



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III



Quarterly Partners' Report

Andrew White - Livingston, Linn, and Carroll Counties

April – June 2021

A Successful Year for Missouri PF/QF



Purple Prairie Clover

As with the past few reports, CRP is still at the forefront of my work area's focus, as can be seen below in my acreage impacts. This past quarter was spent checking and verifying seed mixes and starting to get out and do status reviews for contracts that will be expiring in FY22. Looking forward, I will finishing up those status reviews and jumping into writing the conservation plans for the current CRP sign ups 55 and 56.

Despite the trials and tribulations of navigating ourselves through a pandemic, which left a majority of us splitting work hours between the office and working from home, your Missouri PF/QF team was able to continue hitting milestones in the conservation world. To say nothing can stop us may be a bit bold, but it's apparent that we will still get it done when faced with adversity.

From July 2020 through June 2021, our team conducted 1,737 site visits in 71 counties, were in touch with over 4,400 landowners, and impacted 82,812 acres. We collectively impacted more acres this year than the last two fiscal years combined! Additionally, a new Farm Bill Biologist position was created and filled and backfilled 3 previously vacant positions, putting us closer to being fully staffed.

Being with the Habitat organization for almost a full decade now, I have enjoyed watching our team grow and the impacts we make for conservation in Missouri. Through this time, we have developed incredible partnerships and relationships that have allowed us the opportunities to accomplish as much as we have. Whether it be our local chapters, our through our many great partners, I know that their support is what got us this point and will propel us in the future. I am greatly looking forward for what is to come for the conservation of natural resources in Missouri. I know that together we can accomplish many more great things!

Looking Forward

- Complete SU55/56 Conservation Planning
- Complete FY22 CRP Status Reviews
- Continue providing quality technical service to landowners and partners

Conservation Planning

- 122 Landowner Contacts
- 13 Site Visits
- 43 Conservation Plans Written/Modified
- 6 Status Review/Checkout
- 1 Rx Burn Plan

Programs	Acres Impacted
FSA	1646.32
NRCS	117.7
OTHER	0
TOTAL	1,764.02

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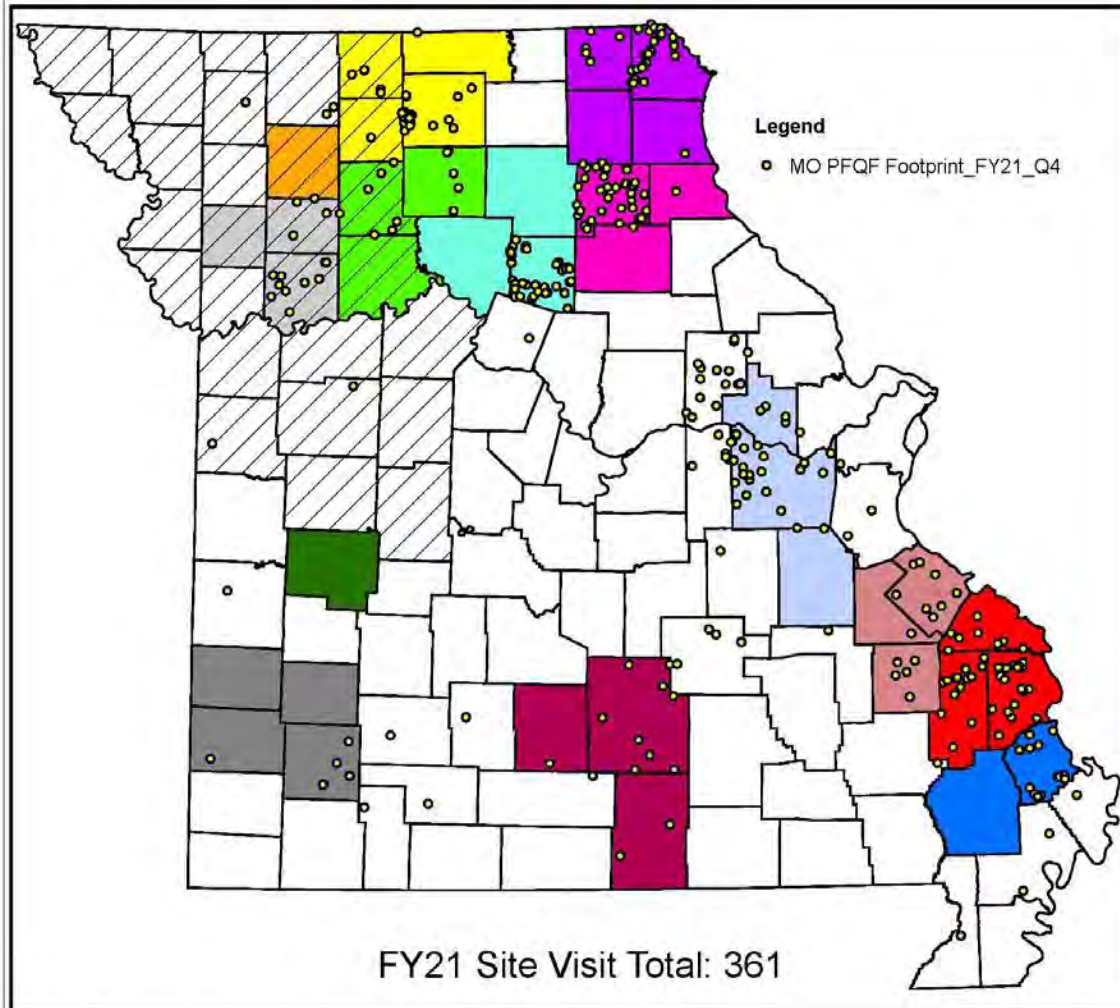


Quarterly Partners' Report

Andrew White - Livingston, Linn, and Carroll Counties

April - June 2021

FY21 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP April 2021 - June 2021



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 7/9/2021



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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Activity Highlights

Conservation Planning

- 125 Landowner Contacts
- 42 Site Visits
- 110 Projects with Acres

Outreach

- 4 Articles

Total Acres Impacted: 4,201.81 acres

TIS' THE SEASON

The moisture rich days of late spring and early summer have welcomed our native wildflowers with open arms. As I conducted field reviews on local CRP acres milkweeds of bright fiery orange and various shades of purple popped with a showy flare. Black-eyed Susans, rattlesnake master, and so many more flashy natives emerge from the sea of green and blue heughs of the surrounding grasses. Bees, Butterflies and hungry caterpillars made use of the showy displays. What a great time of year to witness the utility of our wild natives!

SNAP SHOT FROM THE FIELD....



Satyrid Hairstreak & Common Milkweed



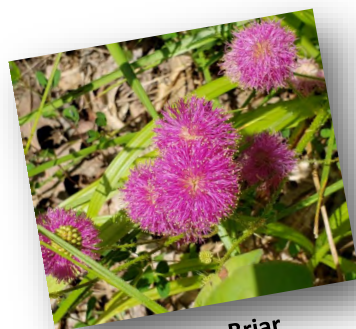
Butterfly Milkweed



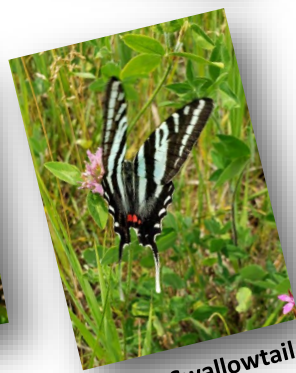
Purple Milkweed



Monarch Caterpillar & Common Milkweed



Sensitive Briar



Zebra Swallowtail



Rattlesnake Master



Eastern Gamagrass seed head



Native Grasses Provide Habitat For Ground Nesting Birds

Native diversity not only provides resources for insects, but for all types of wildlife. I found this nest hidden away in a clump of Native warm season grass. One of many nests tucked away in the 50 acre CP-2 field in southern Randolph County. The field had been burned with prescribed fire in the early spring of 2020 and now contains the ideal structure for ground nesting birds. Bare ground is prevalent, allowing for quail chicks and turkey poults to maneuver with ease and contains just enough broad leaves and tall grasses overhead to keep hidden from arial predators. The composition of this stand will change annually, making it imperative for the landowner to continue prescribed fire rotations to accommodate a wide variety of wildlife.

2021 Missouri's Mission Monarch Award Winner

The Mission Monarch award is presented each year to a Missouri chapter who best depicts the mission of Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever. For 2020, Mark Twain Quail Forever Chapter was selected as the recipients of the Mission Monarch award because of the continued work they do in Missouri to build habitat, educate the public, and get youth and people of all ages into the outdoors.

In a year of uncertainty, they stepped up in a big way. From trying something new with a sponsorship drive to hosting annual youth & new hunter dove hunts. They continue to support 10 area schools' trap teams, provide funds for habitat work in Missouri, support the local Mark Twain Prescribed Burn Association, and so much more. Mark Twain Quail Forever's work in Missouri clearly demonstrates the Quail Forever mission!





Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Courtney Nicks - Randolph, Chariton, & Macon Counties

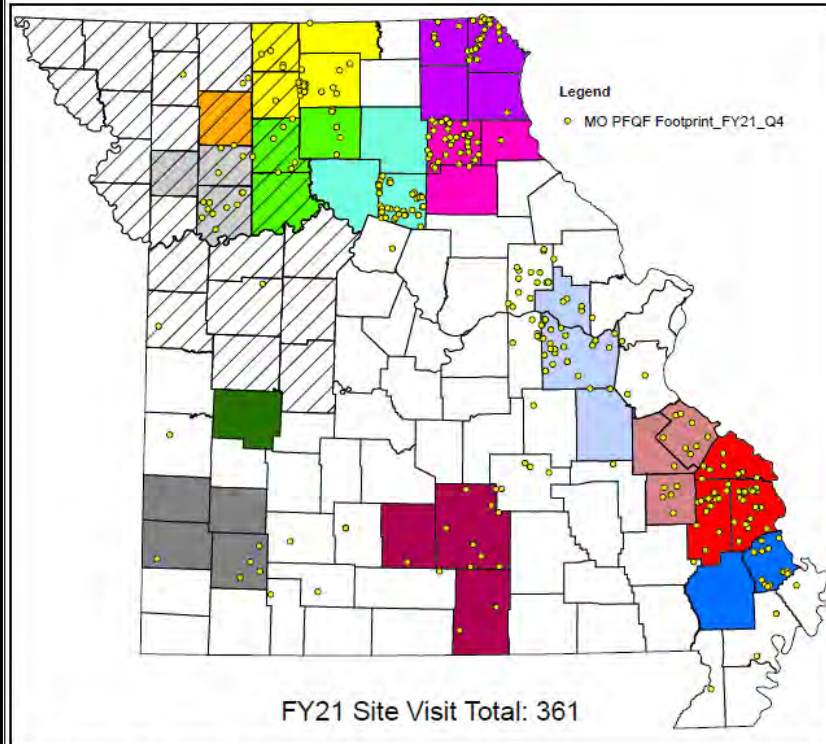
April-June 2021

NEXT...

As the work load continues to grow, so do we! Follow Missouri PF/QF as we add new positions on the ground, fill new roles, and provide better customer service than ever before.

From CRP programs to State Cost-share and most things in between, our staff keep busy. Providing technical service to all landowners, producers, and wildlife enthusiasts we aim to keep our boots in the dirt and make those in-person visits worth remembering. Don't hesitate to reach out and see how we can help you. Be on the look out for our Chapter events, Workshops, and so much more!

FY21 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP April 2021 - June 2021



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CONNECT WITH US!

@MissouriQF



Missouri Quail Forever



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 II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Randolph, Chariton, & Macon Counties

April-June 2021

Upcoming Events
DON'T LET THEM
PASS YOU BY!!

Aug 27
Women's Workshop

WOMEN OWNING WOODLANDS—WOMEN CARING FOR THE LAND
FOREST MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27TH, 2021
8:30AM – 3:30PM
MDC Northeast Regional Office
3500 S. Baltimore
Kirkville, MO 63501

Please join us for our upcoming Women Owning Woodlands & Women Caring for the Land Learning Circle! This women-centered workshop is for female landowners interested in forest management. Includes a morning meeting & discussion, lunch & a habitat tour.

This workshop is FREE but registration is required.
To register visit:
bit.ly/ForestManagementWorkshop

Questions? Contact Missouri Outreach Coordinator Kim Cole at (573) 356-0298 or kcole@quailforever.org

This workshop is made possible thanks to the support of our many partners and sponsors! The Learning Circles method of conservation outreach to women farmland owners, and the activities used, were developed by Women, Food and Agriculture Network for its Women Caring for the Land program. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Aug 21
Mid MO Uplanders Banquet



Columbia, MO
Call for ticket information 573-694-5316
Delicious Food, Raffles, and Live Auction

Sep 10 - 11
Youth and New Hunter Dove Hunts



Santa Fe, MO
Call for ticket information 573-694-5316
Opportunities to Hunt with a skilled Mentor

Oct 2
Mark Twain QF Banquet



Madison, MO
Call for ticket information 573-694-5316
Delicious Food, Raffles, and Live Auction



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Lawrence, Jasper, Barton, & Dade Counties

April—June 2021

The Rancher's Heartstrings

In May, I attended my first MU management-intensive grazing school at the Southwest Research Center in Mt. Vernon. Being new to working lands, this three-day workshop was a welcome primer on grazing systems and ranching economics, and I walked away with a head swimming with questions, ideas, and no shortage of optimism. Though gaining technical grazing knowledge was the primary intent, I was equally interested in learning about the graziers in attendance, themselves. Specifically, I wanted to know what drew them to ranching, and how and why they've maintained their operations in an economy that isn't exactly primed for their success.



Attendees at MU's Management Intensive Grazing School learning about various methods of electric fencing

I had often heard farmers and ranchers referred to as "land rich, cash poor", but seeing the actual data was startling. Indeed, we learned that the average cow/calf operator in southern Missouri *loses* money in their system, as described by MU Extension's "Beef Cow/Calf Planning Budget" publication. After the first day of the workshop, a new landowner exploring grazing opportunities for the first time confided in me that he would have to be "crazy" to assume all this risk and work for such dismal returns. I could do little more than nod my agreement. Throughout the workshop, it became apparent that money was largely earned or lost in relation to feed, so we were taught strategies to better utilize forage and limit dependencies on hay or other stored feed. And this made perfect sense. The more equipment, fuel, repairs, and time put between the grass and the animal, the worse your economic performance will be.

Conservation at a Glance

- 55 Landowner Contacts
- 13 Site Visits
- 1 Article
- 1 Outreach & Education Event

Continued --->

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Lawrence, Jasper, Barton, & Dade Counties

April—June 2021

The Rancher's Heartstrings

Moreover, the grass that's diminished to hay could rather be fertilized, stockpiled, and grazed later in the year, effectively extending the grazing season—the thesis of the workshop. It was obvious that this could result in a system better for the soil, for wildlife, and for one's pocket-book, but the economic gains still didn't appear spectacular enough to convince my new friend to go for it.

One of the most enlightening moments of the workshop occurred when the instructor requested a show of hands for those whose grazing operation was their primary source of income. Not a single hand rose—each of them earned most of their living elsewhere. The joke quickly became: "Well, we're here to learn more about our hobby!". In fact, this is how most viewed their operations, as a passion that could cover *most* of its own expense, or perhaps allow them to break even in good years.

I quickly realized that these ranchers truly *love* their cattle, as well as the culture, history, and connectivity with the land they bring. It wasn't lost revenue that pained them most when they shared stories of heat stress and hoof rot from fescue toxicosis, it was concern for the well-being of their animals. Similarly, it wasn't dollar signs flashing in their eyes when they saw pictures of cattle being turned into shoulder-high Eastern Gamagrass, it was the desire to see their herds "slicked off" and happy among highly palatable and nutritious forage. More than anything, these landowners were tired of feeling handcuffed to a "convenient" forage

base and management system that was ultimately sapping their weight gains, conception rates, and overall herd health.

As natural resources professionals, we've learned to lead with economic considerations over soil health and wildlife concerns when encouraging ranchers to make changes to their grazing systems. Nesting habitat and microbiology simply aren't front-of-mind for most. *Continued* —



Grazing school participants touring an intensively managed grazing operation in Lawrence, Co.

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April—June 2021

The Rancher's Heartstrings

We preach that added investment in seed, fencing, and water will eventually lead to greater profits. Still, “eventually” can cause a fair bit of trepidation.

Perhaps the best approach is to encourage an emphasis on the animal health and well-being associated with diverse, native forages, as these benefits can be realized quicker than their cost can be recovered. Cows turned from endophyte-infected fescue into native warm season grasses can show dramatic improvement in body condition and performance within a matter of weeks—and nothing seems to please a rancher more than fat, happy cows. Perhaps the pride and satisfaction with a healthy herd can afford landowners the patience to let their soil heal, wildlife recover, and financial gains be realized.

Outreach & Education

I am always excited to get together with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever chapter members, knowing our passion for wildlife conservation and community involvement will be shared ground. Stepping in to a meeting for the first time instantly introduces you to folks full of local knowledge, stories, and a desire to help—a recipe for fast friends, indeed!

I had the pleasure of sitting down with the Spring River QF chapter for the first time in early April and was immediately struck by their fervor. The angst surrounding the past “lost” year was palpable; the inactivity was getting to them. Like other chapters across the state and country, this budding group from Carthage chose to scrap most of their plans over the last twelve months due to public safety concerns. Being relatively new to the community, they feared their hard-earned progress was eroding during their dormancy.



Kids learning identifying characteristics of Northern Bobwhites during the Spring River QF field day.

Continued —>



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Lawrence, Jasper, Barton, & Dade Counties

April—June 2021

Outreach & Education

Despite an uncertain future and equally uncertain funding, I watched as they devised an aggressive strategy to get back to doing what they love. Before the meeting ended, we had scheduled a date for a youth field day, identified candidate school groups for a youth pollinator habitat program, and set terms for a fundraising raffle.

Within a month, chapter president, Carl Hutchison, and I met with the director of vegetation management for Liberty Utilities to discuss partnership opportunities to create pollinator habitat in and around the city of Joplin. The goal was to conduct a joint habitat project that would highlight the chapter's mission, as well as Liberty's "Wires Over Wildlife", a cost-share program available to local landowners to convert their transmission line rights-of-way to wildlife habitat. We settled on a location, secured a Pheasants Forever Pollinator Habitat Outreach grant, and began conversion of our 2-acre plot in early June.



Spring River QF chapter volunteer, Card Sappington, applying the first round of herbicide for an upcoming pollinator habitat demonstration plot.

Our first herbicide application happened to coincide with the year's first youth outreach event—a shooting sports/fishing day at Spring River Hunts in Baxter Springs, KS. There, area kids were treated to non-stop bluegill action, an awesome bird dog demonstration from a local trainer, and the opportunity to try out various .22's and shotguns as they took aim at targets and clay birds. All told, a fantastic way to reintroduce ourselves to the community and engage local kids and parents!



Spring River QF youth field day participants



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

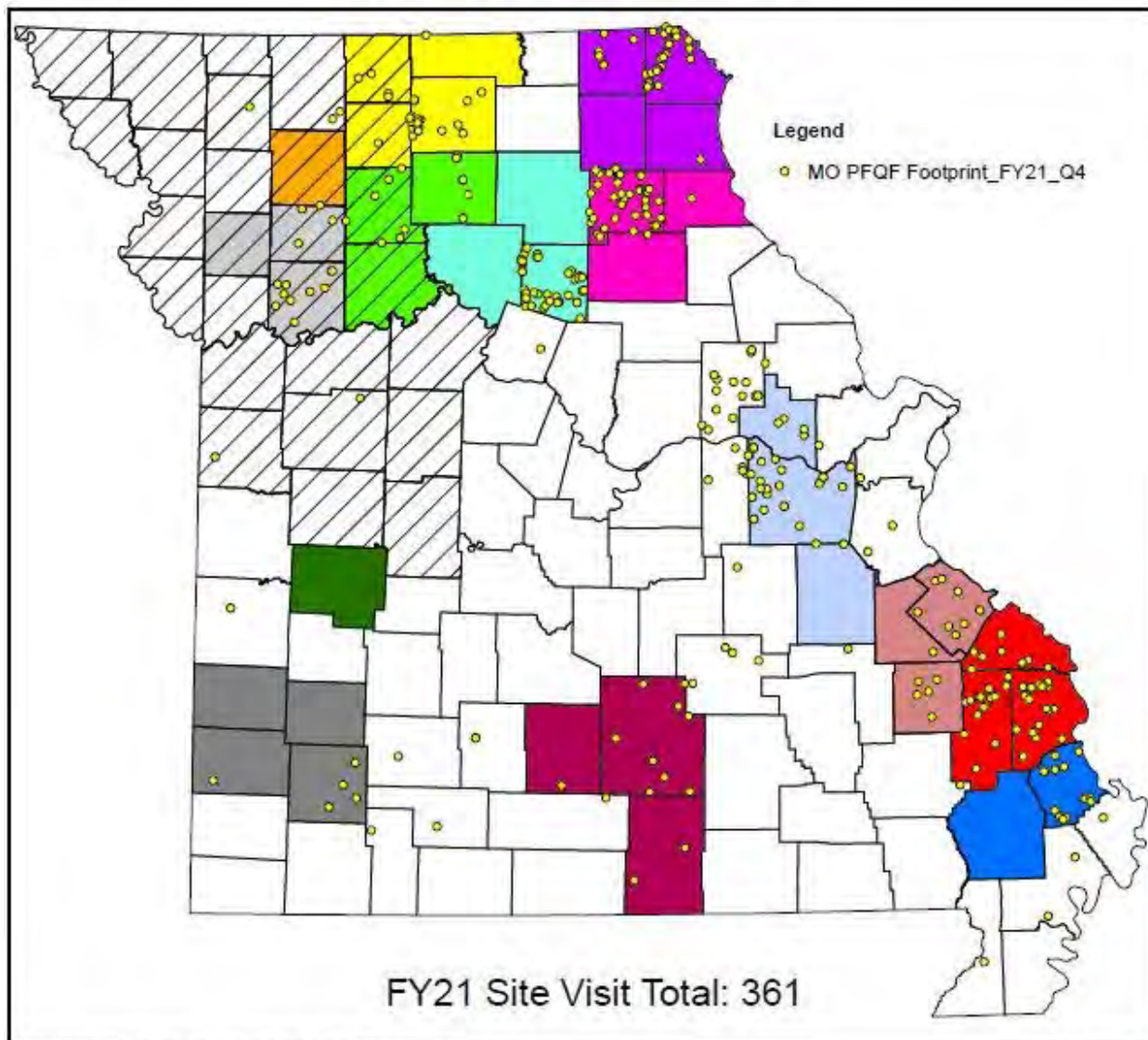
Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Lawrence, Jasper, Barton, & Dade Counties

April—June 2021

FY21 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP April 2021 - June 2021



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Updated: 7/9/2021

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Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

April-June 2021

Dodging Rain drops

We kicked off this quarter with our Missouri State Sweepstakes and Honor awards. Congratulations to **Clark County QF** on the Conservation Excellence award and thank you to everyone that participated in the sweepstakes. The Missouri Team also added 2 new staff members filling the vacant biologist positions in Richmond and Houston. Welcome to the team, Tyler and Lizzy!

CRP is once again filling the plate. Participants worked hard to get new acres seeded before May and June deadlines so I was busy with mix certifications. We also started field visits on contracts expiring in 2022. In April, FSA paused sign-ups 55 and 56 for re-evaluation. On June 14, both general and continuous sign-ups were restarted with significant changes to soil rental rates and available incentives. Make sure to talk with your FSA office if you are interested in offering land for CRP. The next quarter will be extremely busy with CRP field visits and conservation planning.



Quarter Highlights

Conservation Planning

- 39 Landowner Contacts
- 39 Site Visits
- 135 Projects With Acres
- 56 seed mix reviews
- 33 Conservation Plans

Total Acres Impacted: 4,058

Join us for a Women Owning Woodlands Forest Management Workshop

On Friday, August 27, 2021 Quail Forever and The MU Extension are hosting a Women Owning Woodlands-Women Caring for the Land Forest Management Workshop. We will meet at the MDC Northeast Regional Office 8:30am-3:30pm to discuss forest management. This women-centered workshop is for female landowners interested in forest management. We will have a morning learning circle and meeting, free lunch, and habitat tour. If you are interested register for FREE at bit.ly/ForestManagementWorkshop .

Connect
with Us!



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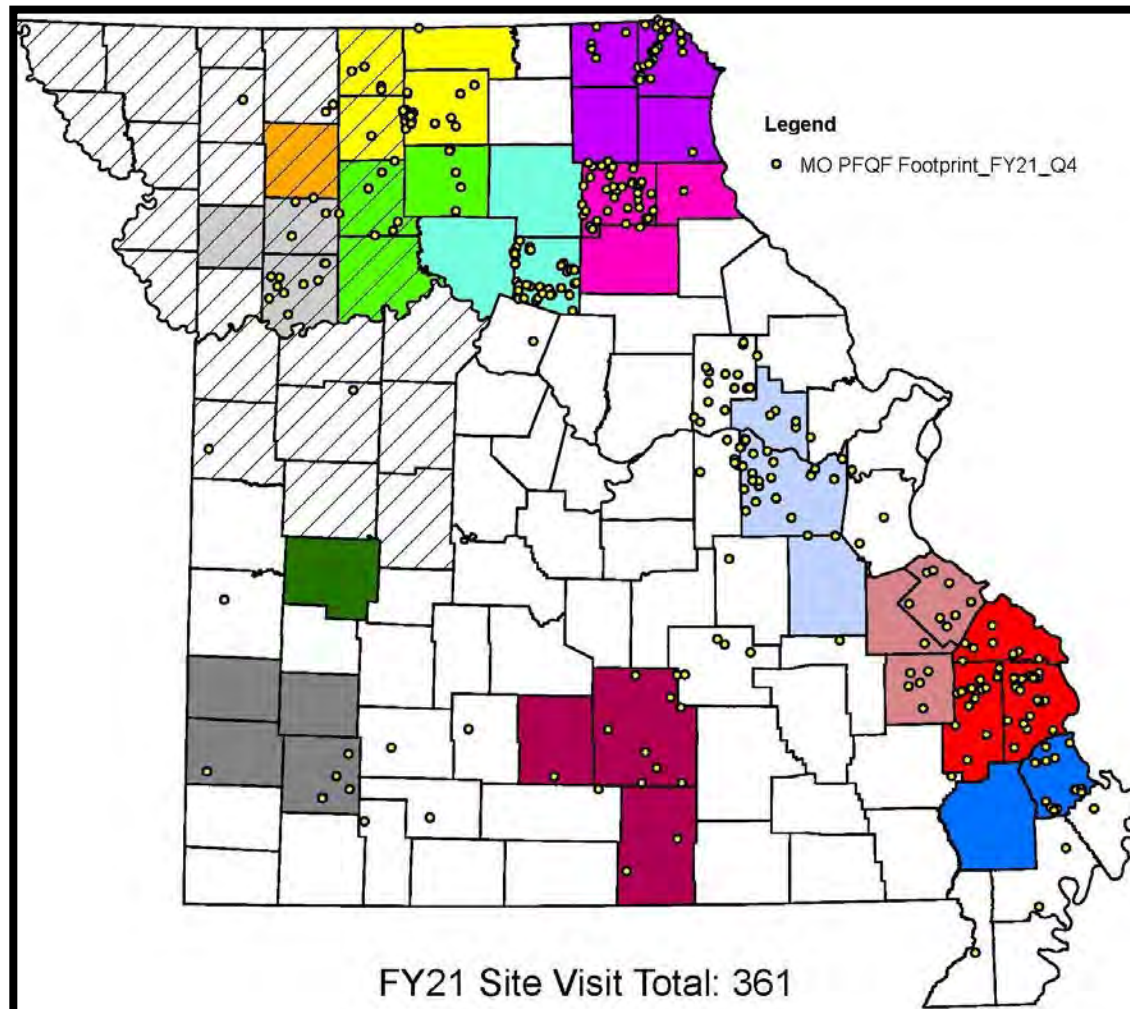
Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

April-June 2021

Looking Forward...

- Continue to provide technical assistance to landowners
- Conservation planning on CRP SU 55 and 56 offers
- Field reviews of CRP expiring 2022/2023
- Attend the annual National Bobwhite Technical Committee Meeting in Bentonville, AR
- Co-host Women Owning Woodland Workshop in Kirksville Aug 27
- Present workshops at the State Women in Agriculture conference
- Assist with a wildHERness weekend event in Osceola

Biologist Footprint Map April - June 2021



**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 - Northwest Missouri

April – June 2021

Position Update

This past quarter has been a busy one, with a lot of exciting work covering a wide array of interests. I finished up a Natural Resources geared leadership course, helped with pollinator focused webinars and workshops, and assisted NRCS and QF conservation planners as we deal with a huge Farm Bill Program workload that will deliver tons of quality habitat for quail, monarchs, pollinators and pheasants. I also participated in several virtual conferences and spoke to the newest chapter in North Missouri – the Green Hills PF/QF chapter. I'm excited to get out in the field over the next couple months to assist with CRP checks and see some habitat!

Northwest Missouri Little Bluestem Trial

On June 8th the Elsberry Plant Material Center (PMC) staff arrived at University of Missouri's Hundley-Whaley Research Center in Albany, MO to establish a test plot for a new variety of little bluestem, a native warm season grass that provides terrific upland habitat. Several months back, I had recommended the site because of its location in northern Missouri (the desired testing zone) and Hundley-Whaley's strong interest in partnerships.



Seed packets with 3 varieties of little bluestem selected for the trial sit nearby while the drill is calibrated.

The PMC selected 4 sites to plant and evaluate a new variety of little bluestem for use in the northern part of their service area, which includes Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri. The plantings consisted of 3 selections of little bluestem to be evaluated - Aldous, Ozark, and the new Northern selection, being considered for use. This variety of little bluestem is being looked at as a forage-type warm season grass making it a good fit for pastureland or sites with grazing. Hundley-Whaley is enthusiastic about the trial because they host a semi-annual grazing school for landowners interested in learning more about pasture management, rotational grazing, and the benefits for warm season grasses. Once the planting is established it can be used to showcase the species.

Conservation Planning

- 23 NRCS Cons. Planner Contacts
- 2 Conservation Plans
- 5 Status Reviews
- 6 Quality Assessment Reviews

Programs	Acres Impacted
EQIP	172.9
CRP	99.69
Total	272.59

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Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Northwest Missouri

April – June 2021

Little Bluestem, and other native warm season grasses, are an important component of high-quality upland habitat in Missouri. Because many species grow in “bunches” leaving bare ground between plants, warm season grasses grow well with native forbs and legumes that are critical to quail, pollinators, and other wildlife. Working with landowners to convert portions of their properties to native warm season grasses can benefit both wildlife and livestock operations. I’m eager to see how this variety of little bluestem does and hope it proves useful for landowners looking to include warm season grasses in their operations.



Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Green Hills Chapter Start	Presented to the newly formed Green Hills PF/QF chapter on pollinators and their habitat.
Plant Material Center Little Bluestem Trial	Coordinated with the staff at Elsberry Plant Material Center to install a Little Bluestem trail planting at the MU Hundley-Whaley Research Center.
AFWA– MAT Adaptive Leadership Principles Course	Finished this 4-week course that is designed to help staff gain an understanding of new, groundbreaking concepts in leadership and how to make meaningful progress on issues they care deeply about.
MRBO Birds and Bees Festival	Attended the Missouri River Bird Observatory’s Birds and Bees Virtual Conference.

Outreach & Education

- Assisted with Q&A during Missouri Bumble Bee Atlas training webinars, Part 1 and 2.
- Spoke to PF/QF National Youth Leadership Council during their summer meeting.
- Coordinated with CFM to deliver Pollinator Web series which featured 5 weekly webinars throughout June and averaged 20 attendees per week.

Looking Forward

- I will lead the development and delivery of the new Monarch PRIME- RCPP later this year.
- I will work with local and Area Office staff to complete Quality Assurance Reviews.
- Create a NW Missouri County Equipment list to identify seeding equipment and availability.
- Pursue certification as a drone pilot.
- I will continue providing technical assistance to landowners in NW Missouri who are interested in establishing habitat for Monarchs, quail, and other upland wildlife.
- Work with partners to clearly define my new role and responsibilities as they relate to Monarch PRIME– RCPP.

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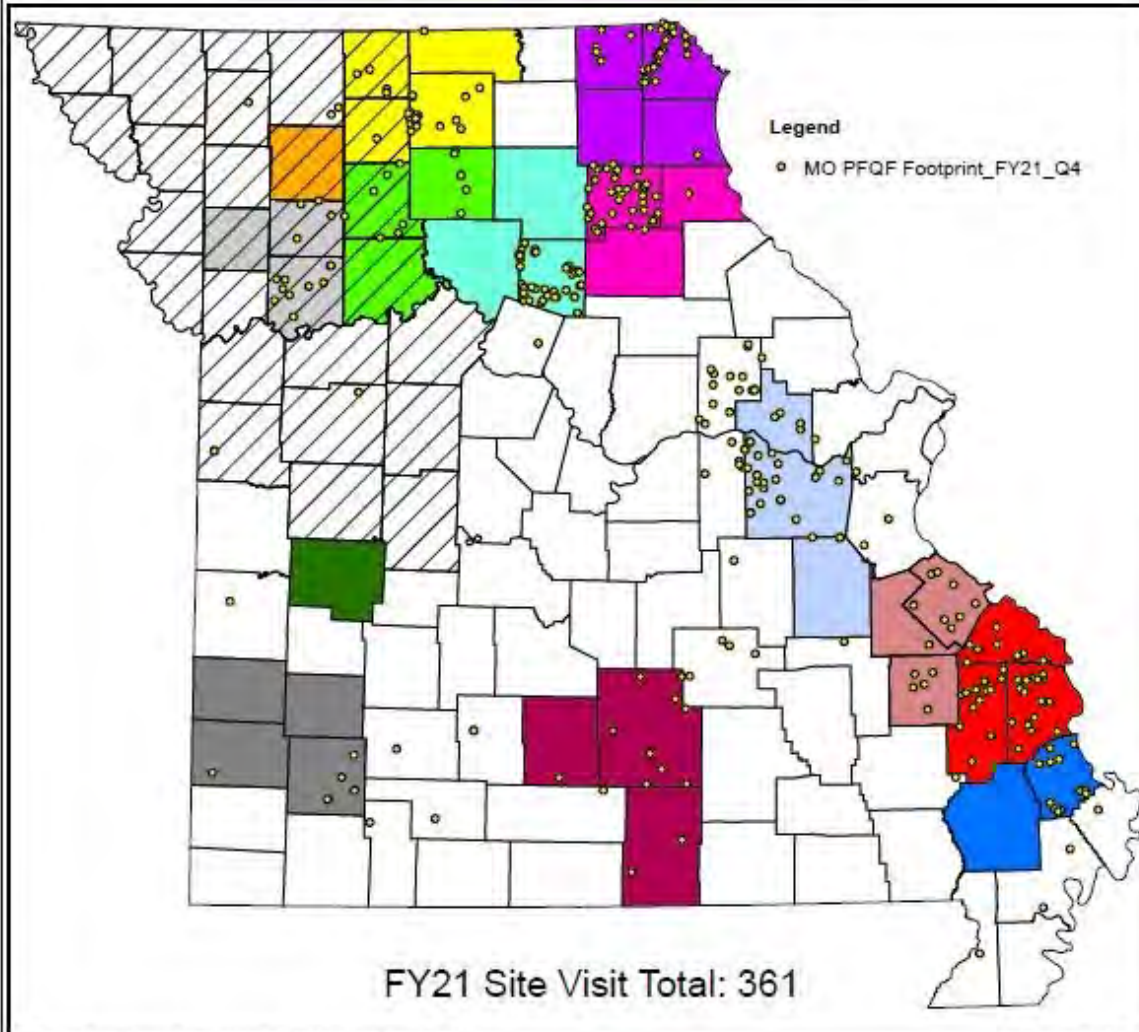
Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Northwest Missouri

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FY21 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP April 2021 - June 2021



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

APR – JUN 2021

Quarterly Overview

The end of June marked the end of the fiscal year for us. We operate on a July-June fiscal year, the same as the state of Missouri. The last quarter kept pace with the rest of the year breezing by quickly and giving rise to many opportunities to impact people and acres for conservation. The late spring and summer months are some of my favorite times of the year. The weather is relatively mild, song birds, and quail are whistling and singing, and the native prairies and grasslands are coming to life with blooming native plants. It is a great time to be out in the field watching everything wake up from winter. It has been an exceptional 3 months of teaching, learning, and being outdoors. There always seems to be a new opportunity to engage others with our conservation message and new chances to learn with partners and staff.

A New Start

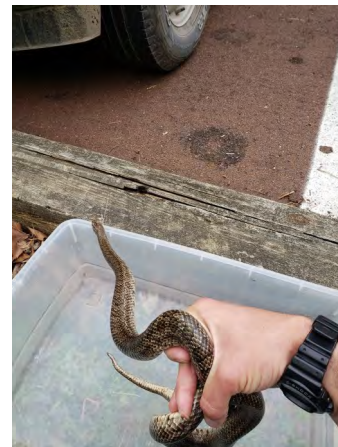
From the very beginning of my time in this position, I have had the opportunity to work with fantastic landowners who are passionate about conservation. In Putnam county, I have been able to meet, work and become friends with several people who have a desire to see native habitat built and native species restored. In June, several like-minded folks who want to see quail and pheasants restored on their landscape, gathered together to form the new Greenhills Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever Chapter. This chapter will work in Northern Missouri to educate their surrounding community about the many benefits that come from restoring native habitat. The members of this chapter want to emphasize outdoor youth education projects as well as monarch and pollinator habitat that will, in turn, benefit native wildlife. The funds that this chapter raise will be returned to their local community through conservation outreach and education. I am excited to partner with this chapter and watch it grow and develop through the years.



The Greenhills Chapter of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever

Educating and Learning

In mid-May, I was afforded another opportunity to assist Crowder State Park with one of their programs. Towards the end of the school year, Rissler Elementary School in Trenton, MO, gives their kids reward days. One of these days is a day spent at Crowder State Park learning about the park and local Missouri fish and wildlife. The park staff ask local biologists and conservation professionals to come out and assist with leading tours while talking to the kids about what they see at the park. There are props such as furs, deer antlers, or turtle shells that can be used to help the kids understand what type of native wildlife they can see in Missouri. I enjoyed leading three groups on tours showing them oak trees, wild black berries, native flowers and explaining how they help Missouri wildlife. I used a deer skull, coyote pelt, and box turtle shell to talk to the kids about the role that wildlife plays in our lives and in the ecosystem. I also had the opportunity to help Anna Persell, Park Superintendent, talk about native reptiles and helped the kids hold two native snakes, a Prairie Kingsnake and an Eastern Hognose snake. During Anna's presentation, I learned new things about our native reptiles and enjoyed the opportunity to not only educate future generations but learn along with them.



Prairie Kingsnake

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Quarterly Partners' Report



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

APR – JUN 2021

Training With Our Partners

Shortly after our conservation planners course ended, I was contacted by the Resource Conservationist in Linn County, Cody Campbell. He asked if I would be interested in planning a grass identification workshop for their offices in preparation for the upcoming CRP field checks. I took him up on the offer and we planned a morning field day open to local staff and partners. We were able to find some quality fields of both native warm season grasses and cool season grasses on the Missouri Department of Conservation's Mussel Fork Conservation Area. Fourteen folks were able to attend the training and it was a successful day learning to identify a variety of plants in all stages of growth. I enjoyed the training



Grass identification training



Training participants taking a grass ID quiz

because it allowed me to pass along knowledge that I

had learned from others over the years. It also was helpful in refreshing everyone's memory on grasses as we enter our field season. Another benefit from a training is that I find I never conduct a training where I don't learn something myself. There was a diverse attendance of people from many different backgrounds. They all brought unique experiences that everyone could learn from as we walked through the fields and talked about native and introduced grasses. In July, I will be conducting another plant identification course with Sullivan County and it's neighboring counties. I look forward to seeing another great conservation area and discussing native plants and wildlife with fellow partners.

Wrapping Up a Successful Year

As I mentioned in my intro, we are bringing our fiscal year to a close. While the year has had it's challenges, the Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever team in Missouri, has certainly stepped up to the plate and knocked the year out of the park. With a new Conservation Reserve Program general sign-up, we were able to impact a large amount of acres in a way that we haven't been able to in the past two years. Our yearly total impacted acres was 82,812. This was higher than the past two year combined. We made a total of 4,471 landowner contacts, conducted 1,737 site visits, and worked in 71 Missouri counties. All this was possible because of the outstanding staff that work in Missouri. We filled 3 vacant biologist positions and opened 1 new Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist position in Northeast Missouri to bring our biologist team back to being fully staffed. The Farm Bill Biologist wouldn't be able to achieve these results without assistance from our state level staff. We wouldn't be able to reach landowners in the way that we do without the coordination, outreach opportunities and support that they provide to us. We also wouldn't be able to accomplish and reach these landowners without the support and help from our partners around the state providing opportunities and assisting us in our tasks and efforts. These accomplishments are certainly a team effort and I know we will continue to grow and reach more as our team continues to grow and gain experience. I look forward to growing with this team and partners in the years to come.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

APR – JUN 2021

Trainings and Outreach	Summary
MRBO Birds & Bees Festival	Presented about the benefits of pollinator plots to Quail through a webinar.
Unionville Market on the Square	With the Youth Shooting Sports trailer, we set up a table and booth to present information about Quail Forever.
Unionville Chapter Start	Presented on why Quail Forever's mission emphasizes native habitat.
Rissler Elementary Reward Day	Led field tours and helped with a reptile presentation to over 100 elementary school kids
FOSA 2C Grass Identification Training	Taught a class on grass identification for NRCS, MDC, & QF staff.

Looking Forward

- **July:** FOSA 2A Plant Identification training
- **July 30th** Crowder State Park Presentation
- **August 4th** Grundy County Fair Booth
- **August 17th** Women Owning Woodlands Workshop

<u>Quarterly Numbers</u>
• 63 Landowners Contacted
• 32 Site Visits
• 3 Spring Bird Surveys

Program	Impacted Ac.
CRP Programs	1,251.40
NRCS Programs	10.8
Total	1,262.20

We have a lot of great content on our YouTube and social media pages and we are updating them daily. Subscribe to our pages for the latest information on conservation programs and happenings in Missouri.



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

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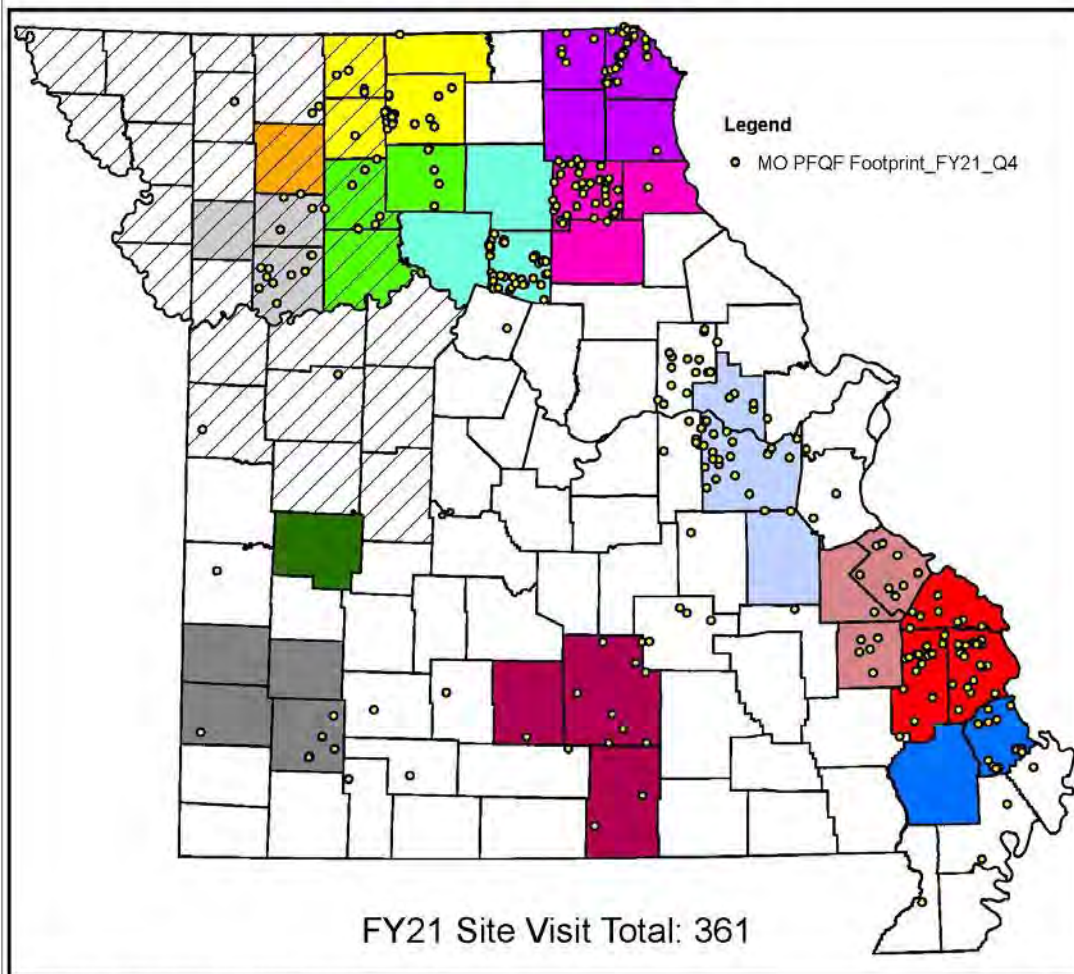
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



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

APR – JUN 2021

FY21 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP April 2021 - June 2021



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 7/9/2021



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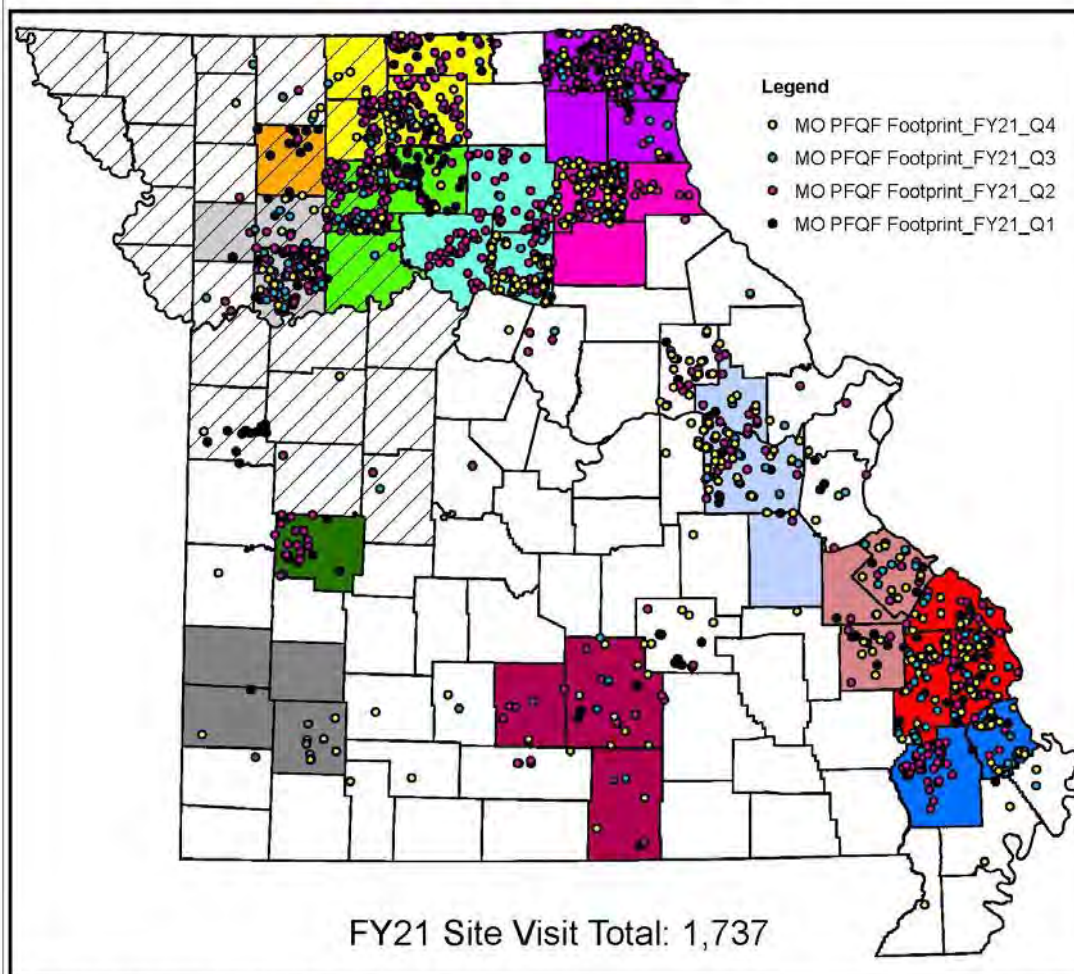
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



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

APR – JUN 2021

FY21 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP July 2020 - June 2021



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Updated: 7/9/2021



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia - Scott and Stoddard Counties

April 2021-June 2021

“Just looks like a bunch of weeds.”

Have you ever found yourself looking at a first or second growing season pollinator plot you planted the winter before, wondering where you went wrong because it all looks like a “bunch of weeds”?

PUT THE MOWER KEYS DOWN (unless your dealing with those pesky sprouts). Reach out to your local biologist to come check things out.

One of the mottos we live by is “SLEEP, CREEP, LEAP”, which refers to a three-year cycle in pollinator plantings. What does that mean? Wildflowers do not grow like row crops. They take longer to establish themselves and gather enough energy to begin their above ground process.



First year bloom at the Sikeston park, feat. Coreopsis

Year 1: Sleep - Perennial plants are developing their root systems and gathering energy. We do try to include annual species that bloom the first year, but it won't be the “show stopper” you're thinking yet.

Year 2: Creep - You'll start to see more color out there as more species have gathered enough momentum to shoot upwards and bloom.

Year 3: Leap - Ideally, this would be your first year of best color. Most of the species planted would be predicted to bloom.



Is this a fool-proof scenario? *Absolutely not.* This is a general timeline for growth. Conditions out of our control, such as weather, can easily change this course. We urge you to reach out to us before you consider the planting a failure as this is, so often, not the case!



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia— Stoddard and Scott Counties

April 2021-June 2021

The Odd Ball

We all have that friend that we label as “not quite right”. That notion can be applied to farmland too!

Do you have any areas that you are so tired of trying to plant? Those areas that haven't been producing enough yield to make it worth your time? Whether they stay wet, are eroding, you're constantly battling sprouts, or have been difficult to access with heavy equipment.



Filter strip (Scott Co., CRP) planted to native wildflowers paralleling cropland.

Sounds like you should be asking about state and/or federal programs. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) are a few of the big ticket fed-side programs that might help rid you of attempting to plant and harvest this less-than-ideal areas...and get paid for it.



Don't qualify for any of those? The Landowner Conservation Assistance Program (LCAP) or leveraging funds through your local Quail Forever chapter may be able to assist you in reaching the goals you have for your property.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia— Stoddard and Scott Counties

April 2021-June 2021

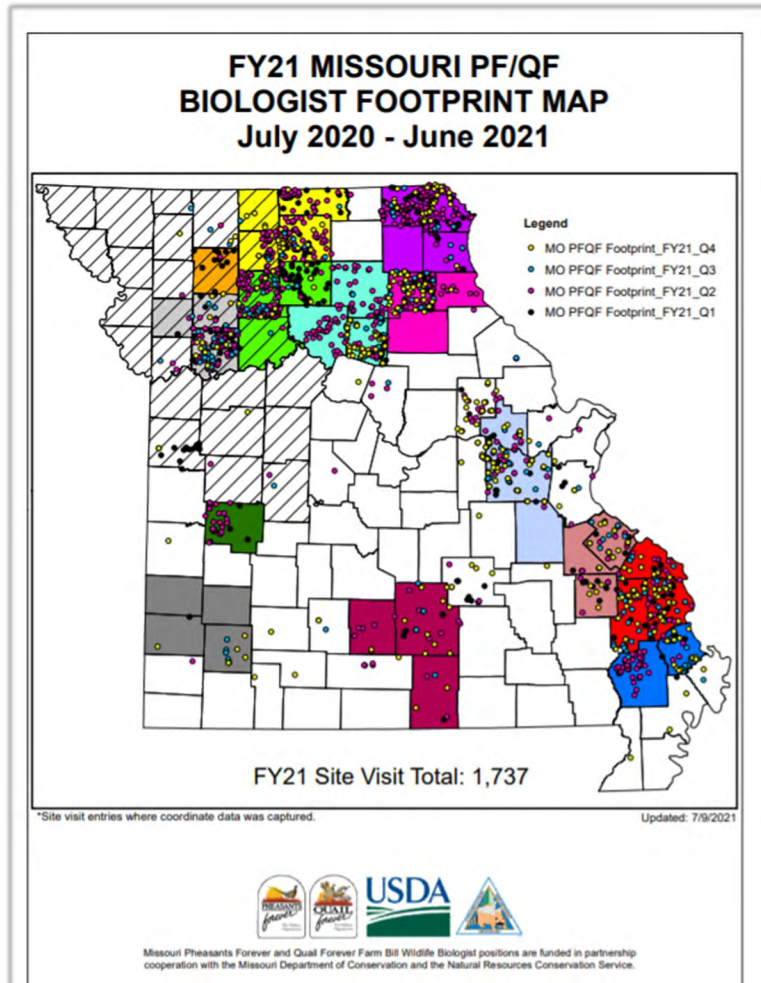
Yours truly...

Although COVID precautions hindered our ability to interact and engage in our typical ways, the Missouri Quail Forever Team persevered.

Between April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021 the team recorded **844** landowner contacts, conducted **361** site visits, hosted workshops and/or meetings for **576** participants, while working in **71** counties.

Through technical assistance and habitat planning work, we have impacted **15,654** acres.

Total acres impacted for FY21 was **82,812** acres!



Conservation Technical Assistance

75 site visits	80 landowner contacts
~ 640 CRP acres impacted	Provided assistance in 5 counties
Completed MOLIPS course	Completed available online trainings (Certified Planner)

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Lizzy Swindell - Howell, Texas & Wright Counties

April – June 2021

Learning the Ropes

I started my first day with Quail Forever on May 17th of this year. I am a Missouri State Graduate with a bachelor's degree in Conservation and Wildlife Management. Before working for Quail Forever I worked for the MDC as a Forest Nursery Technician and then a Fisheries Technician. Before working for MDC, I was an employee at Hamilton Native Outpost, where I gained a lot of knowledge about native plants for restoration, wildlife, landscaping, and grazing. While I was in college, I was an intern for the Texas County SWCD. In that time, I was able to meet many employees and landowners and I am glad to be working with them all again. Since being in the office I have been "learning the ropes" of being a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist. In the past two months, I have met many new people, visited many beautiful properties, and seen tons of native plants (which I love to see!) I look forward to helping landowners in my area create and restore habitat.

Conservation Planning

- 17 Landowner Contacts
- 17 Site Visits



This photo was taken in June '21 of a landowner's pollinator habitat planting.

Looking Forward

- I will be attending the Foraging for Soil Health Workshop.
- Completing EQIP contract checkouts regarding forestry and wildlife practices.
- Increasing landowner contracts and promoting wildlife practices.
- Continuing to complete training to achieve NRCS Conservation Planner Level 1.

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

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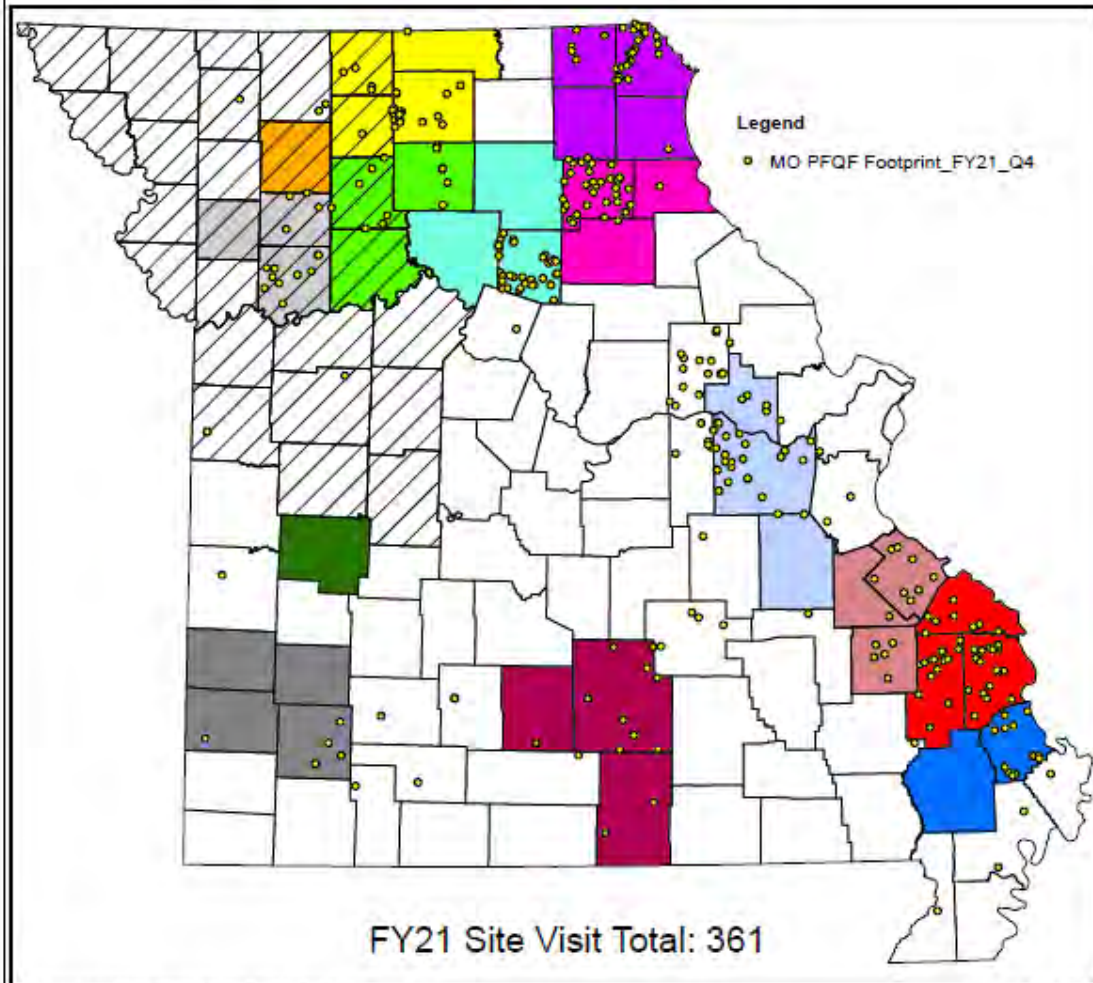


Quarterly Partners' Report

Lizzy Swindell - Howell, Texas, & Wright Counties

April – June 2021

FY21 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP April 2021 - June 2021



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 7/9/2021



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

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

April—June 2021

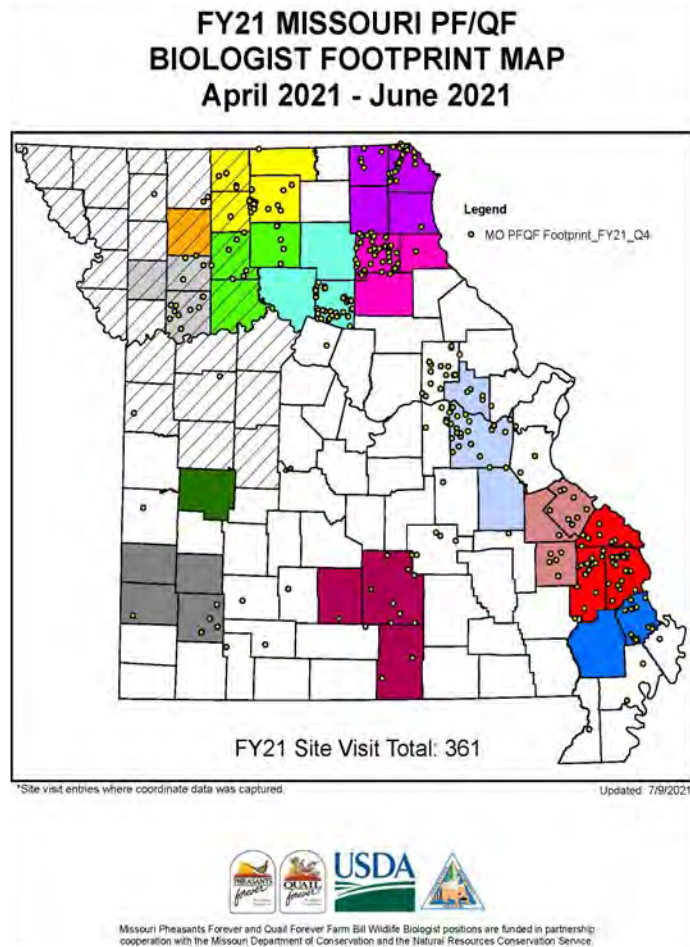
FY 2021—Fourth Quarter

From April through June, our Missouri team conducted 361 site visits and logged 844 landowner contacts while working in 71 counties. We impacted over 15,600 acres of habitat statewide and reached out to 576 individuals at landowner workshops and meetings.

During the last quarter, I conducted 18 site visits and reported 69 landowner contacts. Through habitat planning and technical assistance, I impacted over 80 acres. These acres were impacted by providing assistance to landowners enrolled in EQIP, CSP, and CRP. Additionally, I furthered my professional development by obtaining the NRCS Level 1 Conservation Planner certification.

In June, I collaborated with Kim Cole, Quail Forever Outreach Coordinator, and MU Extension to host a landowner workshop and habitat field tour in Mt. Vernon. Thirteen workshop participants attended the event.

Looking ahead, I plan to write Conservation Plans for CRP, assist with grazing school, host a habitat-centered community library program, and continue working with landowners interested in creating habitat through conservation programs.



Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

<u>Conservation Planning</u>	Program	Acres Impacted	CRP Practice	Acres Impacted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 69 Landowner Contacts 18 Site Visits 5 Status Reviews/Checkouts 3 Eligibility/Ranking Assessment 1 Landowner Workshop 	EQIP	3.2	CP1	-
	CSP	8.3	CP2	40
	MDC LCAP	11.1	CP12	2.0
	QF Chapter	-	CP21	-
	Non-Program	1	CP30	-
			CP42	15.0
	Total	23.6	Total	57.0

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

April—June 2021

Women's Forest Management Workshop

In June, I teamed up with Quail Forever Outreach Coordinator Kim Cole and MU Extension Field Specialist Sarah Havens to host a Women Owning Woodlands & Women Caring for the Land Learning Circle. This women-focused workshop was held in Mt. Vernon and included a field tour of a well-managed property near Springfield. Participants shared their experience and habitat management goals for their property while learning about forest management, prescribed fire, and landowner assistance programs.

Sarah Havens, Field Specialist in Natural Resources, started the morning off by going over the basics of forest management and introduced several beneficial management practices for healthy woodlands and forests. I presented on using prescribed fire in a woodland setting, understanding forest management plans, and obtaining assistance through federal and state cost-share programs. MDC Private Lands Conservationist Aimee Coy discussed Prescribed Burn Associations and brought a burn trailer with equipment. Attendees learned how to use various hand tools, equipment, and clothing for safely conducting a prescribed burn. Kim Cole provided a helpful demonstration of the benefits of woodland thinning and prescribed fire.

The day ended with a habitat tour of a local property where many of the habitat management practices attendees had recently learned about were conducted. We toured a timber stand with a successful timber stand improvement, several timber stands where prescribed fires were conducted, and a well-established monarch planting. Workshop attendees left with a more confident outlook on forest management and several to-do lists for habitat projects.



- 1) Kim Cole demonstrated how thinning timber can prevent unwanted forest fires by reducing fuel loading.
- 2) A workshop participant demonstrated how to properly hold a drip torch.
- 3) Attendees saw timber stand improvement and edge feathering practices.
- 4) Participants engaged with the landowners and learned how to establish a high diversity monarch planting.
- 5) Aimee Coy presented prescribed burning equipment and hand tools.
- 6) Rachel Settle presented on applying prescribed fire in woodlands.
- 7) Sarah Havens discussed forest management basics and habitat practices.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



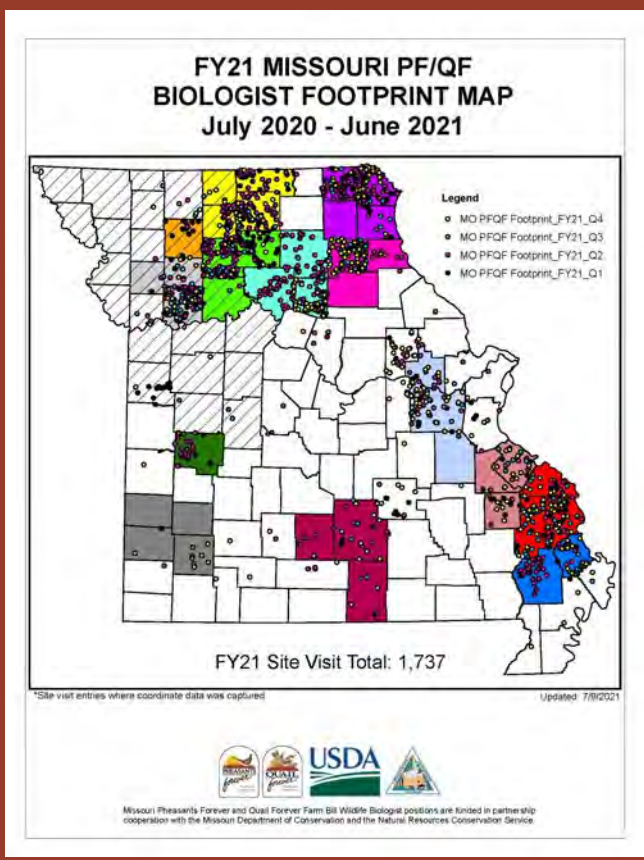
Rachel Settle — Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve Counties

April—June 2021

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
MDC LCAP Training	Attended virtual training for MDC Landowner and Community Assistance Program for Fiscal Year 2022
MDC Level 3 Prescribed Burn Workshop	Attended 3-day training to improve prescribed burn writing skills

82,812 acres impacted by your Missouri QF Team!

Quail Forever Partnership Award



Julie Norris, MDC PLC, was presented with a Partnership Award for supporting her local QF Biologists and providing exceptional conservation habitat work in her counties. Well done, Julie!

Looking Forward

- Assist with Southeast Missouri Regional Grazing School August 31—September 2
- Host a habitat-centered outreach event with the Ozark Regional Library in September
- Obtain NRCS Conservation Planner Level 3 certification

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Tyler Rodes– Ray, Caldwell, and Clinton Counties

April-June 2021

Position Update

I started as a Farm Bill Biologist in May 2021. I am stationed out of the Richmond USDA office and provide technical assistance to Ray, Caldwell, and Clinton counties. I grew up in Columbia, MO and am an avid outdoorsman, spending as much time as I can in nature. I graduated from the University of Missouri in 2013 with a dual degree in Fisheries & Wildlife and Forestry. Following graduation, I worked as an Assistant Consulting Forester for a private consulting company out of Ashland, Missouri for 7 years. During my time as a forester, I had the opportunity to hone many invaluable skills related to wildlife and forestry habitat management that prepared me for my current role as a Farm Bill Biologist with the Quail Forever team. I am excited and looking forward to the opportunity to work with private landowners to make their habitat dreams a reality!



Diving Head First into CRP

Soon after starting my position in mid-May, I dove into expiring 2022 CRP contracts. A site visit and field review are required for all CRP contracts that expire in September 2022, who are wanting to reenroll in the program. This has been a great opportunity to familiarize myself with the lay of the land of Ray and Caldwell counties. It has also been great to meet several landowners in the area.

In the coming weeks, I will start initiating conservation planning for CRP signup 55 and 56. The deadline for CRP 56 General Signup is July 23, 2021 and producers must request conservation plans by September 1, 2021. The deadline for CRP 55 continuous signup is August 6, 2021 and producers must request a conservation plan by August 13, 2021.

I am looking forward to the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of CRP. CRP is a great program to help landowners create quality wildlife and pollinator habitat on their property. There is a variety of CRP programs for landowners to choose from, and with sound advice their dreams can become a reality.



For more great content, please visit our social media pages or visit our Missouri state website at Missou-

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Tyler Rodes– Ray, Caldwell, and Clinton Counties

April-June 2021



Missouri Shotgun Showcase Conservation Shoot

I had the opportunity to help the Quail Forever team host the first annual Missouri Shotgun Showcase Conservation Shoot in early June at Midway USA shooting complex. It turned out to be a sold-out event with over 50 participants joining us to enjoy lunch, shoot a round of sporting clays, and cool off with a refreshing beer from Bur Oak Breweries following the shoot! Participants were able to try out multiple new models of 2021 shotguns including Browning, Winchester, and Beretta just to name a few. It was a successful event filled with comradery and smiles all around! A huge thank you goes to Midway USA and our awesome partners and sponsors for making this day possible!



- Conservation Planning**
- 19 Landowner Contacts
 - 16 Site Visits
 - 7 Status Review/Checkout



Looking Forward

- Wrap up site visits/ field checks for expiring 2022 CRP contracts
- Assist with SU 55/56 sign-up and planning
- Continue providing quality technical service to landowners and partners

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Fire Trainings	Completed IS-100, IS-700, L180, S-130, and S-190 trainings .

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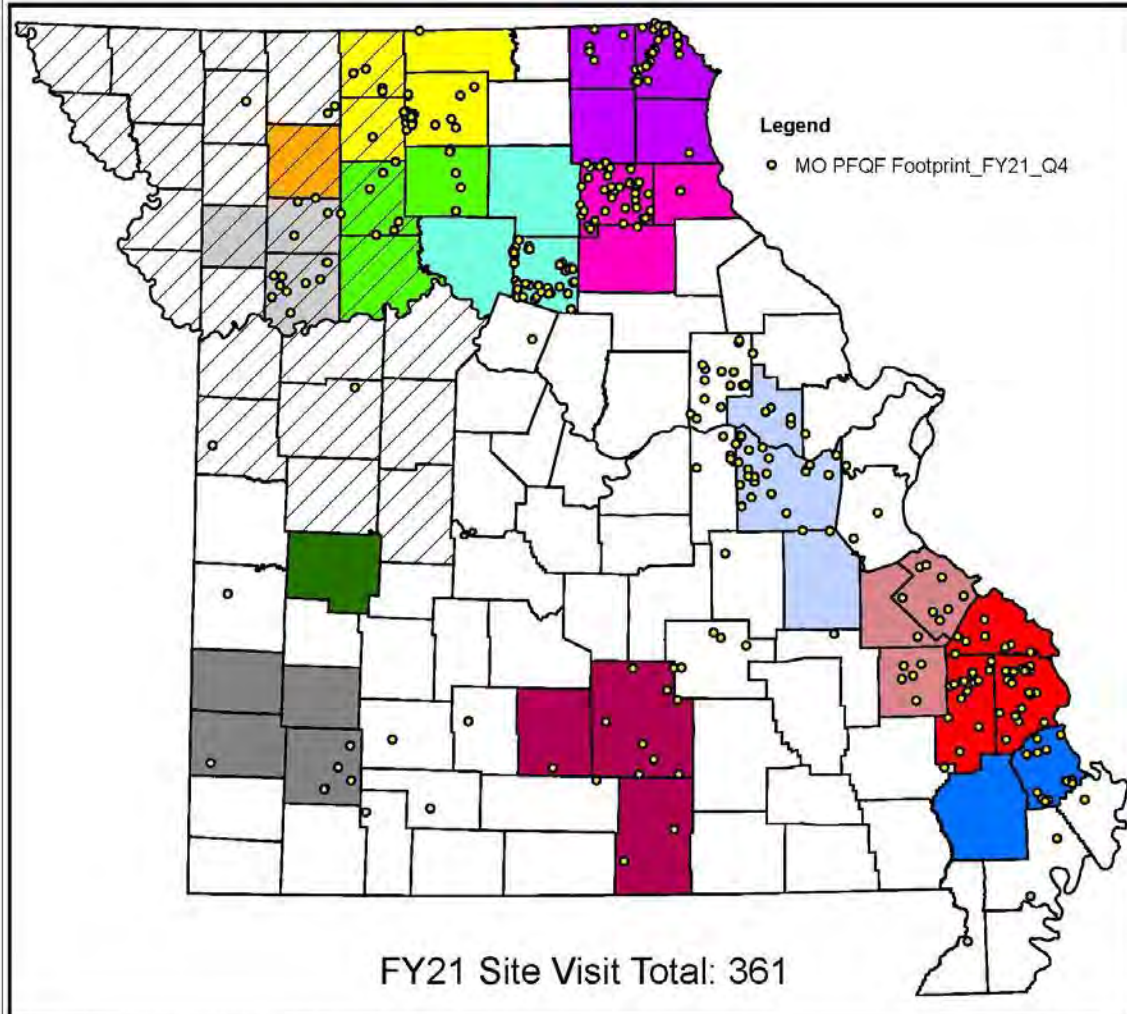
Quarterly Partners' Report



Tyler Rodes - Ray, Caldwell, and Clinton Counties

April-June 2021

FY21 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP April 2021 - June 2021



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 7/9/2021



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

April - June 2021

Wrapping up the Year

The end of June marks the close of our fiscal year—and what a year it has been. Despite the obvious challenges this year in assisting landowners and collaborating with partners, your Missouri Quail Forever Team recorded 4,031 Landowner Contacts and conducted 1,737 Site Visits while working in 89 Missouri Counties. Through technical assistance and habitat planning work, they impacted **82,812** acres!

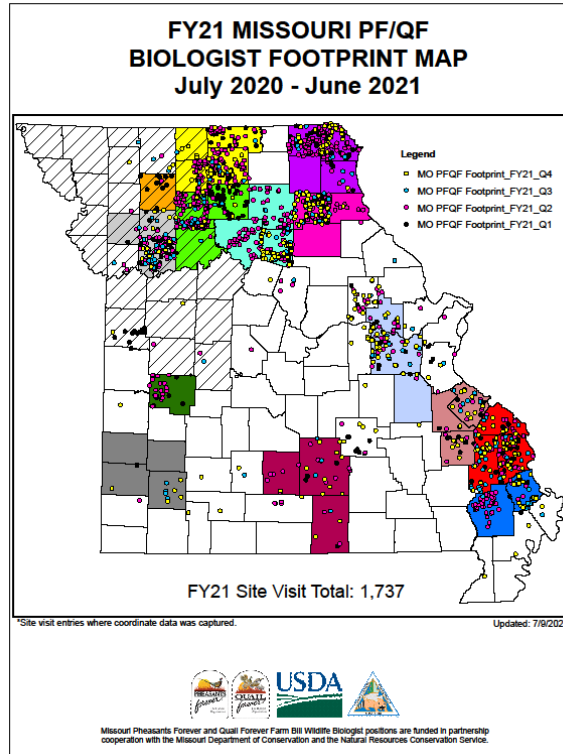


Above: Monarch caterpillar feeds upon butterfly milkweed.

Work continues in the new fiscal year with a heavy emphasis on CRP planning and field reviews of contracts expiring at the end of September 2022.



Left: Evidence of the caterpillar feeding. What goes in must go out.



Conservation Planning

- 174 Landowner Contacts
- 47 Site Visits
- 4 Conservation Plans Written
- 23 Status Reviews/Checkouts Completed
- 2 Prescribed Burn Plans Reviewed

Conservation Program	Acres Impacted
EQIP	197.7
CRP	384.44
MDC LCAP	164.7
QF Habitat Challenge Grant	0.35
CSP	20.3
Total	767.49

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III



Quarterly Partners' Report

Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

April - June 2021

When they show you the work has paid off

"I'd like to improve the farm for deer, turkey, timber, and even quail if I can." Tom's goals are similar to others' when he spoke to me four years ago about his recreational property. We toured the property and discussed the opportunities that presented themselves to best move him towards his goals. Tom had shown that he means business when it comes to completing habitat work so we felt the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was the best tool to aid his efforts. Since his central Bollinger County property is dominated by woodland, a Forest Management Plan (FMP) was needed to guide the practices in an EQIP contract. Tom and I worked with a consulting forester to write a plan that addressed the timber production potential of the north facing slopes and the wildlife habitat on the less-productive, south/west facing slopes. As a passionate bowhunter, we focused on his priorities when developing a management plan for the land focusing on quality deer habitat.



Wildlife watering facilities help distribute a dependable source of water and amphibian habitat across the property.

In the 4 years I have had the pleasure working with Tom, he has accomplished many of the recommended management practices including constructing a wildlife watering facility, firebreak installation, prescribed burning, woodland restoration through thinning trees, and creating two, half-acre temporary forest openings. The goal of prescribed burning and chainsaw work was to increase the amount of sunlight reaching the ground and stimulating



a plant response on the woodland floor. After all, that is where a deer can reach the browse, fawns hunker down avoiding predators, and where turkey poults find the protein-rich insects that enable them to grow rapidly.

Continued —>

The slow moving and low-intensity backing fire top-kills small trees while leaving larger trees undamaged.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

April - June 2021

When they show you the work has paid off, Cont.

I received a message from Tom recently with an account from his recent visit to the farm and review of trail camera photos. While checking for wildlife tracks around the watering facility, he almost stepped on a fawn that was bedded in the tall grass that now surrounded the water source. As he walked 15 yards to the nearby food plot, a hen turkey eased away revealing a couple of her poults the size of a quail. Pausing for a moment to watch, the hen began her kee-kee calling and 7 more poults ran out from the woodland burn unit towards her. His trail camera revealed another hen was raising a brood of 6 poults, and the restored woodlands and temporary forest openings were holding 4-5 does, each a fawn.



The woodland floor responding after the thinning and prescribed fire.

With the wildlife in approval of his work, Tom is eager to continue his improvements by addressing the timber production goal through thinning the poorer-formed trees allowing the crop trees access to more nutrients to grow, both in diameter of the bole and larger crowns, that will increase mast production. Tom and the resident wildlife shared their thanks for the habitat assistance!

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Southern Fire Exchange Webinar: PBAs in the Southeast—a Conversation with Experts	Attended the webinar of presenters sharing how prescribed burn associations function in southeastern US to bring perspective to Missouri PBAs.
Northeast Region Prescribed Fire Council Networking Forum	Attended a webinar that provided overviews of Certified Prescribed Burn Manager (CPBM) programs in OH and FL to help aid the development of Missouri's CPBM program.
Grazing School	Presented on the benefits of and the establishment process for native forages to local producers.
MDC Southeast Region Community and Private Land Conservation Staff Meeting	Attended the meeting to learn about MDC's organizational restructuring and how our QF staff can plug into MDC's goals for conservation in the region. Also provided an update on QF happenings for partners.



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

April-June 2021

Conservation Planner Training

Quail Forever (QF) Farm Bill Biologist work right along side with partner staff from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to help them deliver their conservation programs and assistance to landowners. Part of that work is ensuring that landowners are provided conservation plans that are technically sound and makes sense for their property and more importantly, meets their goals. To ensure that all conservation planners understand what needs to be considered when writing these plans, NRCS has an internal training and certifications it uses. This certified planner training starts with a variety of recorded webinars on many aspects of conservation planning and common resources concerns. Since NRCS has a heavy focus on helping agricultural producers topics include nutrient and pest management, water quality, soil health, and many other topics. In the past, these online courses were followed-up up by a week-long in person training. Once planners have completed both the online and in person trainings, they become Certified Planners meaning they can now sign conservation plans and handle all aspects of helping landowners meet their goals. Over this past year COVID-19 may have hindered the ability for in person trainings, but the need for certifying conservation planners did not change. This led the MO NRCS staff to develop a course that could be delivered through live webinars and small in person field days called Missouri Leadership Invested in Planner Success or MOLIPS. MOLIPS was delivered to participants over a 10-week period. During that frame live webinars were presented early in the week that were then followed-up by a day in the field with an experienced conservation planner. Webinars were focused on evaluating and planning conservation practices on different land uses such as cropland, pastures, and several others. The mix of live webinars and going to the field with mentors allowed for trainees to ask questions and get clarification on complex topics and methods for evaluating a variety of possible resource concerns. This 10-week training culminated in the writing and presentation of a conservation plan to experienced NRCS staff.



Sprayed fescue in Gasconade county in preparation to be seeded to pollinator habitat.

Practice Checkouts by Program	Acres
EQIP	
Monarch Planting	10.6
Shrub Planting	0.8
Native Forage Planting	63.5
LCAP	
Prescribed Burning	500.8
Pollinator Planting	30.3
Honeysuckle Removal	20.6
HCG	
Pollinator Planting	11
Old Field Restoration	3.1
Herbaceous Weed Treatment	92.2
Prescribed Burning	20.7
CRP	
CP 2—Warm-season grass	88.6
CP 29—Wildlife Habitat Buffer	6.0
CP 42—Pollinator Habitat	13.9
Quail SAFE	35.3
Total	897.4



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

April-June 2021

Conservation Planner Training Cont.

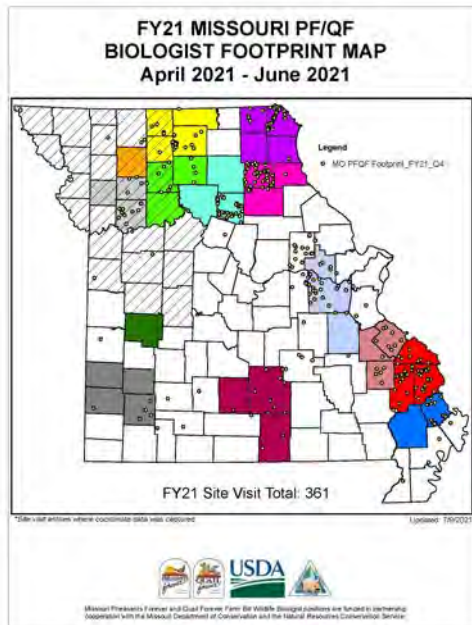
The more experienced planners had the opportunity to ask questions, critique plans, and provide valuable feedback that trainees could use when preparing conservation plans in the future. As one of NRCS' partners it is important that the work our biologists are doing meets their standards and follows their policies. Participating in trainings such as MOLIPS ensures that QF maintains and strengthens its partnership with NRCS.



Monarch caterpillar on a common milkweed plant in a 2 year old native planting. Franklin county.

Conservation Planning

- 66 Landowner Contacts
- 61 Site Visits



CRP Field Reviews	Acres
CP 1—Cool-Season Grass	32.6
CP 2—Warm Season Grass	179.4
CP 12—Wildlife Food Plots	2.4
CP 8A—Grass Waterway	3.7
CP 21—Filter Strip	19.3
CP 22—Riparian Forest Buffer	5.4
CP 25—Rare and Declining Habitat	1.2
CP 42—Pollinator Habitat	26.5
Total	270.5

One year prior to expiring, existing CRP is reviewed to ensure the approved cover is being maintained, invasive species are being controlled, and woody encroachment is being controlled.

Looking Forward

- Continue to talk with landowners about CRP as an option to create wildlife habitat.
- Continue to serve on the CRP State Technical Committee and help ensure MO QF can provide input on CRP implementation
- Begin allocating cost-share funds for HCG/LCAP
- Assist the local QF Chapter with their youth and first-time mentored dove hunts.
- Through landowner contacts I will continue to share the Quail Forever mission and help get anyone interested involved with their local QF chapter.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

William Robinson– Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

April-June 2021

Position Update

The fourth quarter was a busy one. EQIP contracts were finalized and the CRP workload took off. A majority of the fourth quarter was spent looking at old CRP and planning new CRP. It looks like that will be a common theme through the first quarter of FY22 as well.

Q4 FY21 Activity Highlights

- ◆ 25 Landowner Contacts
- ◆ 44 Site Visits
- ◆ 41 Projects with Acres

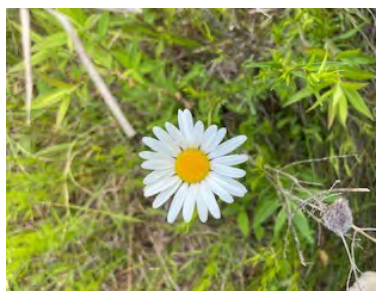
1,496.49 Acres Impacted

CRP Update

'Tis the season for CRP! With the break in sign-ups 55/56 I was able to conduct several evaluations on CRP fields that are close to expiration. Conducting these site visits at this time of year is especially nice, as the cool, and some warm season grasses are headed out and several forb species are in full bloom. The weather can be challenging this time of year, but even that has cooperated for the most part. Looking forward to FY22, I plan of finishing up site evaluations in the first quarter, as well as cooperating with local staff to get CRP plans in the hands of producers, which leads to putting more quality habitat on the ground! As always, I am thankful for the support that is received from these partnerships, which make implementing habitat on this scale possible.



Timothy Grass in a CRP field in Shelby County



Ox-eye Daisy

Thank you so much for your support! Without this partnership, I wouldn't be able to provide assistance to private landowners and positively impact conservation in Missouri!

William Robinson
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

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Pictures

One of the neat things about being a biologist, is the opportunity to see and appreciate the little things in nature that are often overlooked in our busy lives. I have included a few photos of things that I have observed during CRP site visits in the fourth quarter.



Illinois Bundleflower beginning to bloom



Great Spangled Fritillary on Purple Milkweed



Rattlesnake Master



Foxglove Beardtongue blooming

ADD @MISSOURIQF on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter



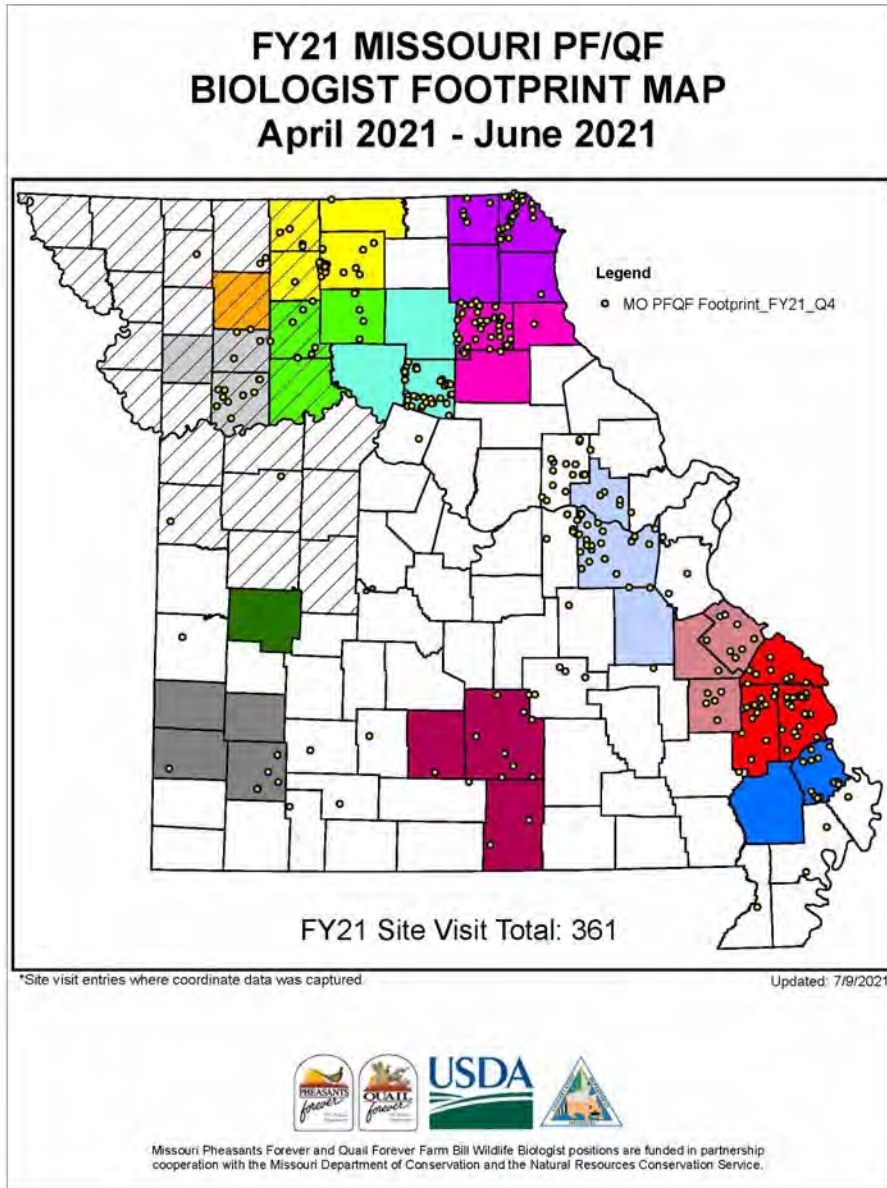
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Looking Forward

- Continue assessing expiring CRP fields
- Continue assisting with CRP Sign-Up 55 and 56
- Begin working on becoming a Certified Conservation Planner

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

William Robinson
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Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

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