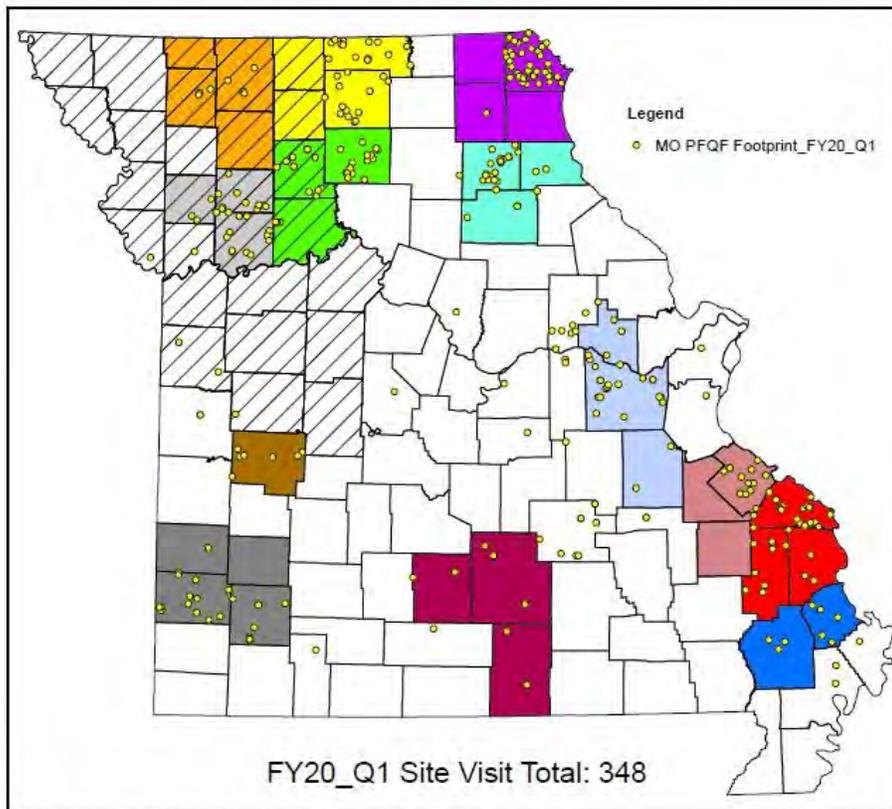
Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

July – September 2019

### Looking Forward

- Autumn signals a nicer time to head to the field, evidenced by the many landowners requesting assistance with their wildlife habitat goals. I look forward to spending the next several months sorting out the best options for each and guiding them through the beginning steps of their projects.
- Autumn also brings with it the quail “fall shuffle”, meaning covey counts are upon us. I am excited to once again assist with the Carroll County effort, and to see how this year’s numbers compare to last’s.
- Lastly, with a CRP signup likely looming in the not-so-distant future, I look forward to working with my MDC partners to devise outreach strategies to maximize the program’s impact in our area.

### FY20 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP July 2019 - September 2019



\*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 10/09/2019

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# Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

July - Sept 2019

## Grass Roots Running Deep

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has numerous Quail Restoration Landscapes (QRL) identified across the state where quail habitat conservation is targeted. Most of the QRLs were chosen by MDC to center around large tracts of public land, however, our local QRL's were established by landowners. The Bee Ridge QRL in Knox County was established over a decade ago by landowners that wanted to see



MDC Regional Supervisor George Survington discussing brood habitat on the Bee Ridge QRL tour.

more quail on the land. They are now seeing results ten-fold. With the desire to know if they are making an impact, the community has been conducting quail surveys in the QRL since establishment. In doing so, they know without a shadow of a doubt that they have improved the number of quail in the area. More over, the habitat improvements have allowed the populations to recover quickly after catastrophic weather events. Although a little newer, the Ten Rivers QRL in Lewis County shares a similar model and is starting to see improvements in the quail numbers. The secret to their successes? It's as simple as neighbors supporting and encouraging each other to make habitat improvements along field edges or odd areas of their property. These QRL's are truly grass roots and those roots are running deep for quail.

This past August, the Bee Ridge QRL and Ten Rivers QRL each hosted an annual meeting and habitat tour. As a wildlife biologist, it was inspiring to see these communities come together for wildlife. Each landowner comes with a different background and objectives for their land, but all are working to incorporate quail habitat into their operations. During the Bee Ridge tour we looked at a native grass stand and discussed the importance of disturbance to maintain usable brood habitat. On the Ten Rivers tour, we looked at a CP-33 Field Buffers for Upland Wildlife also discussing the importance of brood rearing habitat and utilizing field edges to create quail habitat. The icing on the cake was a covey rise at sunset over the back of a whitetail fawn.



MDC Private Lands Conservationist John Pinkowski discussing quail ecology on the Ten Rivers QRL tour.

## Quarter Highlights

### Conservation Planning

- 64 Landowner Contacts
- 47 Site Visits
- 20 Projects With Acres
- 3 seed mix reviews
- 11 Habitat Plans

**Total Acres Impacted: 274**

Haley Lockard  
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# Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

July - Sept 2019

## Outreach...

- **Aug. 9th** KMEM FM's "Coffee Break " radio interview on quail management - Kahoka, MO
- **Aug. 24** Mossy Oak Properties Soil Health and Wildlife Workshop - Palmyra, MO
- **Sept. 2** Bethel Outdoor & Wildlife Expo - Bethel, MO
- **Sept. 16-18** Women in Agriculture Annual Conference - St. Charles, MO

## Landowner Workshops/ Tours ...

- **July 13** Mark Twain Prescribed Fire Annual Meeting/Tour
- **Aug. 15** Bee Ridge QRL Tour - Bee Ridge, MO
- **Aug. 30** Ten Rivers QRL Tour - Monticello, MO

## Trainings & Meetings...

- **July 10** NRCS Civil Rights Training - Perry, MO
- **July 16-20** National Bobwhite Technical Committee Annual Meeting - Carbondale, IL
- **Aug. 6** NE Region PLS Staff Meeting - Kirksville, MO
- **Aug. 8** NEMO PF/QF District Meeting - Macon, MO
- **Aug. 27-28** NRCS Soil Mechanics Training - Novelty, MO

## Quarter Highlights

### Outreach & Education

- **3** Landowner Tours/ Workshops
- **3** Outreach Events
- **1** Media Interview

**Total Participants Reached: 303+**



CP-33; Ten Rivers QRL Tour



Monarch Monitoring Plot



Bethel Wildlife Expo



Women in Ag Tour at Forrest Keeling

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# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



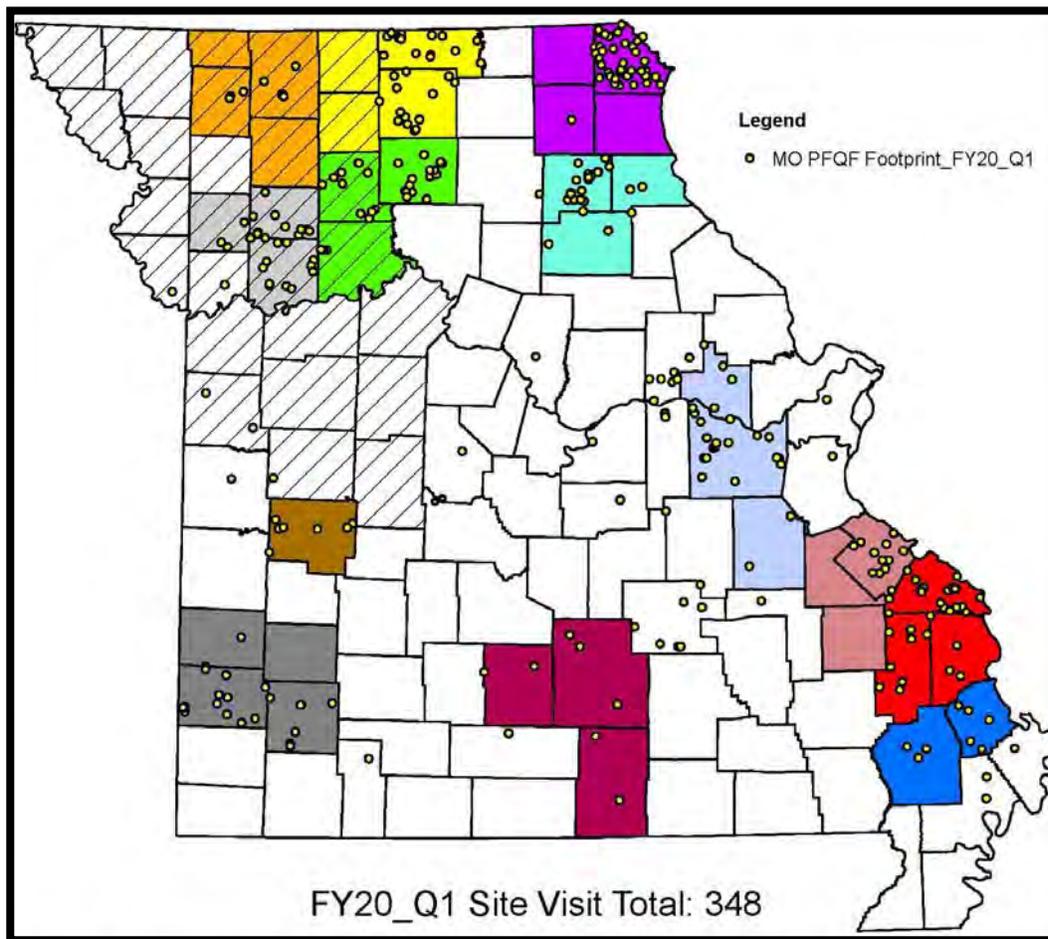
Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

July - Sept 2019

### Looking Forward...

- Continue to provide technical assistance to landowners
- MDC PLS Division Meeting Oct 1-3
- NRCS Conservation Planner Part 2 training Oct 7-11
- MDC Farm Bill Training Oct 23-24
- Assist NRCS with EQIP applications and conservation planning
- Anticipating a General CRP sign-up at the end of the year
- Work with partners on a Precision Conservation pilot

### Missouri PF/QF Biologist Footprint July - Sept. 2019



*\*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**

**July – October 2019**

### Position Update

Over the last several months, I've had the opportunity to be involved in a lot of exciting activities and events outside of my day-to-day duties. Of course, I've been busy with the usual technical assistance to landowners, assisting producers and planners alike while they establish pollinator habitat through Farm Bill programs, and working to deliver the monarch RCPP. But this quarter stands out because of some of the new and terrific things I got to be a part of. A few examples include: Prairie Days at Dunn Ranch, QF's Leadership Development Program, a pollinator workshop held by NRCS in Harrisonville, the Conservation Leadership Corps fall workshop, and a MDC plant ID training. Make sure to check out my highlight story and the second page of this report to see more of what I've been up to.

### Northwest Missouri Outreach

As I mentioned above, I've been involved in all sorts of meetings, workshops, and events over the last couple months. I've enjoyed the diversity in work a lot but would have to say that the outreach events I've helped with have been my favorites.

One of these events, the Hundley-Whaley Research Center's Twilight Tour and FFA Day, is something I look forward to each August. The Quail Forever team had hopes of conducting a prescribed burn demo for landowners but conditions didn't allow for a burn. Instead, we opened a Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) trailer and talked with folks about the benefits of fire, the importance of a burn plan, and how to use some of the more common equipment. The next day we used the pollinator plot on site to talk with 468 FFA students and 25 teachers about the importance of pollinators and native plants. A big thank you to Ethan Kleekamp, Josh Marshall, and Andrew White for helping with this event and to Hundley-Whaley Research Center for having us!



FFA students attending Hundley Whaley Research Center's FFA Field Day talk with Farm Bill Biologist Ethan Kleekamp about the importance of pollinators and native plants.

I was lucky enough to participate in another event this September, Prairie Days at Dunn Ranch. This was my first year attending this terrific event and thought it was a huge success. Hosted by MDC and The Nature Conservancy, Prairie Days gave visitors a chance to see bison, birds, and wildflowers, while learning about prairie ecology and the importance of native grasslands. Kim Cole, Missouri QF Outreach Coordinator, and I spent the day talking with attendees about quail, monarch butterflies, and the benefits of native plants.

### Conservation Planning

- 35 Landowner Contacts
- 14 NRCS Cons. Planner Contacts
- 5 Eligibility/ Ranking Assessments
- 8 Site Visits

Events	# Attended
Outreach	5
Landowner Workshop	1
Agency or Partner Training	3

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# Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

**July – October 2019**

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>MDC Plant ID Training</b>	Attended MDC Plant ID Training at Whetstone and Prairie Fork Conservation Areas. This training examined common plants found in forest, glade, and prairie habitats and provided useful methods for identifying and learning new plants.
<b>PF/QF Leadership Development Training</b>	Participated in PF/QF's Leadership Development Program (LDP). This 9 month program helps emerging leaders within the organization develop their leadership skills. I started the program in July and will finish in March.
<b>CFM Affiliate Summit</b>	Attended the Conservation Federation of Missouri's (CFM) annual Affiliate Summit to learn about conservation priorities across the state and ongoing partner efforts.

### Outreach & Education

- Attended the NW Missouri PF/QF District Meeting to provide an update on my position, monarch butterflies, pollinator habitat, and on goings in NW Missouri.
- Presented at MU's Hundley Whaley Research Center in Albany, MO for their annual Twilight Tour event. I and several other QF biologists discussed prescribed fire with around 200 attendees.
- Presented at Hundley Whaley Research Center's FFA Field Day talking about the importance of pollinators and native plants with nearly 500 students.
- Attended Prairie Days at Dunn Ranch in Harrison County to talk with individuals about Quail Forever and ways to improve their upland habitat.
- Served as a resource professional for CFM's Conservation Leadership Corps during their Fall Workshop. These students focus on conservation issues within the state and work to develop solutions as tomorrow's conservation leaders.
- Presented at an NRCS Pollinator Habitat Workshop discussing establishment and site prep with 40 landowners

### Additional Work

- Assisted with CSP conservation planning in NRCS Area 1
- Developed reports for the Monarch RCPP and continued to assist with delivery across its range.

### Looking Forward

- I will work with local and Area Office staff to renew my NRCS conservation planner certification.
- Coordinate and plan a RCPP Partners Meeting for early 2020 to discuss financial assistance balances for the final year of the agreement.
- Work with Indiana NRCS staff to develop outreach strategies for RCPP programs.
- Working with the Monarch Coordinator in Oklahoma, we will continue to deliver RCPP efforts across its range.
- Continue participation in PF/QF's Leadership Development Program thru April 2020.
- 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.



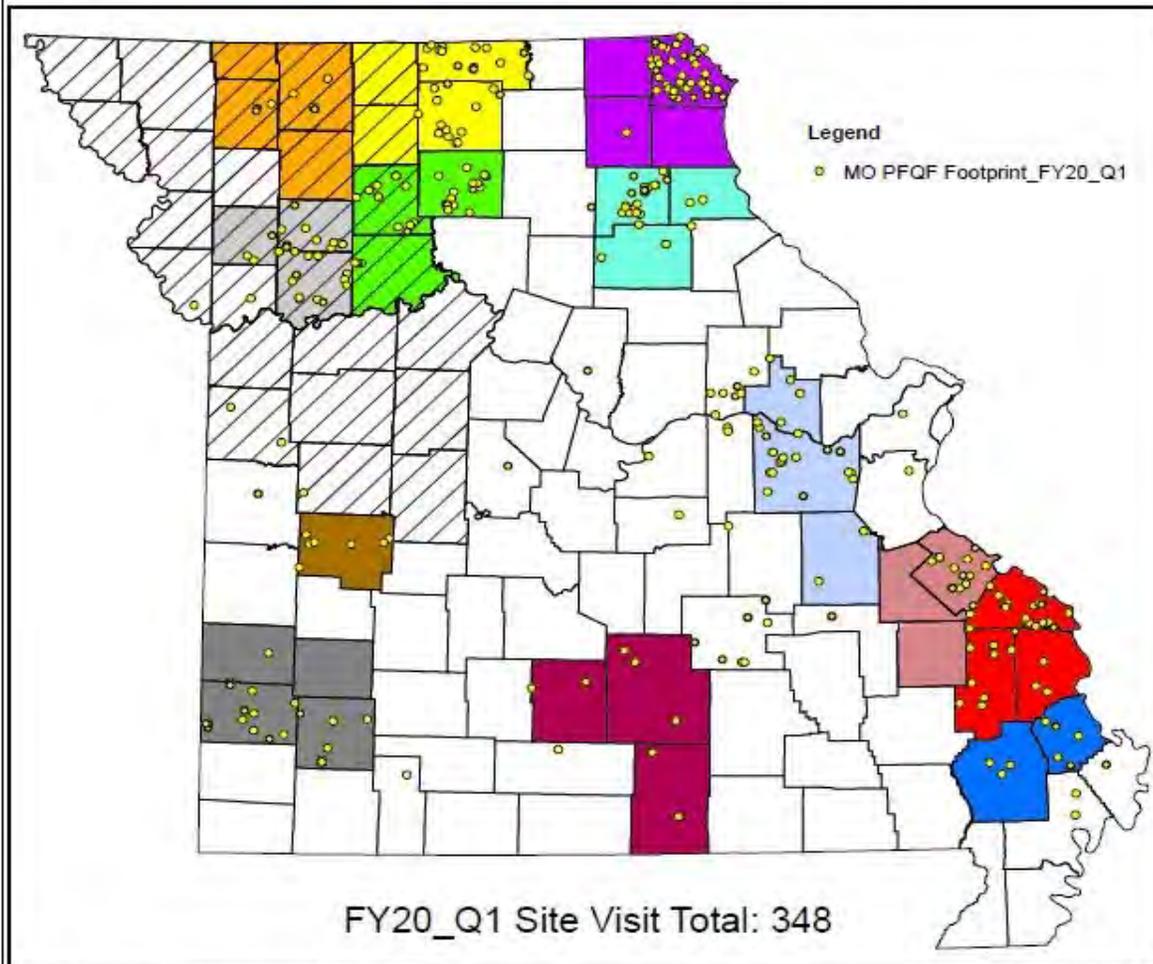
# Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



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

**July – October 2019**

## FY20 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP July 2019 - September 2019



\*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 10/09/2019



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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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JUL – SEP 2019

### Quarterly Overview

The first Quarter of Fiscal Year 2020 has begun and with it comes new changes and a chance for growth. The team has highlighted new team goals and everyone on Quail Forever Missouri team has set personal goals to encourage development and learning in the new fiscal year. It seemed that there are always great projects to work on and this quarter was no different. I had the opportunity to help with a Continuous CRP enrollment, increase my skills in new training, visit with landowners, conduct surveys, and co-host an field day. There are unending opportunities to increase habitat on Missouri's Landscape and I am grateful to be a part of it.

### Wildflowers and Wildlife

Part of Quail Forever Missouri's FY-2020 goals was to complete 5 surveys for the Monarch Joint Venture (MJV) to determine the benefit of Monarch and Pollinator plantings. I joined Andrew White, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III, to carry out a survey on a property in Livingston County. To complete this survey, Andrew and I went out twice a month July-September to measure transects for blooming native forbs and wild flowers. We also recorded the amount of Milkweed in the plot and the monarchs we saw.

While some of the days were quite warm, it was well worth our time to carry out these surveys. On every four out of the six trips, we saw multiple broods of quail utilizing the plot. We also saw several monarchs each trip and we able to record how beneficial the late blooming sunflowers were in providing nectar to the migrating butterflies. From what we saw on our six trips out to that plot, I can say without a doubt that these pollinator and monarch plots are making a difference for Missouri's native wildlife and pollinators



**Andrew White measuring a sub-plot during MJV Monitoring.**



**Edge feathering and Plains Coreopsis.**

### Using All the Tools in the Tool Box

Continuous CRP for 2019 wrapped up in July. Through this sign up and re-enrollment, I was able to meet several new landowners and help them better the soil and water health on their properties. While Continuous CRP focuses primarily on water quality practices, these practices are another tool in the tool box that can be designed to benefit wildlife, while helping the landowners better their land.

While checking properties during Continuous CRP, I also checked a CP-33 for the Putnam County FSA. It was great to see such a successful renovation project. The field was covered in blooming Plains Coreopsis and other native species.

The edge feathering on the property was beyond expectations. CRP is an incredibly versatile tool that when utilized can truly increase the work we do for native habitat and wildlife.

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JUL – SEP 2019

### The Hidden Treasures of a Remnant Prairie

For the past few months, I have been working with Bruce and Marla Mestad on their property in Putnam County. The Mestads purchased their farm a few years ago and were looking for some assistance in managing it for native wildlife and pollinators. They reached out after reading an article about Quail Forever hiring new biologists in Missouri. I visited their farm several times over the past few months, taking note of the beautiful remnant prairie plants they have growing and developed a plan for them to further enhance these plants by encouraging additional growth and increasing the usable wildlife habitat. During one such visit, I noticed a purple flower I did not recognize. I took a picture of it and told them I would find out what it was. After some help from another Farm Bill Biologist, we determined it was False-Eared Foxglove (*Agalinus auriculata*.) Further research revealed that this plant is a vulnerable species in the Missouri. After finding this out, I contacted the local Natural History Biologist and together, with the Mestads, we conducted a natural history review on



**Bruce & Marla on their farm with their remnant native prairie**



**Eared False Foxglove.**

the plant. We counted upwards of 13 stems, which is one of the larger populations in the area. This population is a testament to the rich heritage of the native prairie that use to dominate this landscape. Other naturally occurring native prairie species on their property include leadplant, white false indigo, purple prairie clover, rough blazing star, and roundhead lespedeza. Bruce and Marla look forward to helping these species expand across their property and increasing the native habitat through invasive species control and prescribed fire. It is refreshing to work with landowners like the Mestads who's sole goal is to better their property through native habitat restoration.

### Field Day Success

On September 28th, I was able to partner with Pure Air Wildlife Management Cooperative (PAWMC) to host a field day. Through this tour and workshop, we were able to speak to 26 people about forest management, prairie restoration, prescribed fire, cost share options, benefits of landowner cooperatives, and soil health. Multiple partners joined the event such as the Quality Deer Management Association, Roeslein Alternative Energy, and the Missouri Department of Conservation. It was a successful event and the participants said they would like to see more events like this in the future. I look forward to working more with PAWMC and other partners to host more outreach events and workshops like this in the future.



**Zack Coy (PAWMC) & Jake Gages (QDMA) Discuss the benefits of Landowner COOPs**

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JUL – SEP 2019

Trainings and Outreach	Summary
<b>Hundley-Whaley Field Day</b>	Presented at a two day field day with the Hundley-Whaley Research Center. First night we spoke on prescribed fire & the second day we presented about pollinators to over 400 high school students.
<b>Plant Identification Training</b>	A full day of training with the Missouri Department of Conservation Natural History Biologists increasing our skills in plant identification.
<b>Monarch Joint Venture Monitoring</b>	Completed six surveys on a pollinator planting in Livingston County.
<b>Field Day with PAWMC</b>	Conducted a field tour and workshop with the PAWMC to 26 landowners and local college students highlighting good management practices for native communities.

### Looking Forward

- Pack Test for Red Card Qualification
- Farm Bill Programs Training
- Fall Covey Monitoring
- Team Hunt
- Prescribed Burn Workshop

<b>Quarterly Numbers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 63 Landowners Contacted</li> <li>• 28 Site Visits</li> <li>• 5 Counties reached</li> </ul>	Program	Impacted Ac.
	Continuous CRP	583.48
	CSP	27.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>610.78</b>

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



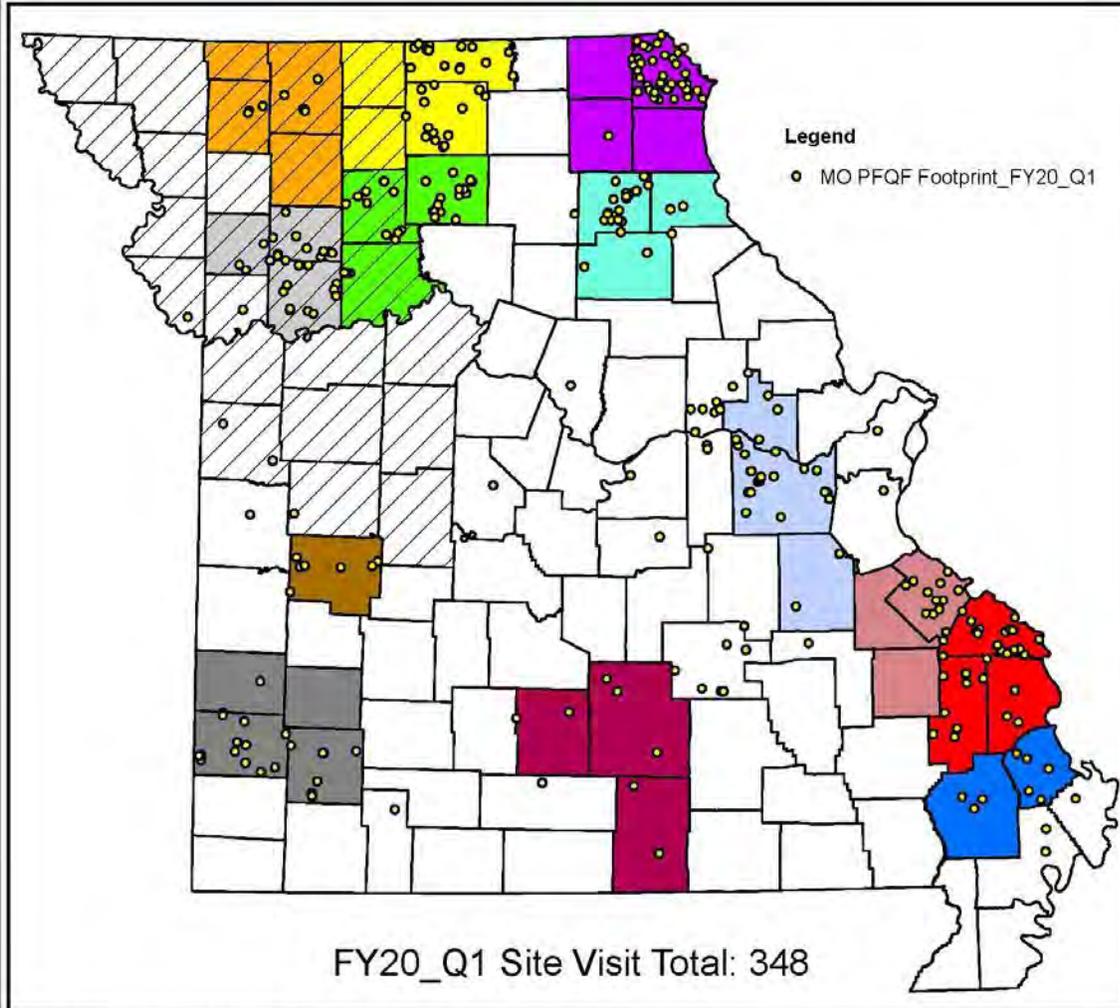
# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JUL – SEP 2019

## FY20 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP July 2019 - September 2019



\*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 10/09/2019



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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



**Kelsey DeZalia— Stoddard and Scott Counties**

**August-September 2019**

### **Benton/Dexter Position Update**

I started my new position as the Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist mid-August 2019. Since then, I have been attempting to get oriented around my new counties, meet landowners, tag along with the local biologists, and just trying to get my feet on the ground with the new responsibilities through this position.

### **So, Who Am I?**

Although I tried to reach out to several media outlets to notify landowners of their new point of contact for habitat programs, I am sure there are some I did not reach.



I was born and bred in upstate New York (no, not the city); about 15 minutes outside of the Albany area. This is no reason to panic! Since I graduated with my Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management SUNY (State University of New York) Cobleskill, I have been chasing the conservation dream. This chase led me to work in various states across the country including New York, Connecticut, North Dakota, Missouri and Tennessee. I have worked with a variety of upland game birds such as wild turkey, Ruffed and Sharp-tailed grouse, and currently (obviously) with Bobwhite quail.

### **Trainings, Workshops, Learning, Galore!**

Some of my time has been occupied by various computer trainings. These will qualify me to create conservation plans for landowners, therefore making the entire enrollment process more streamline for everyone helping to put quality habitat on the ground. Quail Forever relies heavily on it's partners within Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and visa versa. Whenever we can help each other accomplish our goals, we don't hesitate.

I have attended a Plant Identification training at Whetstone Conservation Area. This was led by two knowledgeable MDC Biologists, Chris Newbold and Mike Leahy, who brought us through woodland, glade, and prairie habitats. This was a one-day crash course showing us numerous species and explaining various identification methods. Partners from across the regions attended. These trainings provide valuable information on plant establishment, identification and management techniques. Identification of invasive/harmful plants such as *Sericea lespedeza* (A) note the "fish bone" type venation versus the native *sericea* (B) with the ovular shape of the veins.



(A)

(B)



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



**Kelsey DeZalia - Scott and Stoddard Counties**

**August-September 2019**

### **Trainings, etc. continued.**

As stimulating as it is to read about trainings, I hope to bring the knowledge that I learn through all of these back to the landowners of Scott and Stoddard counties, so I can serve as a more valuable and trust-worthy resource!

### **“But, what have you been doing?”**

You ask, I answer! Besides the trainings and workshops, I have been actively trying to get a foothold within my counties. By tagging along with local MDC Private Land Conservationists Brad Pobst (Bollinger, Cape and Scott), Tim Kavan (Mississippi, New Madrid, and Pemiscot), and Kara McSpadden (Stoddard, Dunklin and Butler), I have met various landowners and been on numerous different types of habitat providing conservation technical assistance. The chart depicts the assistance I have been providing between my start date (mid August) and the end of the quarter (September).

### **Conservation Technical Assistance Summary**

• 20 landowner contacts	• Attended mentioned workshops/trainings
• Provided direct CTA for 15 landowners	• Assisted with 1 landowner workshop
• Attended MDC PLS meeting	• Assisted landowners in 5 counties

### **Local Chapters**

I have been involved with the Bootheel Bobwhite Chapter of Quail Forever located out of Benton, MO. Be on the look out for the advertising of their banquet coming early 2020! I hope to provide assistance to the Poplar Bluff Black River Chapter in the near future.

### **Can you help me?**

Please reach out to me! I am very excited to be a part of this organization and am more than eager to start putting habitat on local ground. Even though the counties I am directly responsible for are Scott and Stoddard, I want anyone outside of the counties to be able to contact me with questions or advice. If I can't answer them, I know someone who can! Our biologist network is huge and continues to expand. Take advantage of it. I am here to help landowners meet their habitat and wildlife goals.



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# Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Len Gilmore—St. Clair Co.

July – Sept 2019

## Position Update

This quarter began the new fiscal year with a new set of objectives for the Upper Osage priority geography (UOG). There are many landowners in the UOG have some sort of prairie in the grasslands on their farm. One of those objectives is to reach out to those landowners, particularly those who do not participate in any kind of program. Aimee Coy, PLC, and I met with one landowner this quarter that is heir to a 320 acre prairie. This person has not participated in any programs but is very much interested in how to best manage prairie that will keep it healthy. Follow-up meetings will occur later in the year to break out the steps for the management practices. The challenge is to get the landowner understand the practices for prairie management. Now, on to the next producer with prairie on their farm in the UOG.

## Landowners Gather to see the Bad, the Ugly, and the Good

Landowners in Cass County gathered during the second week of September to learn about the native plants that are important for pollinator insects. They gathered on a farm that had native grasses and forbs planted. Some fields were planted a few years ago and were well established with big bluestem and Indiangrass towering above a variety of mostly yellow flowering native forbs. Then, there was a field they walked into that was planted to a diverse native mix early this year. The field was a typical planting with many annual weeds spread throughout the field seeking to occupy space that the natives were trying to find space for root growth. As they walked the field most of the comments and discussion were the same. "This planting is a failure". When native grasses and forbs are planted one of the biggest challenge is to get the landowner to stay away from the newly planted field. They see the bad weeds and deem the ugly field as a failure. But the Field Day did not end here. The landowners travelled just a short distance down the road and arrived at a field planted to pollinators three years ago. Alas, they walked through the field of brilliant flowers where those words, "now this looks good", could be heard by several of the landowners. If they had not seen the good pollinator planting they would have only remembered the ugly.

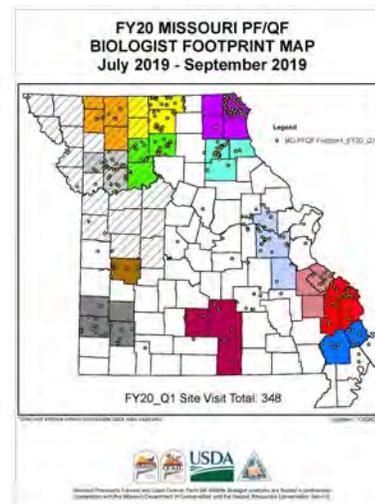


Landowners enjoy walking through a good pollinator planting during the Pollinator Field Day.

### Conservation Planning

- 24 Landowner Contacts
- 18 Site Visits

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
EQIP	15
FWS Partners	20
CTA	575
<b>Total</b>	<b>610</b>





# Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Len Gilmore—St. Clair Co.

July – Sept 2019

### Outreach & Education

- Presented information about the benefit of pollinator plants during two Pasture Walks at Clubine Patch-Burn Graze native forage tours.
- Partners for Pasture landowner group held an evening tour to see a Patch-burn graze system at Wah'Kon-Tah Prairie. Discussed the use of this type of system on native prairie pasture.
- Held four Landowner Grazing Native Forage workshops in Missouri Area 3 & 4 and in NW & NE Arkansas during July and August.
- Helped conduct training to Areas 3 & 4 partner staff on how producers can use Native Warm-Season Grasses in their grazing systems. Field tour showed fields planted to NWSG this year and those planted 1-3 years ago.
- Assisted with Landowner Invasive Plant workshop in Vernon County in August where nearly 50 folks attended.
- Discussed how to establish pollinator plants and equipment handling during Pollinator Field Day during September in Cass County.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>MDC UCT meeting</b>	Represented Upper Osage Grassland priority geography at the Missouri Dept. of Conservation Unit Coordinating Team meeting in Jefferson City to discuss expanding the boundary of the priority geography.
<b>PF/QF District Chapter meetings.</b>	Gave updates on my position to PF/QF chapters at the district meetings in Harrison, Arkansas and Kansas City, Missouri.
<b>UOPBA meeting</b>	Participated in the annual Upper Osage Prescribed Burn Association meeting.
<b>Soil Health Workshop</b>	Attended soil health training in Springfield, MO. Learned about the many types of cover crops used for grazing livestock while improving soil health.

### Looking Forward

- Attend MO Team meeting and MDC Division Conference in Springfield, MO.
- Help Patrick Davis, Specialist with UME do soil monitoring in native grass fields.
- Prairie Day for local schools and public day at WKT prairie.
- Help conduct Landowner Prescribed Burn Workshop in the UOG.
- Attend UME landowner WSG workshops in Barton and Bates counties.
- Prepare for the 2020 SW MO Spring Forage Conference.
- Prepare for the Missouri QF Conference to be held in January.



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

July—September 2019

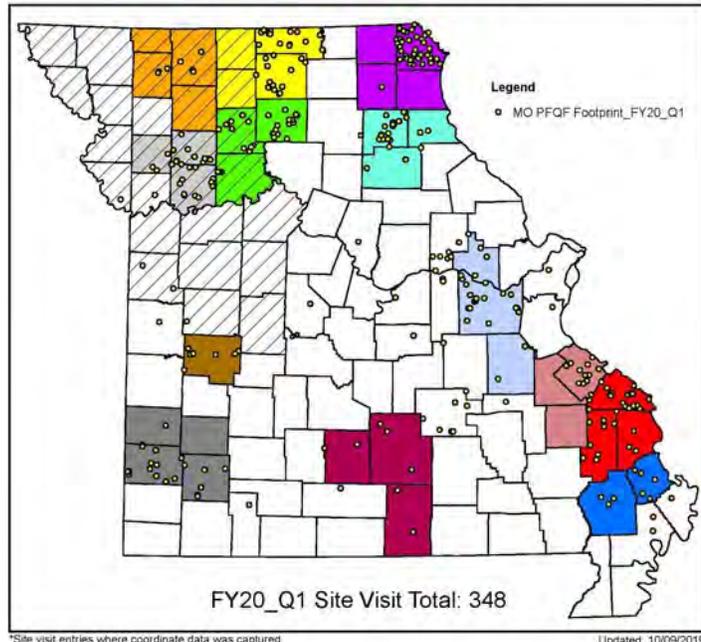
### FY20—The First Quarter

The first quarter of fiscal year 2020 is off to a great start. From July through September our Missouri team conducted 348 site visits across 75 counties and logged just over 900 landowner contacts. Collectively, we presented to nearly 3,000 workshop and meeting participants at over 60 events. We logged 53 wildlife surveys, with several of those being the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program (IMMP) surveys in pollinator plots around the state.

The majority of my conservation planning was for the recent continuous CRP signup. Other areas of conservation technical assistance included pollinator habitat establishment and maintenance, prescribed burn plan writing, and invasive species treatment recommendations. Additionally, I conducted 5 IMMP surveys with other farm bill wildlife biologists in Perry County. Looking ahead, I will be working on 3 workshops/tours for this upcoming year that will cover quail management on private and working lands and pollinator habitat establishment.

Our Missouri team is eagerly waiting for the next CRP signup and we are looking forward to putting more habitat on the ground through CRP and other Farm Bill Programs!

FY20 MISSOURI PF/QF  
BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP  
July 2019 - September 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.

PF/QF Biologist Footprint for July-September 2019

### Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

Conservation Planning	Program		CRP Practices	
	Program	Acres Impacted	CRP Practices	Acres Impacted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>66 Landowner Contacts</li> <li>21 Site Visits</li> <li>2 Pollinator/Monarch seeding plans reviewed</li> <li>5 Conservation Plans written</li> <li>1 Rx Burn plan written</li> </ul>	EQIP	9	CP1	-
	CSP	7	CP21	95.08
	MDC LCAP	202.6	CP22	15.1
	QF Chapter	-	CP30	6.34
	Non-Program	16.6	CP38	-
			CP42	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>235.2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>116.52</b>

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

July—September 2019

### Quail Forever Measures Monarch Habitat in Missouri

The Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever in Missouri team has been surveying monarch habitat throughout the state. The surveys were completed using methods from the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program—a national initiative through the Monarch Joint Venture partnership. Data collected from the surveys will be submitted to a national database and used to monitor monarch populations and their habitat throughout the United States.

We selected 6 sites in 6 counties with a goal of surveying each plot twice in July, August, and September. Sites selected for the surveys were all on private lands and were planted using funding from state and federal cost-share programs. For every visit to the site, a site description form and a milkweed and blooming plant survey was completed. Each plot was 1-hectare in size and we surveyed 100 subplots along 3 transects within the plots. The blooming plants and every stem of milkweed within each subplot was identified and recorded. Throughout the surveys, we also recorded sightings of monarchs including caterpillars and eggs. If monarchs were nectaring, we identified and recorded the species of plant it was using. After all subplots were completed, we walked throughout the plot to record any other blooming plant species or milkweed not previously recorded within the subplots.

I teamed up with Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists Wes Buchheit and Kelsey DeZalia to survey a plot in Perry County. Our plot was part of a project that utilized funding from the Missouri Department of Conservation's Landowner and Community Assistance Program. Private Lands Conservationist Kyle Lorenz assisted the landowners with the project. This was the second growing season for the plot and we observed good plant diversity. Overall, we identified three different species of milkweed: common, butterfly, and prairie. We also recorded several adult monarchs throughout the survey.

These surveys are not only important for monitoring monarchs and their habitats nationwide; they are also providing valuable data to measure the success of establishing pollinator habitat through cost-share programs.



#### Blooming Plants from Perry County Survey

Purple Coneflower	Ox-eye Sunflower	Red Clover
Goldenrod	Ashy Sunflower	Blazing Star
Tickseed Coreopsis	Rattlesnake Master	Ironweed
Common Milkweed	Rosin weed	Hoary Vervain
Butterfly Milkweed	Slender Lespedeza	Blue Verbena
Prairie Milkweed	Spurge	Plains Coreopsis
Boneset	Partridge Pea	
Tickseed Sunflower	Black-eyed Susan	

*Top: Monarchs enjoying butterfly milkweed in a survey plot.*  
*Middle: Wes Buchheit counts the blooming plants within a subplot.*  
*Bottom: Other native pollinator species were observed within the survey plots.*

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

July—September 2019

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>Primer on NRCS Environmental Compliance</b>	Completed AgLearn training required for Apprentice Conservation Planner
<b>NRCS Documenting the Environmental Evaluation</b>	Completed AgLearn training required for Apprentice Conservation Planner
<b>NRCS Conservation Planning Course Training on SWCD</b>	Completed AgLearn training required for Apprentice Conservation Planner
<b>Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program Training</b>	Completed online training to conduct IMMP surveys
<b>Ste. Genevieve County SWCD Meetings</b>	Provided updates on current habitat projects in Ste. Genevieve County
<b>Area 3 Local Working Group Meetings</b>	Provided input on local resource concerns and EQIP and CSP ranking questions
<b>Interagency Native Warm Season Grass Grazing Training</b>	Learned about NWSG management in grazing systems and toured a recent planting
<b>Conservation Desktop Training</b>	Completed online training to prepare for Conservation Desktop launch
<b>MDC SEPLS Meeting</b>	Met with MDC Private Lands staff to provide update on current projects
<b>Woodland Management Meeting</b>	Met with Missouri State Parks staff at St. Joe State Park to learn about their woodland management
<b>MDC Ozark Plant Identification</b>	Learned over 100 plants found in Ozark glades and woodlands



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

July—September 2019

### Outreach & Education

- Attended PF/QF Eastern District Meeting and provided a position update
- Attended MDC Landowner Prescribed Burn Workshop at Mineral Area College and briefly presented how I can assist landowners interested in habitat management through prescribed burning
- Wrote “Pollinator Habitat? It’s for the Birds!” article to be distributed in St. Francois and Ste. Genevieve County Soil and Water Conservation District newsletters

### Looking Forward

- Obtain NRCS Apprentice Conservation Planner certification and continue working towards Conservation Planner certification
- Complete MDC Prescribed Burn Manager training
- Host at least 1 tour and 1 workshop in FY20
- Host a Prescribed Burn Workshop
- Continue getting to know landowners in my counties and building relationships with partners

## Missouri Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever 7<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention

Saturday, January 25

Follow us on social media and our website for updates!



@MissouriQF



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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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III **USDA**

## Quarterly Partners' Report



**Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties**

**July-September 2019**

### Position Update

September marked two years serving as the Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist for the Habitat Organization working out of the Jackson USDA office. With the start of FY20 and my third year begins a new challenge and opportunity. I received a promotion to FBWB III and tasked with providing leadership for our Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists in the southern half of Missouri. While continuing to assist landowners and partners in the area to create and enhance habitat, I will support our South MO team with guidance on day to day farm bill biologist activities to best help them excel in their roles. Our Missouri Quail Forever Team has grown and now so has our leadership structure to best serve our teammates, partners, and landowners.

### Beating the Heat with Native Forage

It began with a phone call from a local producer, Charlie Beshar: "Can you help me with those native warm season grasses for my cattle?" Promoting the use of these species for forage is a continued goal for Quail Forever and other partners because of the benefit to quail and other wildlife, but this request for assistance was more about improving the farm efficiency and profitability. Native warm season grasses can produce quality forage during the summer therefore increasing gains and animal condition, all the while the cattle are staying off the cool season pastures improving the production during their respective growing season. Charlie



*Above: Drill with native grass box used to drill seed mix.*

had heard this message several times at workshops and meetings but now felt comfortable enough to try it on his land. *Continued on the following page.*



*Left: Native grass seedlings emerging in the drill rows.*

<u>Conservation Planning</u>	Conservation Program	Acres Impacted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 118 Landowner Contacts</li> <li>• 36 Site Visits</li> <li>• 28 Conservation Plans Written</li> <li>• 15 Practice Checkouts</li> <li>• 1 Workshop</li> </ul>	EQIP	33.3
	CRP	195.7
	CSP	38.5
	MDC LAP	4.0
	QF Chapter	-
	Conservation Technical Assistance	6.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>278.3</b>



### Beating the Heat with Native Forage Continued

While I assist landowners to frequently establish these plants for wildlife habitat, this was the first time doing so where cattle forage was the primary goal. I reached out to NRCS, SWCD, MDC, and our Quail Forever Grazing Lands Biologist, Len Gilmore, for assistance in the planning making this a true partner effort. We built a timeline for site preparation, establishment, and management and Charlie did the work, following



*Landowner field tour in the newly established native forage pasture.*

each step precisely; killing the existing fescue, drilling the seed in May, and applying the recommended pre-emergent herbicide to reduce competition for the germinating grass seedlings in his 8 acre pasture. As Charlie was working through this project, all the partners involved thought it best to share this experience with local producers and Charlie was eager to invite them.

On August 13, the Beshers, NRCS, SWCD, MDC, and QF hosted a field tour for 52 attendees to discuss the site preparation, establishment, management, benefits of native forage on animal performance and therefore, economics of the native forages. The best comments we received from the attending producers were about the opportunity to see the pasture during the first growing season and Charlie sharing his experience in the conversion process. While Charlie may have had the shortest timeslot of all the presenters that day, I believe he was the most successful promoting the use of natives in a grazing system. He has the dollars and time invested in them and he shared his commitment to convert another pasture on the farm and invited everyone next year to see both his native pastures, one of which will have cattle grazing.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>MDC Southeast Private Lands Staff Meeting</b>	Provided an update on MO Quail Forever happenings and current landowner projects.
<b>Monarch Joint Venture Habitat Monitoring Training</b>	The MO QF Team monitored 6 sites established through conservation programs across the state to quantify the availability of monarch beneficial plants (milkweed and blooming wildflowers) from July-September.
<b>Moist Soil Management Workshop for Biologists</b>	Completed the 3 day course hosted by Leigh Fredrickson learning about restoring the ecological functions of moist soil wetlands.
<b>NRCS Work Cycle Time Study</b>	Completed the study for NRCS to evaluate work loads and responsibilities at the field office level.



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III



## Quarterly Partners' Report

Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

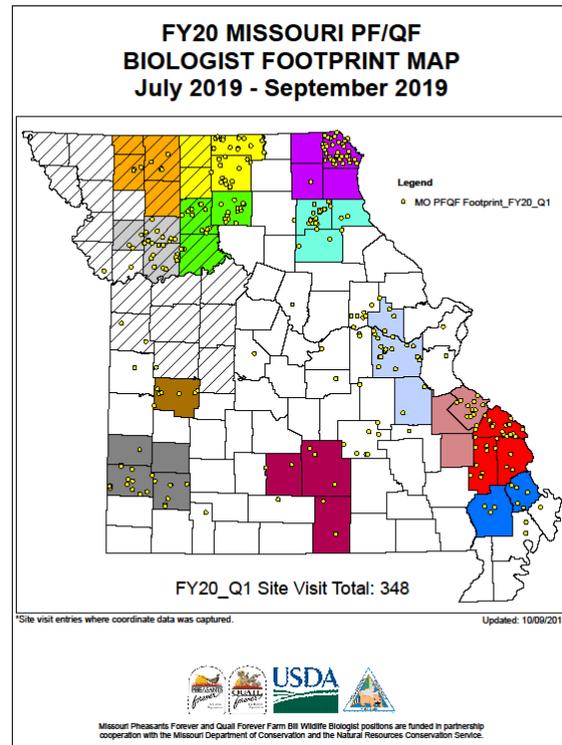
July-September 2019

### Outreach & Education

- Assisted with the Landowner NWSG Information & Pasture Tour in Bollinger County
- Assisted with the Native Warm Season Grass Interagency Grazing Workshop
- Provided FBWB update for AR and MO Quail Forever Chapter members at the District Meeting in Poplar Bluff.

### Looking Forward

- Poplar Bluff Landowner Prescribed Burn Workshop October 5.
- Missouri Prescribed Fire Council S-130 and S-190 training for prescribed burn associations and landowner cooperative members in Washington, MO October 11-12.
- MDC Private Lands Division Conference October 1-3.
- NRCS Certified Conservation Planner Part 2 Training October 7-11.
- Missouri PF/QF State Habitat Convention in Columbia, MO January 24-25.
- Provide support for the South Missouri team.
- Continue to assist landowners with site visits to identify landowner objectives and habitat opportunities.



### Check it Out!

The website committee overhauled our Missouri PF/QF website for easy access to chapter information, upcoming events, biologist contacts, and more!



The Habitat Organization



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

**July–September 2019**

### Monitoring Monarch Habitat in Missouri

Missouri Quail Forever is a member of the Missourians for Monarch Collaborative. The Collaborative is made up of State, Federal, and Local governmental agencies, non-governmental not-for-profits, and for profit businesses. Visit [mofomonarchs.org](http://mofomonarchs.org) for the full list of collaborative members and more information. The collaborative has a goal of creating or managing 19,000 acres of pollinator habitat a year for the next 20 years. When acres of habitat are set as a goal it is always important to have some sort of method and means to survey that habitat to ensure that you are positively impacting your target species. This is where Missouri's Farm Bill Biologists were able to play a key



Laying out the survey transect.

Photo Credit: Kim Cole

role in using survey methods established by the Monarch Joint Venture ([monarchjointventure.org](http://monarchjointventure.org)) to evaluate the quality of the habitat and record any sightings of monarch eggs, larvae, and adults while in the field. QF Biologists surveyed 6 sites scattered across the state located in Franklin, Lawrence, Livingston, Perry, Ray, and Shelby counties. Sites surveyed were row cropped prior to 2014, planted to diverse mixtures of native grasses and forbs, and managed to provide quality habitat for native pollinators and monarchs. These sites were picked based on what agency or organization assisted with the planting by providing cost-share for seed. A number of the Collaborative's members were represented with funding for these plantings coming from the Missouri Department of Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and local Quail Forever Chapters. Continued....

#### Conservation Planning

- 64 Landowner Contacts
- 40 Site Visits
- 2 Burn Plans Written

Federal Program Involvement	Acres
Helped Plan 22 CSP Contracts	277.3
3 EQIP Burn Plans and Practice Check-Outs	278.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>555.6</b>

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Plant ID Training	Learned key characteristics to identify a number of native woodland, glade, and prairie indicator plants.
NRCS FOSA Staff Meeting	Update NRCS employees on what I have been up to and get updates on Federal cost-share programs
Conservation Desktop Training	Learned how to navigate and use new conservation planning software used by NRCS.

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

**July-September 2019**

### Monitoring Monarch Habitat in Missouri Cont.

Sites were surveyed twice a month from July to September. The primary focus of these surveys was to identify blooming forbs and counting the stems of milkweed that were in bloom. Flowers that are blooming this time of year are valuable sources of nectar for the migrating monarchs making it a very important component of their habitat. Any adult monarchs were noted whether they were flying by or visiting a blooming flower, and milkweed plants were searched for both monarch eggs and larvae. Without conducting surveys like these, the Collaborative will have no quantifiable information on whether or not the hard work put in by its' members is paying off.

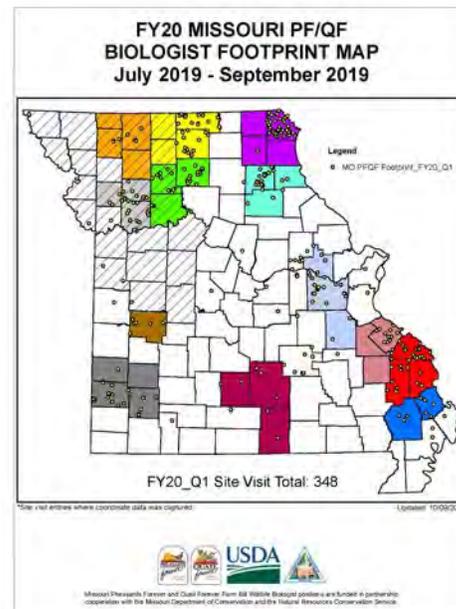


Subplots were used to flowering plants that were present during each survey.

Photo Credit: Kim Cole

### Outreach & Education

- Attended Eastern District meeting for Chapters and gave an update on habitat projects and outreach that I have been doing over the past year. 18 QF chapter members were in attendance.
- Presented on what Quail Forever in Missouri is doing to improve pollinator and monarch habitat at Point Labaddie Brewery. 30 monarch enthusiast were in attendance.
- Presented on the benefits of grazing native grasses and forbs for both livestock and wildlife at the Pike county grazing school. 16 cattle producers were in attendance.
- Helped local Private Lands Conservationist with field tour highlighted land management practices beneficial to bobwhite quail. 45 participants were in attendance.



### Looking Forward

- I will assist landowners interested in EQIP submit applications by the mid-November deadline.
- Through landowner contacts I will continue to share the Quail Forever mission and help get anyone interested involved with their local QF chapter.



# Outreach Coordinator Quarterly Partners' Report



Kim Cole - Statewide

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2019

## Settling In

As I get close to 6 months as the Outreach Coordinator, I feel much more comfortable in my new role. I have had the chance to travel across the state, introduce myself to partners and chapters, and learn how I can contribute to all of us achieving our outreach goals. There have also been opportunities to train with my MO teammates and meet QF/PF staff from other states, which has helped me better understand our organization, the work we do with partners, and my role as Outreach Coordinator. It has been wonderful getting to know everyone!

On a more personal note, I am excited to share I went on my first dove hunt in early September and harvested two doves, which were also my first-ever harvests! Thanks to Farm Bill Biologist Wesley Hanks for being a great mentor to this new hunter! I had an amazing experience and learned a great deal about hunting that I can apply to outreach events in MO. I look forward to more opportunities in the field soon. Good luck to all of the hunters this fall!



## Quarter Highlights

- Attended district meetings across MO to meet with chapter members and provide updates on my work as the Outreach Coordinator.
- Promoted the Missouri QF/PF social media pages and website at 10 outreach events and meetings.
- Assisted FBB Wesley Hanks with sampling pollinator habitat during July through August as part of MJV's Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program.
- Worked to develop and post content about conservation practices, federal programs and landowner opportunities to social media to continue building our audience and reach historically underserved landowners.
- Attended an MDC native plant ID training and the QF/PF Focus on Forever education & outreach workshop for further professional development.
- Helped at various chapter events to support their outreach efforts and help connect more people with QF/PF in MO.

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# Outreach Coordinator Quarterly Partners' Report



Kim Cole - Statewide

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2019

## Social Media Outreach

This quarter I worked to increase awareness about our state's social media and keep a steady flow of content posted to our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages to help tell the story of QF/PF in MO. I created and shared a flyer, shown below, for promoting our social media pages & state website at outreach events and meetings. Our MO QF/PF team continues to help me with social media outreach by sharing engaging pictures and stories from the field, some of which reach huge audiences on our social media. I have also had plenty to share from our partners and chapters about their education & outreach events, which helps me tell their stories as well. Using our state's social media pages, we are working to connect new and historically underserved landowners in Missouri with soil, water, and wildlife conservation opportunities. If you're on social media, please consider following us!

**Connect with Quail Forever & Pheasants Forever in Missouri!**

Follow us to learn about:

- Landowner workshops
- Habitat tours
- Youth and family events
- Mentored hunts
- Chapter meetings and banquets
- State Convention updates
- Farm Bill Biologists in your area

**@MissouriQF**

**MissouriPFQF.org**

**Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever in Missouri**  
September 20 at 12:05 PM · 🌐

Nearly 50 landowners came out for the Cass County Pollinator Field Day on September 11th to learn about pollinators and how to plant and maintain pollinator plots on their property. Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever in Missouri Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Jake Swafford & Coordinating Grazing Lands Biologist Len Gilmore, along with Missouri Dept. of Conservation Private Land Conservationist Austin Worth & Education Consultant Ginger Miller, spoke about planting techniques and managing plots, helped attendees sweep net pollinators, and led farm tours of established pollinator habitat.

Thank you to our sponsors who made this event possible!! Missouri Dept. of Conservation Quail Forever Cass County SWCD U.S. Department of Agriculture NRCS Heartland Seed of Missouri, LLC Pure Air Natives



15,973 People Reached      813 Engagements      Boost Post

46      1 Comment 8 Shares

<b>Facebook</b>	<b>Twitter</b>
-2,411 likes	-60 followers
-113 posts	-167 posts/RTs
(31 NRCS-related)	<b>Instagram</b>
-avg: 8.7/week	-344 followers
(2.4/week NRCS)	-14 posts



# Outreach Coordinator

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Kim Cole - Statewide

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2019

Outreach Events, Trainings & Meetings	Summary
<b>MO State Fair Invasive Species Outreach Booth</b>	Set up an outreach booth at the 2019 MO State Fair with Biologist Erin Forsythe as part of the Missouri Dept. of Conservation's Invasive Species outreach event. We talked with over 100 people about native plants and about QF/PF in MO.
<b>Women Caring for the Land Soil Health Meeting</b>	Attended a Women Caring for the Land soil health meeting in Columbia to serve as a natural resource contact and to learn more about learning circle-style meetings so we can offer these opportunities to women landowners in Missouri.
<b>Dunn Ranch Prairie Days Outreach Booth</b>	Set up an outreach booth at the 2019 Prairie Days event at The Nature Conservancy's Dunn Ranch Prairie with Biologist Jake Swafford. We talked with visitors about native MO prairie plants, wildlife habitat, and MO QF/PF.
<b>2019 MO Women in Agriculture Conference Vendor Booth</b>	Set up a vendor booth with Biologist Haley Lockard, and we were able to talk with over 200 women about QF/PF in MO and the ways our Farm Bill Biologists can help landowners use conservation practices when managing their land.
<b>Grow Native! Plants with Purpose-Native Plant Workshop</b>	Set up an outreach booth at a MO Prairie Foundation Grow Native! workshop with Biologist Erin Forsythe. We were able to share info about QF/PF, native habitat for pollinators, and how MO staff can help landowners with habitat.

## Looking Forward

- Train MO team about QF/PF's national Women on the Wing Initiative and about Women's Learning Circle-style meetings.
- Setup an outreach booth at the MDC iNaturalist Family Festival at Powder Valley in Kirkwood.
- Setup a vendor booth at a Grow Native! workshop, Native plants for row crop agriculture, pollinator enhancement and livestock production, at Mizzou's Bradford Farm in Columbia.
- Assist with a youth pollinator project for the Malta Bend 4-H group with our partner Corteva and the Corner Covey Chapter of QF in Miami, MO.
- Coordinate with MO QF/PF staff and other natural resource partners to conduct 2 Women's Learning Circles workshops during 2020 to help women landowners learn about conservation practices for their land and connect with other women landowners in their community.
- Serve on the MO State Convention Planning Committee to help coordinate events and activities for the 2020 convention.



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

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# Outreach Coordinator Quarterly Partners' Report



Kim Cole - Statewide

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2019

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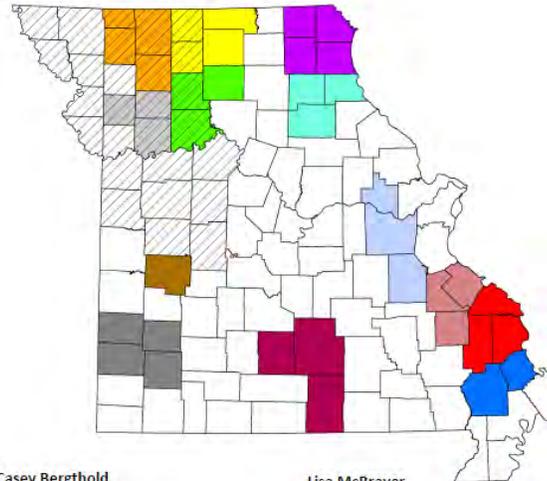
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Missouri Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist positions are funded in partnership cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



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