



### Rallying for Conservation in Missouri

Being the lead of the Missouri State Convention is no easy task. There are dozens of moving parts and countless things that must be checked off the list for us to pull off a successful event. Having a great committee to assist with the planning and make sure there were no loose ends helped immensely this year. Because of the committee and with assistance from the rest of the team, we had our most successful Missouri State Convention yet!



The 7th Annual Missouri PF/QF State Convention was held in Columbia, MO in late January. The weekend kicked off on Friday, in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation, with the inaugural Missouri Quail Summit. During the Summit, resource professionals and key landowners from across the state listened to presentations with topics consisting of population dynamics, habitat, and the future of our state's gamebird.

Later that evening, MO PF/QF hosted its Hops for Habitat Pint Night at Logboat Brewing Company. This event was designed to show chapter members inventive ways they could boost memberships in new and exciting formats, aside from their annual banquets. With the event being open to the public, the social saw around 100 people throughout the evening, where opportunities to network and discuss habitat efforts across the state generated quite an energetic atmosphere.

The next day during the State Habitat Meeting, our goal was to connect, recognize, and educate attendees. The keynote speakers and extensive list of informative breakout topics enabled the MO PF/QF team to do just that with over 200 in the audience. Additionally, we took a few moments throughout the day to recognize and celebrate accomplishments of some of the most dedicated chapters and partners we work with every day. I, as well as the rest of the MO PF/QF team, greatly look forward toward our next State Convention and hope to see you there!



J. R. Flores  
MO State Conservationist (Ret.)  
2019 Excellence in Partnership Award



Susan Mammen  
Resource Conservationist  
2019 Partnership Award



2C QF Chapter  
2019 Acre Maker Award



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Andrew White - Livingston, Linn, and Carroll Counties

January – March 2020

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>Missouri Natural Resources Conference</b>	Continuing education conference for natural resource professionals across Missouri.
<b>PF/QF Team DISC Assessment</b>	Training with entire MO PF/QF team on personality profiles to further strengthen our team and beyond.
<b>Fire Trainings</b>	Completed IS-100, IS-700, and L180 trainings to fulfill Red Card Certifications
<b>RUSLE2 Training</b>	Learned how to effectively use the RUSLE2 system for conservation planning.
<b>CART Training Webinar</b>	Training on how to properly utilize the CART ranking tool for NRCS programs.
<b>NRCS A1 Planners Meeting</b>	Area-wide meeting for discussion and training over updates to planning and federal programs.

### Outreach & Education

- Planning CRP Outreach efforts for team, including workshops
- Have been 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

### Looking Forward

- Continued assistance with EQIP ranking assessments and conservation planning.
- Continued assistance with CRP field checks and conservation planning
- Coordination and planning of 2021 Missouri State Convention
- NBCI Breeding Bird Surveys

#### Conservation Planning

- 89 Landowner Contacts
- 21 Site Visits
- 17 Conservation Plans Written/Modified
- 19 Status Review/Checkout
- 1 Rx Burn Plan written

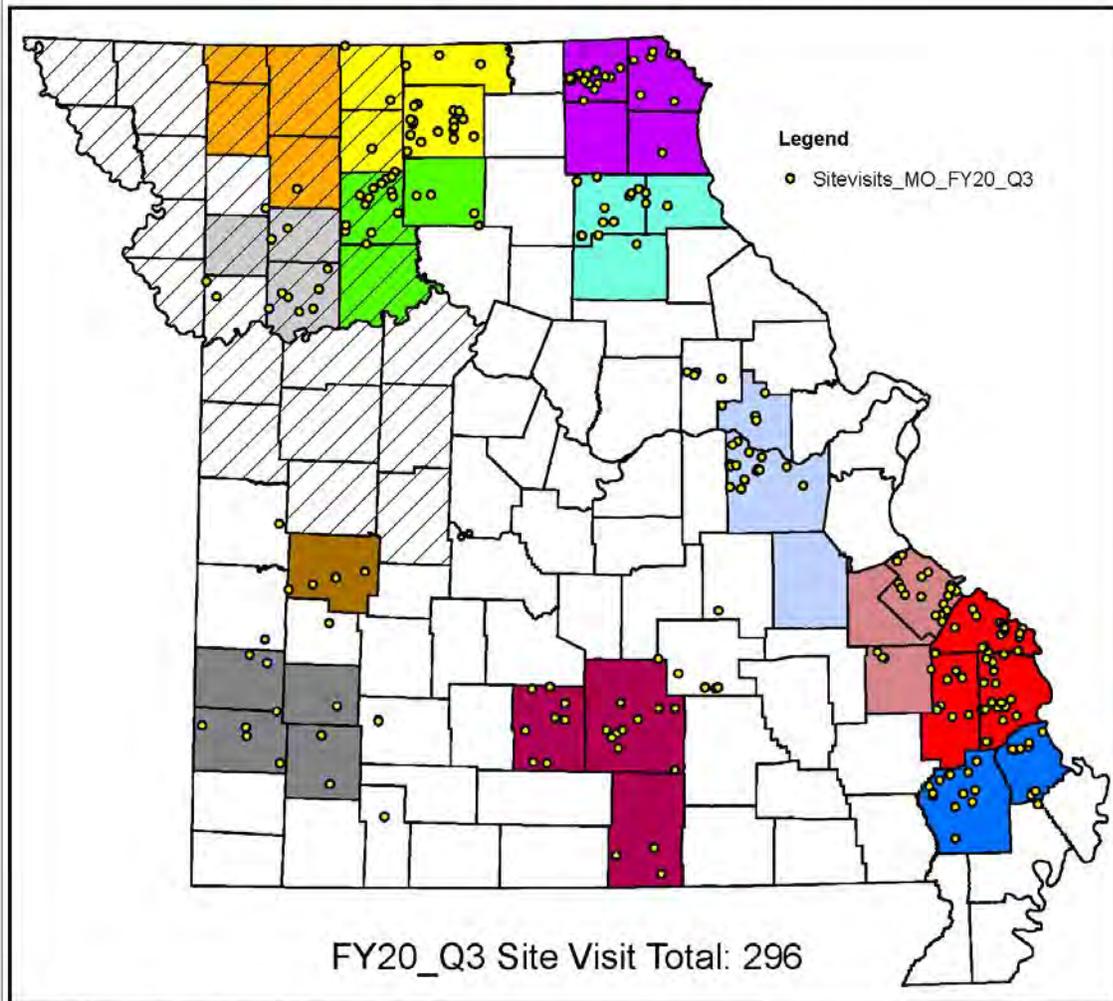


With no good resource to show the time lapse maturation of pollinator habitat, I took the opportunity last spring to start a side project of my own using a newly planted RCPP-Monarch plot. After gaining permission from the landowner, I started this project to help paint the picture for landowners of what/when to expect, as well as create an updated resource for professionals to use in the future. For the next few years, I will be visiting this site, taking a picture in the same location. Over time, the series of photos will take viewer through various seasons of maturation and can be used to further share information of pollinators and their habitat.

Programs	Acres Impacted
<b>FSA</b>	618.03
<b>NRCS</b>	38.4
<b>OTHER</b>	73.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>729.43</b>



### FY20 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP January 2020 - March 2020



\*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 4/13/2020



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.



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Colby Sharp - Texas, Wright, and Howell Counties

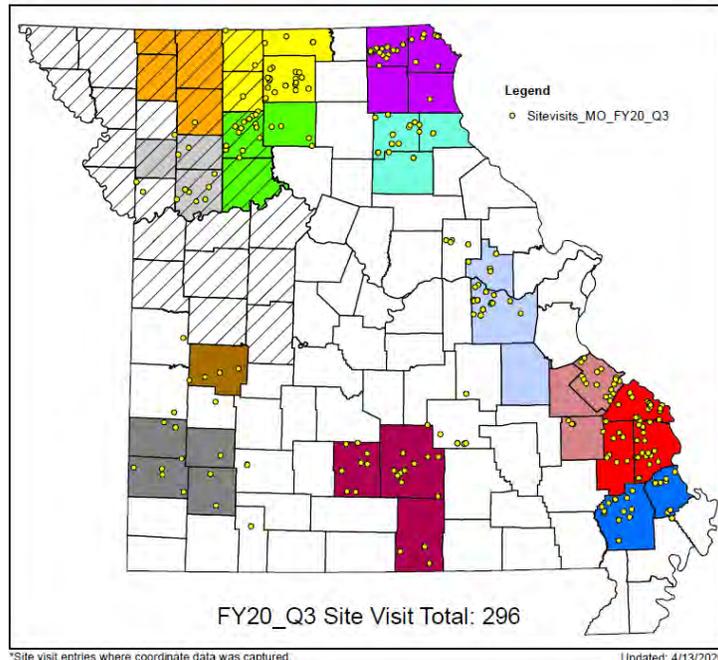
January – March 2020

### This Past Quarter...

These past few months have been spent attending meetings and training, while also assisting landowners throughout the Ozarks, discussing practices such as glade and woodland restoration, pollinator habitat, and forest stand improvement 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 about the benefits of wildlife friendly grazing, monarch habitat, and healthy forests. While in the office I also assisted partners with EQIP, CSP, LCAP, and Habitat Challenge Grant contract planning, contract eligibility reviews, mapping, and practice checkouts. See the above map of where the Missouri Quail Forever team has been hard at work, using their expertise to provide technical assistance to landowners across Missouri.

### Missouri PF/QF Biologist Footprint Map January – March 2020



\*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 4/13/2020



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### Conservation Planning

- 167 Landowner Contacts
- 30 Site Visits
- 4 Conservation Plans Completed
- 9 Status Reviews/Checkouts
- 6 Ranking & Eligibility Assessments
- 1 Article Written

Program	Acres Impacted
EQIP	142.66
CSP	6.80
HCG/LCAP	59.40



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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Colby Sharp - Texas, Wright, and Howell Counties

January – March 2020

## “Using Timber Management as Wildlife Management”

Over the past 14 years Max Schmollinger and Seth Harker have been working together to increase timber value & production, while also managing for better wildlife habitat on this property in Wright County, Missouri. Max, professional forest consultant and manager, uses a variety of forest management techniques such as timber stand improvement, group openings, single tree selections, and clearcutting to better the health and value of current and future timber on the property. Though Max’s primary goal is timber production, he works along side Seth, who uses property for hunting, to determine the best places to implement these techniques for wildlife habitat connectivity and strategic hunting.



Seth’s son Trace with his first gobbler of the year, taken during the opening weekend of 2020 youth season.

At the same time that Max has been intensively managing the timber, Seth has been managing the white-tailed deer herd through quality deer management and being selective of the numbers of turkeys being taken each year depending on the population that year. This population management, along with the timber management has shown to increase the number of whitetails, specifically bucks, and their antler size at maturity, with an average of only 4 to 6 “rack” bucks identified in the past to now as many as 80 bucks that are >6 points on the 1,000 acre property and consistently producing mature bucks with 140 to 160 inches of growth. The increase in population has also been seen in the turkeys on the property. With the increase in cover, nesting, and foraging areas from the clearcutting, thinning, and prescribed fire, turkey numbers have shown to do well even during the harsh years of high precipitation during the nesting season. Recently Max and Seth have noticed to 2 coveys of Bobwhite quail that have made there home on the property. They are hoping the quail numbers will follow suit in the years to come as they increase more early successional habitat.



Seth’s top hit-lister, Whiplash, who he had been following for past 4 years watching him grow into a 157 inch mature buck.

This property is a testament to the benefits of forest management, not only for timber value but also for wildlife. It proves that you in fact can have your cake and eat it too, with having a property that produces high quality timber and produces high quality whitetails, turkeys, and even a covey of quail or two.

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Colby Sharp - Texas, Wright, and Howell Counties

January – March 2020

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
MFA Grass and Legume Production Training	Attended MFA training on grass and legume forage production for grazing operation in Missouri
NRCS FOSA Conservation Desktop Training	Attended NRCS training where I learned how to use the new program, Conservation Desktop, for planning.
2020 Quail Summit in Columbia, Missouri	Attended the 2020 Quail Summit where learned about the status of upland game birds on Missouri and what the new research is telling us.
7th Annual Quail Forever State Convention	Assisted with putting set up and moderating at our 7th Annual Quail Forever State Convention.
Missouri Natural Resource Conference	Assisted with QF booth and attended workshops and meetings on NRCS program success, prescribed burning, and grazing natives.
NRCS Programs Meeting	Attended NRCS programs meeting where I was updated on new Farm Bill program rules at this point.
Pack Test to obtain Wildland Firefighter Red Card	Participated in and passed Wildland Firefighter Arduous Pack Test for Red Card.

### Looking Forward

- Evaluate new methods for performing site visits, holding education workshops, and providing assistance during the current pandemic.
- Continue to perform status reviews/checkouts for state cost share, habitat challenge grant, and NRCS programs
- Attend meeting with Quail Forever, QF Chapter, and USFS to discuss future projects on land adjacent to federal land
- Potentially assist other QF FBBs with CRP planning in high CRP areas.
- Assist NRCS with prioritizing, ranking, and planning EQIP applications.
- Participate in monthly NRCS Program Update Meetings
- Continue to assist landowners and producers with Farm Bill programs, while continuing to further my understanding of EQIP, CSP, Farm Service Agency's CRP, and MDC's LCAP planning



Checkout the great turnout at the 7th Annual Quail Forever State Convention. Volunteers and landowners from around the state.

*\*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 - Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

January–March 2020

### Taking Our Message Far & Wide

As a wildlife biologist who takes great pride in promoting land management practices that benefit both agricultural productivity and wildlife habitat, I continuously focus on how to better influence Missouri landowners to guide them to better manage our natural resources. The following events are only a fraction of those happenings across the state, but offers a window into our effort to execute our mission.

#### PF/QF Missouri State Convention

The annual state convention was held in Columbia Missouri on January 25th. With nearly 200 attendees including chapter members, conservation professionals, and other landowners the event proved to be an excellent opportunity to share our Mission and knowledge with an exceptional audience. The diverse mix of conversation, comradery, and fun created an atmosphere that welcomed people from every end of the state. We had the privilege to award a few of our own from the Northeast Region at the event. For their outstanding contributions Bob Riley, life member of Mark Twain Quail Forever and George Shurvington, MDC's Northeast Private Land Services Regional Supervisor received honors. A big shout out to those making a difference!

### Activity Highlights

#### Conservation Planning

- 135 Landowner Contacts
- 18 Site Visits
- 18 Projects with Acres
- 10 Trainings

#### Outreach

- 4 Workshops/Tours
- 3 Publications/Interviews

**Total Acres Impacted: 461.31 acres**



The 2020 Annual PF/QF State Convention in Missouri, Columbia, MO



Volunteer of the Year Award:  
Bob Riley



Outstanding Partner Award:  
George Shurvington

#### Missouri Natural Resource Conference

MNRC was held at Margaritaville Lake of the Ozarks, Tan-Tar-a on February 4-6th. It was a great networking opportunity for our QF staff. Not only did we attend a plethora of educational seminars, but many of us joined conversations held during various annual meetings, such as the Prescribed Fire Council, National Wildlife Society, and others.

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

January–March 2020

### **MNRC continued....**

Wesley Hanks and I presented professional posters. Mine covered the efforts of Prescribed Burn Associations in Missouri and his presented the Monarch Joint Venture Monarch Sampling results from data collection our biologists conducted this past year.

Lastly, we initiated a strong effort to share our message by engaging with MNRC attendees during the student mentoring session and through our habitat booth that was operated during the social event and every scheduled break throughout the conference.



### **Mid-MO Expo:**

Lisa McBrayer and I worked an informational booth during the Missouri Extension's annual Mid-MO Expo on February 29th. We had an incredible amount of interest in invasive species management as well as managing idle acres for wildlife. I presented on "Managing Small Acres in a Big Way" which generated a full day of information sharing and great conversation.



### **Conservation Federation of Missouri:**

Josh Marshall, Casey Bergthold and I attended the CFM annual conference March 6th-8th to attend the Natural Resource breakout sessions, legislative discussions, young professionals social, evening banquet, and general assembly. It was a packed weekend that offered insight into current issues and resolutions being offered to address such issues.

### **Strike While the Iron is HOT!**

The buzz this quarter was CRP. WHEN? WHAT? HOW? Many questions pertaining to the new enrollment flooded in. From discussions at workshops, conversations during site visits, or just casual mention at the front counter, we delivered information to landowners as soon as we could get it. I spent a good portion of my days discussing management strategies to improve, enhance, or establish existing and new CRP acres. It was a great opportunity to talk shop with many individuals I had not yet had the opportunity to meet in my counties. Several conversations lead into application submissions for other programs such as EQIP or HCG, and in some cases it opened a door to conduct a site visit to evaluate what could be done to improve the wildlife potential on his or her property. A great time to make connections!





# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

January–March 2020

# CREATING HABITAT

## 2020 Mark Twain PBA

The local Prescribed Burn Association kicked off their fire season Friday, March 6th. We met at a private property just north of Stoutsville, MO. Twelve landowners arrived to help with the effort. Dividing into two firing crews, we were able to safely and effectively burn 26 acres of Native Warm Season Grass, meeting the management needs for each field.



## Local Projects

### Shelby County



Frost Seeding Pollinators

### Marion County



Seed Bed Preparation

### Monroe County



Prescribed fire removing residue

## Habitat at Home

I've been working to create great habitat at my family farms too!



Native Grasses and Forbs



Planting wildlife friendly filter strips



Prescribed fire to enhance woodlands



Broadcast seeding a monarch pollinator plot

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



## Quarterly Partners' Report

Courtney Nicks - Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

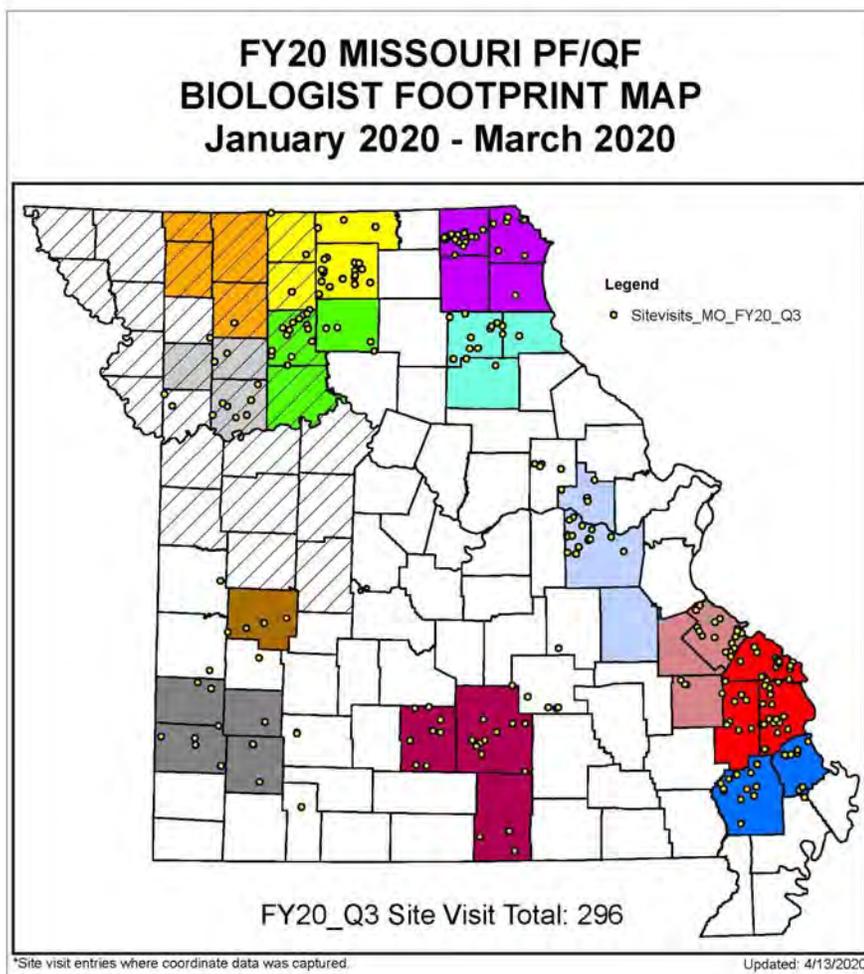
January–March 2020

### Looking Forward, I will...

- Create conservation plans for approved CRP contracts.
- Continue to assist with EQIP ranking assessments and conservation planning.
- Consult with landowners to complete management plans.
- Reschedule workshops and assist with women landowner burn workshop.
- Work to finalize MRAP Quail Forever committee.
- Help to create an updated Prescribed Fire Council website.

**UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES!!!**

Visit  
<https://missouripfqf.org/events-1>  
 to find great events near you!



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

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# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



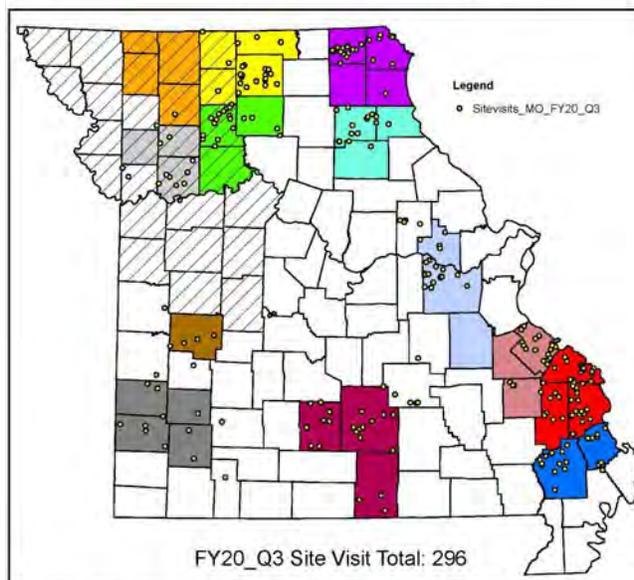
Erin Forsythe–Jasper, Lawrence, Barton, Dade Counties

January–March 2020

### This Past Quarter...

Has been an exciting one. Before Covid-19 changed our day to day work, I was able to assist a producer in Stone county. He has a passion for bird hunting and wanted to create bird habitat for dog training and to hopefully increase the local herd around him. Myself and MU Extension Agronomist met with Alan Young back in March. Alan is very eager to start creating habitat and is very keen on improving his property for wildlife. As of now Alan plans to sign up for FY2021 EQIP to plant NWSG and Forbs on all of his open ground, plant natives trees, pollinator, and increase the riparian buffer between his land and the James River. Alan's enthusiasm and determination to change his property into something usable for him and wildlife is just another reason I love what I do.

### FY20 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP January 2020 - March 2020



\*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured

Updated: 4/13/2020



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### Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

- (48) Landowner Contacts
- (11) Site Visits
- (12) Trainings/workshops
- (2) Burns Plans
- (2) Outreach



Prescribed Fire conducted in February to set bet woody encroachment

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# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Erin Forsythe–Jasper, Lawrence, Barton, Dade Counties

January-March 2020

Training/Workshops	Outcome
<b>MFA Agronomy Training</b>	Forage and Legume Production, Corn Production, Insect and Disease Management, partner training to increase knowledge on production side of the system.
<b>Spring Calving Clinic</b>	Increase knowledge of sign of dystocia and how to address it, body condition scoring, calve care to increase survival and decrease disease
<b>MDC Quail Summit</b>	Current Quail research and studies results
<b>Area 4 Staff Training 2020 Programs</b>	Learned about new updates to 2020 programs, discussed deadlines, and new practices
<b>CD and CART Training</b>	Learned how to use Conservation Desktop and CART for FY2020 Programs
<b>Mid-MO Grazing Conference</b>	Learn about multispecies grazing systems, MO Fence Law, and several other talks
<b>Personality Profile Training</b>	Learn about personal personality and ways to identify others personality profiles to more effectively be able to communicate with coworkers, producers, and partners.
<b>Missouri Natural Resources Conference</b>	Listen to latest research, landowner and professional panels, and networking with partners
<b>Pasture Management Workshop</b>	Learned about NWSG establishment, yields, management, livestock production
<b>Forage and Grassland Council</b>	Listen to different talks prevalent to grazing production

### Looking Forward

- **Soil Health and Sustainability Training (Date Unknown)**
- **Summer Fire School and Field Practical (May 27th, 28th)**
- **Regional Quail Forever Meeting (June 15th–18th)**
- **CStwP Renewals for Lawrence County**
- **NRCS and Qual Forever Teleconferences**
- **MU Extension Council Meeting Jasper County**
- **MNRC Planning Committing Teleconference**
- **Summer Landowner Workshops**

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

January—March 2020

### The Gospel According to Doug

Last fall, I had the privilege of witnessing Dr. Doug Tallamy deliver a compelling plea to naturalize our urban and suburban environments for the sake of birds. I was absolutely mesmerized; it was a borderline religious experience. The jaw-dropping statistics from his research at the University of Delaware paint a clear picture: birds need a LOT of caterpillars to rear a brood (in the case of the chickadee, 6,000—9,000 per nest to be exact), and the ornamental plants we have chosen to live amongst come nowhere close to meeting this need.

Dr. Tallamy's "sermon" was aptly timed, as a Cornell University study was published only a few weeks prior that chronicled the staggering loss of North American birds over the last 50 years. His findings made a convincing case that our ill-informed garden practices may be partially to blame. As sobering a reality as this biodiversity crisis is, Dr. Tallamy's story was filled with too much delight and optimism to not inspire us to spread the good word. And because he was gracious enough to send copies of his presentation to the entire audience, we were all equipped with the tools to do so.

In the months that followed, I referenced Dr. Tallamy's research numerous times in discussions with landowners, coworkers, and friends: everyone needed to know about this. Then in March, when I was invited to speak at a garden symposium in north Kansas City, I knew exactly what I was going to talk about.

As it turns out, converting people might not be as hard as I once thought. The story of Quail Forever, caterpillars, plant roots, and prairie function caught their attention, and the overwhelming response was "where can I learn more?!"



Rainfall simulator, slake test, and root board display at Weatherby Lake Garden Symposium in March.

#### Conservation at a Glance

- 90 Landowner Contacts
- 15 Site Visits
- 3 Workshops/Presentations (65 People)
- 3 Prescribed Burn Plans Completed

Program Involvement	Acres Impacted
HCG/LCAP (Woody Cover)	0.75
CSP (Prescribed Fire)	8.2
EQIP (Prescribed Fire)	9.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.25</b>

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

January—March 2020

### The Signup of the Decade

News came last fall of an impending Conservation Reserve Program signup, one heralded as the “signup of the decade”. But despite this proclamation, my eager anticipation was met by a rather tepid landowner response when the enrollment period arrived in December. Thus, in an effort to stimulate interest, myself and other QF Farm Bill Biologists organized a series of informational meetings across the state.



Presenting on the CRP program and enrollment process at a Ray County informational meeting in early February.

After going through the rigorous process of fact-checking, standardizing our content with partner staff, and tailoring our information to Missouri and our specific counties, we hurriedly reserved our meeting spaces and spread the word.

When we put together mass mailings, newspaper and radio ads, and text alerts, we day-dream of lines wrapping around the block of people wanting to come listen to what we have to say, or at least I do. In reality, we were able to draw 16 landowners to our Caldwell County meeting, and another 14 to our Ray County event the following week. Because of this, I was initially disappointed that my meeting rooms weren't overflowing, but I quickly realized that what we lacked in numbers was made up for by the quality of engagement we received. This was evidenced not only by the number of questions and comments, but also by the landowner discussions that continued for over an hour after the PowerPoints concluded at each event! Of course, CRP can take a long time to summarize, but nonetheless, I was extremely pleased by the landowner response. These smaller meetings essentially result in trainings, where participants are given a better opportunity to learn and later present the information themselves.

Although these “trainings” were only a small part of the program rollout, I have to believe that our efforts made an impact. After all was said and done, we had nearly 200 applicants in my three-county area, and all but two were accepted! This number and its accompanying workload is certainly a little intimidating, but I can't wait to start making plans for all this quality upland habitat to hit the ground!

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

January—March 2020

### Heartland Happenings

#### Cementing Legacies

As the longest tenured Missouri Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever chapter, Kansas City's Heartland chapter has cultivated an incredible culture of giving. Through tireless contributions of their time and talents, this chapter has become a giant of youth outreach and education, hunting mentorship, and environmental stewardship in the KC metro area. To recognize this perfect embodiment of our core organizational values, the chapter was awarded the "Mission Monarch Award" at the 2020 Missouri PFQF State Convention in January.

As my local chapter, I am undoubtedly biased, but I'll still say this distinction could not have gone to a more deserving bunch.



Jamiel Yameen and Al Rohlfling receiving the "Mission Monarch" award for the Heartland Chapter of PFQF at the Missouri State Convention.



Jamiel Yameen accepting the "Conservation Excellence Award" for the Heartland Chapter.

The accolades, however, don't end there. At their 35th annual banquet in February, we had the privilege of recognizing them for yet another momentous achievement. In 2019, the chapter's lifetime financial contributions to the PFQF mission exceeded a quarter of a million dollars, earning them the distinguished "Conservation Excellence Award". Moreover, Bob Borman, one of the chapter's pillars of success, was recognized for his individual contributions, becoming Missouri's first Pheasants Forever patron sponsor. Bob has been incredibly generous and out-

going towards me personally over these last few years, so it was truly an honor to recognize him for this commitment.



Bob Borman being recognized for his generous PFQF patronage.

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

January—March 2020

### Heartland Happenings

#### Making Memories

March offered me an opportunity to assist with my first mentored PFQF youth hunt, and it turned out to be quite a memorable one. Getting to walk the field with first-timers is both rewarding and reinvigorating. Despite the intense winds and finicky birds, nearly everyone got a shot opportunity, and most of them ended up bringing birds home as well!



Youth hunters and memories from Heartland's mentored pheasant hunt in March.

Additional Activities	
<b>Missouri PFQF State Convention</b>	Despite the treacherous weather, we had a fantastic turnout at our annual state convention in January. There I had the opportunity to share my chapter leadership experience as a panel member during our banquet BMP breakout.
<b>NRCS Trainings</b>	I attended various NRCS meetings and trainings this last quarter to better equip myself for conservation planning under the agency's new paradigm. These included a Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool training, Soil erosion predictive software training, and an area-wide planners meeting.
<b>Missouri Quail Summit</b>	I had the opportunity to join other biologists and conservationists from across the state in hearing novel bobwhite research results. This was a great opportunity to reconnect with the science at the foundation of our efforts.

### LOOKING FORWARD

As we struggle through this time of global uncertainty, there are still many exciting opportunities and work to keep me busy. Among those I am most looking forward to are:

- Continued EQIP planning, ranking, and contracting
- CRP field reviews and planning
- Morels and gobblers!

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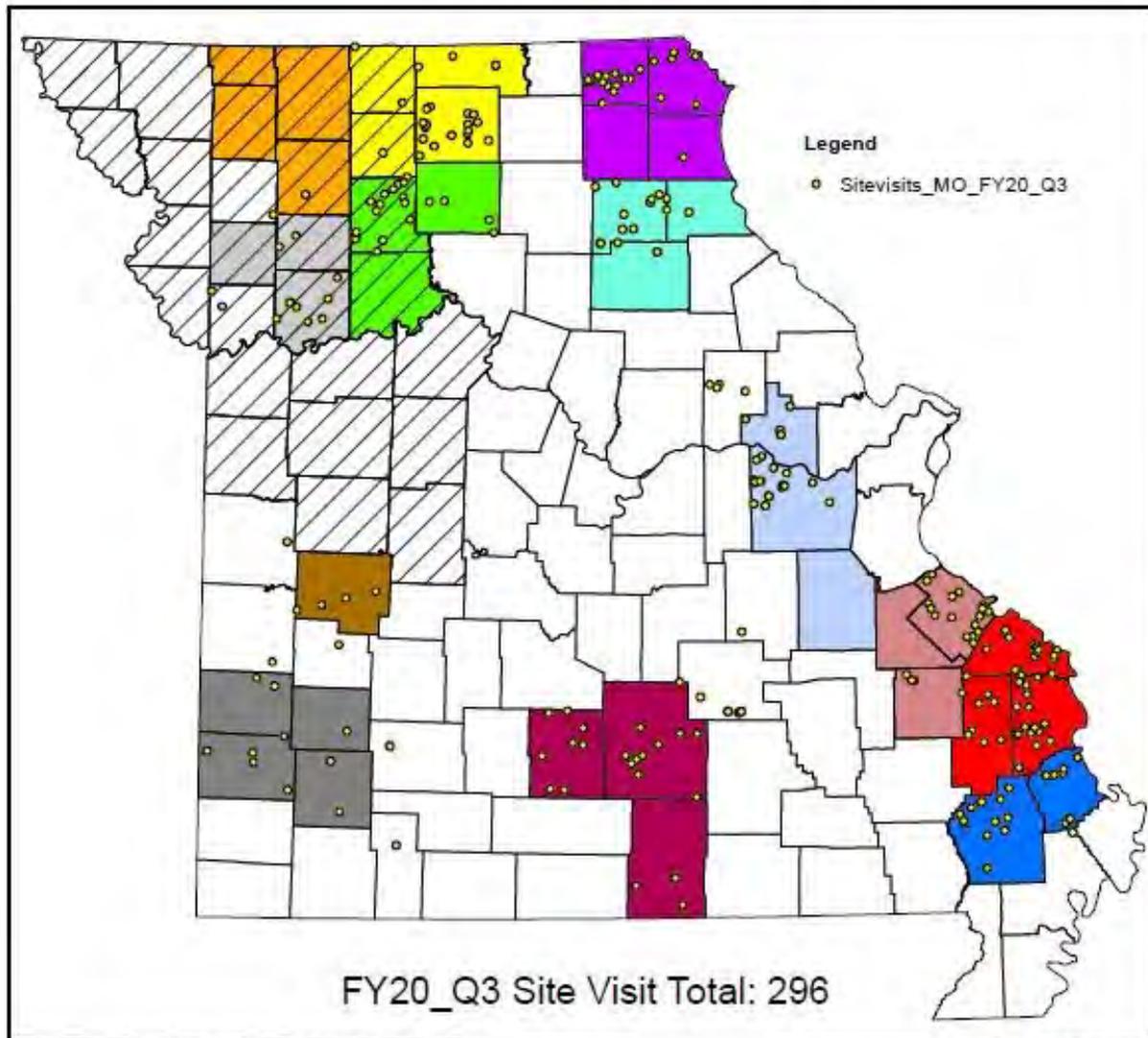
## Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

January—March 2020

### FY20 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP January 2020 - March 2020



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Updated: 4/13/2020

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# Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

Jan - March 2020

## Let it Burn

Fire has mesmerized mankind for centuries. Watching the flames dance across a field is one of the greatest sights in wildlife management. While the use of fire on the landscape has greatly changed over the years and we are fighting to bring it back into the forefront, there is one undeniable fact about prescribed fire.... It is the single best tool for managing wildlife habitat. Bobwhite quail are called the "fire bird" for good reason. In 30



Prescribed burn to remove residue from food plot

Native warm season CRP prescribed burn



mins prescribed fire can turn an unusable field into

usable habitat with the strike of a match. In prairie ecosystems, prescribed fire is a temporary reset button, creating and maintaining habitat. Following fire, a flush of annual forbs attracts insects critical for young quail and turkeys, as well as removing residue for easy travel through the field.

This quarter, I was honored to assist a couple friends and landowners with prescribed burns. Each burn had a different objective but all were accomplished with a short walk and full drip torch. The first burn in February removed residue after herbicide applications in preparation for a pollinator seeding. Another burn helped the landowner manage his native warm season CRP field.

I recognize there is hesitation for many people to use prescribed fire on their property. Although incredibly beneficial,

prescribed fire should be undertaken with careful planning and preparation. Fortunately, there are many resources available to help landowners responsibly conduct burns. Missouri has several Prescribed Burn Associations to conduct prescribed fire safely and effectively with the help of fellow landowners. Additionally, the Missouri Department of Conservation offers workshops every year to educate landowners on safe techniques. Lastly, Quail Forever biologists and MDC staff write burn plans to give landowners a safe roadmap to burning success.

### Quarter Highlights

#### Conservation Planning

- 55 Landowner Contacts
- 32 Site Visits
- 5 Habitat Plans
- 27 Projects with acres

**Total Acres Impacted: 822.49**

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# Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



**Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland**

**Jan - March 2020**

## Outreach...

- **January 24** PFQF MO Hops for Habitat
- **January 25** PFQF MO State Convention
- **February 4-6** Missouri Natural Resource Conference
- **February 29** Ten Rivers PF Annual Banquet and habitat booth
- **March 7** Clark County Farm City Night

Hops for Habitat Photo: Sam Davis



## Landowner Workshops/ Tours ...

- **January 25** CRP presentation at the State Convention

## Trainings & Meetings...

- **January 7-9** MFA Agronomy Trainings on pasture, corn, and disease management
- **January 21** Precision Agriculture Demo meeting
- **January 24** Missouri Quail Summit hosted by MDC
- **January 29** NRCS Conservation Desktop and Protracts training
- **February 3** PFQF Team DISC assessment training
- **February 25** NRCS Area 2 Planners meeting
- **March 6** NRCS EQIP Rollout training



State Convention Photo: Sam Davis



Ten Rivers PF Youth Winners

## Quarter Highlights

### Outreach & Education

- *1 Landowners presentations*
- *5 Outreach Events*
- *1 article*

**Total Participants Reached: 154**



Farm City Night



# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



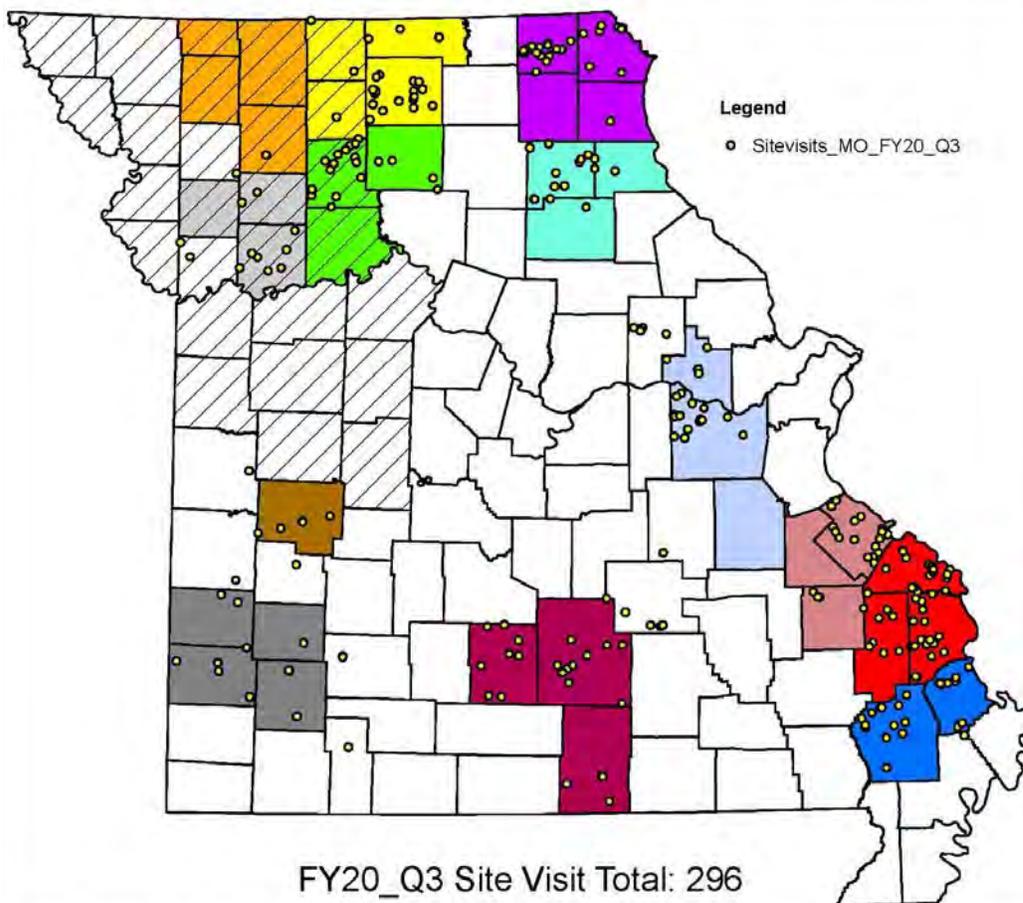
Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

Jan - March 2020

### Looking Forward...

- Continue to provide technical assistance to landowners
- Assist NRCS with EQIP and CSP applications and conservation planning
- Conservation planning of accepted CRP offers
- Rescheduled Women's Prescribed Fire workshop
- NRCS Soil Health and Sustainability training
- NRCS Cultural Resources Training in May
- Clark County Grazing School June 8-10
- Continue working with partners on a Precision Conservation pilot project

### Missouri PF/QF Footprint January - March 2020



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

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# Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



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

**January – March 2020**

## Position Update

Over the last 3 months I have been working to coordinate the monarch RCPP and other FY20 programs as signups were announced and program details have been developed. I've continued to build my leadership skills as PF/QF's Leadership Development Program starts to wrap things up, participants have selected final projects and will present them later this summer at the final session. I'm excited to get busy planning this year's monarch projects and working with landowners and planners alike to get some high-quality pollinator habitat on the ground.

## Hops for Habitat Pint Night

Back in January, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever in Missouri hosted their first official pint night! We were excited to see the amazing support for the event from chapter members, partners, and local outdoors folk interested in learning more about The Habitat Organization. Over 100 hunting, habitat, and conservation enthusiasts joined us for the evening at Logboat Brewing Company to relax, have fun, and talk about our passion for the outdoors.

On top of great local beers and food, door prizes, a membership raffle, and stylish PF/QF pint night merchandise made sure there was something for everybody. The pint night kicked off Quail Forever's 7th Annual State Convention which had over 200 in attendance. We want to thank everyone who came out for an evening



Quail Forever's Hops for Habitat Pint Night in Columbia had a terrific turn out of chapter members, partners, and folks interested in learning more about The Habitat Organization.

of fun, joined or renewed their membership, or attended the state convention. Because of your support we are able to deliver our organization's habitat mission here in Missouri.

### Conservation Planning

- 29 Landowner Contacts
- 13 NRCS Cons. Planner Contacts
- 1 Site Visit
- 1 Status Review

Events	# Attended
Agency or Partner Training	2
Professional Development	3

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# Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

**January – March 2020**

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>Missouri Natural Resources Conference</b>	Attended the Missouri Natural Resources Conference (MNRC) where I assisted with the student career fair, listened to talks on wildlife sciences, soil health, and other natural resource topics, and meet with other resource professionals.
<b>DISC Training</b>	Completed the DISC Assessment and attended a training to better understand the results of the assessment. This course helps to identify personality traits, communication styles, and strengths and weaknesses that may impact your work.
<b>MDC Quail Summit</b>	Attended Missouri Department of Conservation's Quail summit where I learned about the newest research and science related to upland wildlife habitat and management.

### Outreach & Education

- Assisted with a CRP landowner workshop for Caldwell and Daviess Counties
- Participated in monthly Leadership Development Program sessions, completed a leadership book, and began working on final case studies.
- Delivered radio program for Harrison County discussing program application deadlines for the

### Additional Work

- Assisted in reviewing wildlife/pollinator seed mixes for upcoming plantings.
- Developed reports for the Monarch RCPP and continued to assist with delivery across its range.
- Assisted in the development of program policy and ranking questions for the Monarch-RCPP in Missouri and Minnesota.

### Looking Forward

- I will work with local and Area Office staff to renew my NRCS conservation planner certification.
- 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 Summer 2020.
- Assist with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) planning as my time allows.
- Maintain my role in the Pollinator Habitat Working Group and sub-committees.
- Assist with the coordination and delivery of FY20 EQIP and CSP signups in Missouri and other RCPP states.

- 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.



A monarch butterfly feeds on a Purple Coneflower in Gentry County, MO last summer. Monarchs are making their way north currently and beginning to show up in the show-me state. Track their progress at [www.journeynorth.org](http://www.journeynorth.org).



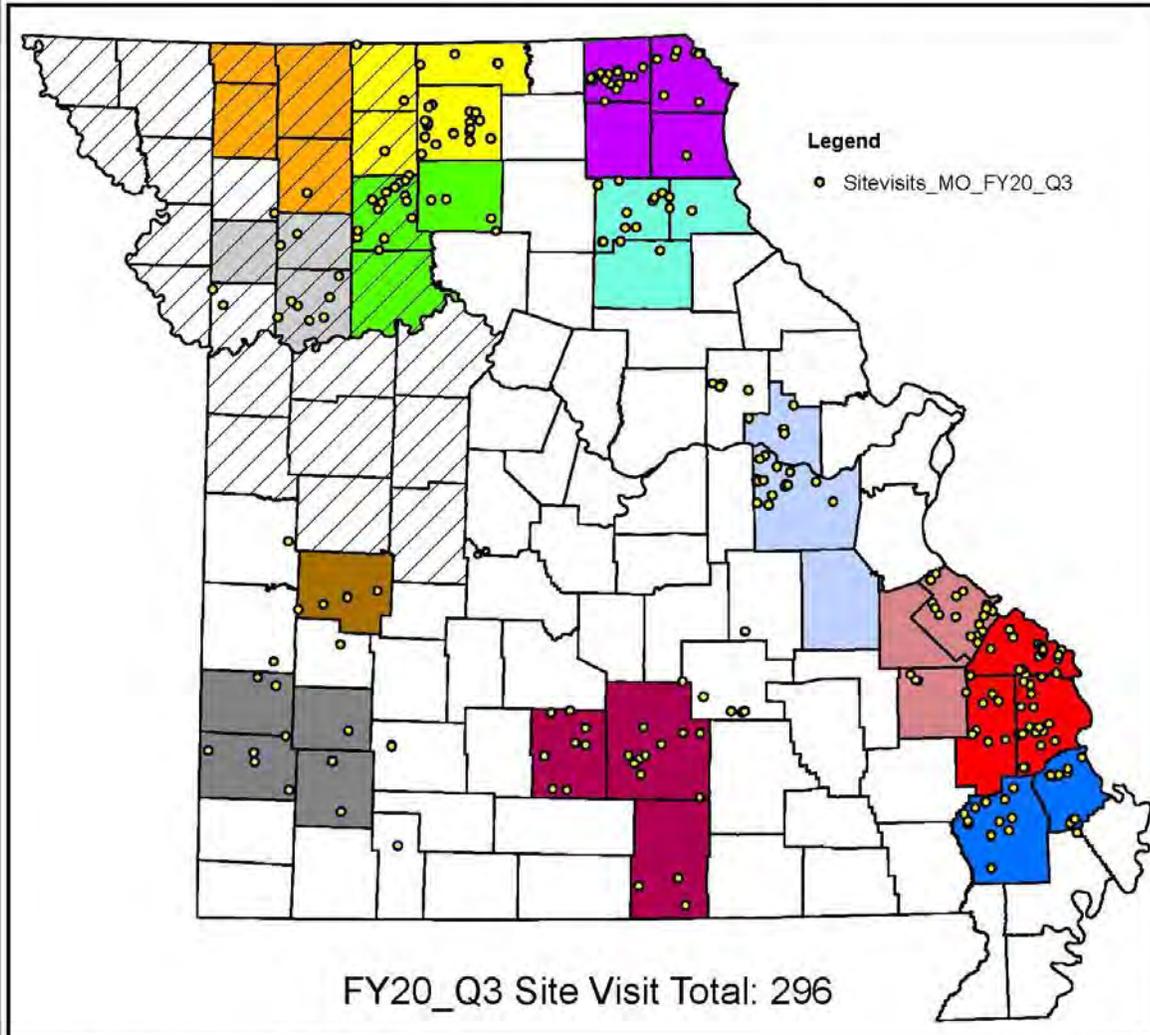
# Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



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

**January – March 2020**

## FY20 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP January 2020 - March 2020



\*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 4/13/2020



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

JAN – MAR 2020

### Quarterly Overview

This quarter seemed to fly by rather quickly. Looking back, it's hard to believe so much was fit into three months. I attended three conferences across the state, assisted with my first CRP general sign-up, helped seed a high-diversity native grass and forb plot with partners, and assisted partners with conducting prescribed fire. I also found time to work on my professional development and increase my conservation planning skills so I can better aid landowners with completing their conservation goals. It was productive quarter and I am grateful for all the opportunities it provided.

### Assisting Landowners With CRP

Starting in January, we were in the full swing of CRP sign-up 54. As landowners came in and discussed their plans with the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Programs Technician, I provided technical and wildlife advice to the landowners. Often times I met with landowners on their property to provide advice about what the best CRP practice would be to reach their goals. While on these site visits, I offered advice on invasive species and practices they could incorporate to increase the productivity of their property. No two visits were the same. Some customers wanted to farm part of their property, but were conscious of the need to incorporate conservation practices to protect the soil and water resources on their property as well. Yet others wanted to increase wildlife habitat. There were still some who simply wanted to do what's best for the land so their future generations could enjoy it as they had. Each landowner was unique and offered me a great opportunity to discover how I can use all the tools in my tool box to help them reach their goals. During the sign-up period I put on a workshops to help landowners understand the rules and requirements for the current sign-up. These workshops allowed me to make new connections with landowners and partners to help us all understand how to best utilize CRP.



Sign-in Table and welcome sign for the CRP workshop.



The left three photos are dormant native forbs and legumes covered in ice that I spotted on a CRP visit. They are Prairie Blazing Star, Round headed Clover, and Rattlesnake Master. The ice creates a unique glazed look to the plants.

Going out to the field not only helped the landowners, it helped me as well. While I was out looking at different properties and ecosystems, I discovered native plants which I had never seen before and after identifying them, I plan to incorporate these into future plans to benefit both Missouri's citizens and its wildlife.

A native vine I had never seen before called American Bittersweet. I hope to find a way to incorporate this in a future habitat plan.



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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JAN – MAR 2020

### Flowers on Valentines Day



On February 14th, I joined the local Grundy County MDC Private Lands Conservationist and USFWS Biologist to help a landowner seed a highly diverse native grass and forb mix. The total project was on a 16 acre hay field that was connected to the landowner's yard. 15 acres of the field was seeded as a 28 species forb mix with 5 native grasses. The remaining acre was seeded as a monarch pollinator garden that consisted of 50 different native forbs species and 2 native grasses. It was 28 degrees out with a wind chill bringing it down to 20 degrees, but there was light snow on the ground, which is perfect for seeding native wildflowers. We used a broadcast seeder and UTV to spread the mix and we are excited to see the stand mature in the coming years.



### Connecting with CFM

The Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) hosted their annual meeting in March. I was able to attend and share our story with several groups. On Friday, I spoke to the Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC), which is the student chapter of CFM.

(Top) 50 species Monarch Mix.  
(Bottom) Frost seeding in the snow.

(Top) Base of operations for the seeding.  
(Bottom) Close up of the 28 species grass and forb mix.

This group consists of high school juniors, seniors, and college students interested in a career in natural resources. I participated in CLC during my college days and it was where I first heard about Quail Forever. Connections made at CLC aided the start of my career. Myself and several other resource professionals who had graduated the CLC program provided networking and professional advice to the students. On Saturday, I had the opportunity to present in the Prairie and Grassland breakout group. I spoke about the role NRCS programs play in restoring native prairies and grassland in Missouri. There were several other breakout sessions and speakers I was able to listen to during the weekend. It was a refreshing time of connecting not only with conservation professional but citizens who have a dedicated interest in conserving Missouri's native communities. I look forward to exploring news ways that PF/QF Missouri can participate with CFM in the future.

### Missouri State Convention

In January, PF/QF Missouri hosted their annual State Convention. The State Convention is our premier event of the year where we invite all chapter members and those interested in conservation to come connect with the our staff. During the convention, we recognize the hard work of chapters, their members, and our partners we also educate the attendees about what PF/QF Missouri and our partners are doing to advance conservation in the state. We had a great turn out and a fantastic event. We were even able to tie the convention into the Missouri Department of Conservation's Quail Summit. Despite a snowy start, we enjoyed a fantastic weekend of gathering with like-minded folks dedicated to conserving Missouri's natural resources and native habitat.

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JAN – MAR 2020

Trainings and Outreach	Summary
<b>Missouri Natural Resource Conference</b>	Connected with former colleagues, professors, and partners to discuss new research that is being completed in Missouri's natural resource community. Provided professional advice to students studying natural resources during the career fair.
<b>Conservation Federation of Missouri</b>	Attended the CFM Annual Meeting and spoke in one breakout session about FBB's and NRCS Programs role in Missouri.
<b>Bobwhite Quail Summit</b>	Listened to several speakers talk about bobwhite quail research being conducted in Missouri.
<b>MO State Convention</b>	Connected with chapter members, partners, and landowners to discuss how QF MO is helping change Missouri's landscape with native habitat.
<b>Conservation Desktop Training</b>	Two day training course on a new mapping tool that will be used when planning NRCS practices.
<b>CRP Landowner Meeting</b>	Met with landowners and presented with partners about the new CRP sign-up.

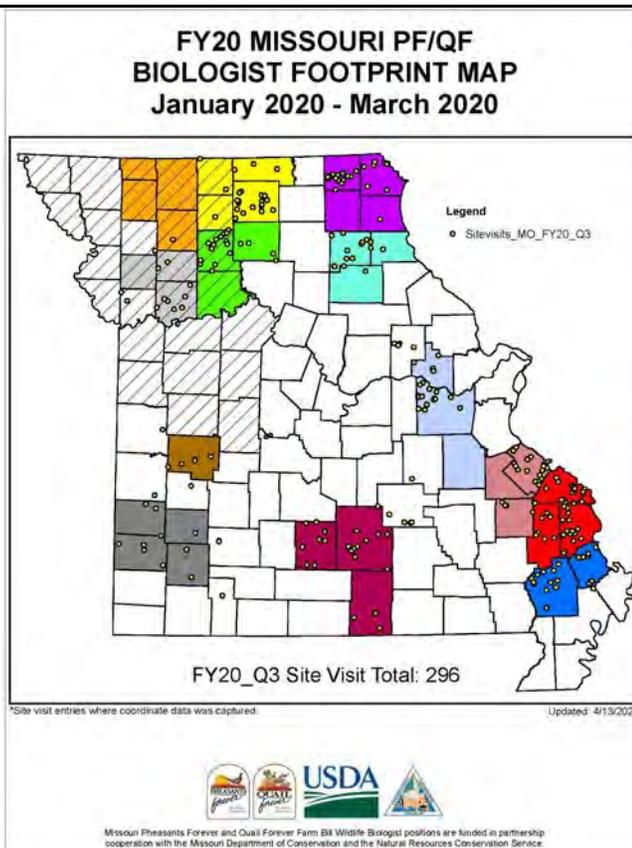
### Looking Forward

- June 12 Field day with Roeslein Alt. Energy
- TBD PF/QF South Region Team Meeting

#### Quarterly Numbers

- 68 Landowners Contacted
- 26 Site Visits
- 1 Outreach Event

Program	Impacted Ac.
CRP Programs	1,355.55
EQIP	5.6
HCG	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>1377.15</b>



*\*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



Kelsey DeZalia - Scott and Stoddard Counties

January 2020-March 2020

## Planting for the Future

On February 29, 4-H groups from Stoddard, Butler, New Madrid counties and children of some Corteva employees attended and participated in a Youth Pollinator Event located at the Corteva Agricultural Science facility in New Madrid county.



For the end of February, we got extremely lucky with the weather conditions.

With the sun shining on a 60 degree day, the kids started off at one of three stations. These included a "Pollinator-free Sundae activity" where Farm Bill Biologist **Wes Buchheit** displayed various pictures of sundae ingredients and went on to explain how little (or none) would be available if it weren't for pollinators. The kids received a sweet treat of a ice cream sandwich!



**Cory Stevens** (Steven's Bee Company) brought in an interactive bee-hive display and shared his tremendous knowledge and passion for these important critters. He was generous enough to bring in some of his home-made honey to share.



Private Land Conservationist (MDC) **Kara McSpadden** headed the third station with a "Seed Ball activity" where kids got to get their hands dirty by mixing soil, clay, and wildflower seed together and take their creation home to plant in their own gardens! (cont. pg. 2)





# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



**Kelsey DeZalia— Stoddard and Scott Counties**

**January 2020-March 2020**

*(cont. from pg. 1)*

For the finale we brought the 25 kids together and spread them out along the edge of the 2-acre prepared (burned) area. After some instructions from the biologists, with buckets full of seed and bodies full of anticipation, they were set loose. After a couple of passes, the buckets were empty but smiles found every face. With the hope that in only a couple hours, seeds were sown in the minds of everyone in attendance, the event came to it's conclusion.



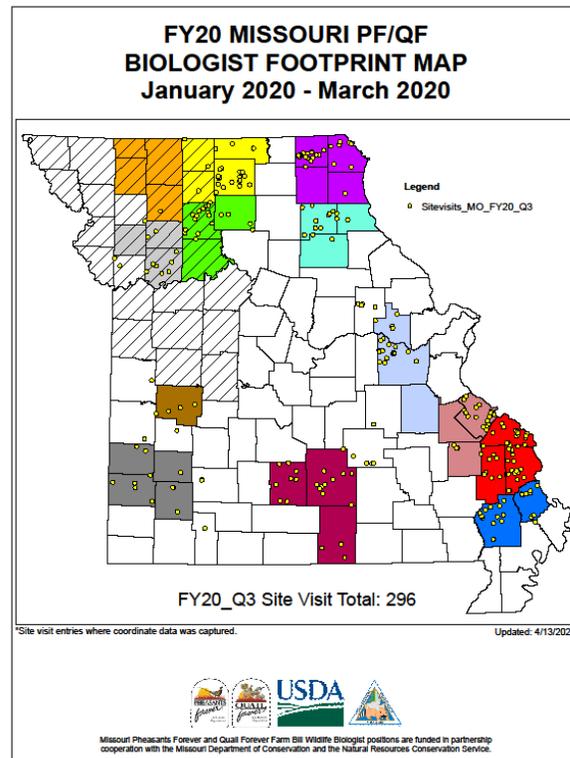
### **A Special Thank You To:**

- ⇒ The local Quail Forever Chapter – the Bootheel Bobwhites for their seed donation
- ⇒ Nathan Bengtson, Charlotte Butler and Corteva for the planting site, helping to organize the event, t-shirts for the kids, and ice cream
- ⇒ Richard Rickman and all other volunteers who helped set up, organize, and/or establish communication
- ⇒ The volunteers who ran the educational stations– Wes Buchheit, Kara McSpadden, Cory Stevens
- ⇒ The leaders of the 4-H groups for spending their Saturday in support of educating their groups
- ⇒ Orschlen Farm & Home for their donation of pine shavings as filler for the seed mix

## **In Other News....**

### **Our Reach**

The Farm Bill Biologists are constantly striving to reach more landowners. Alongside the regular technical assistance, the new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign up has kept everyone busy across the state and nation-wide. Our team in Missouri hosted numerous workshops in attempts to reach those landowners interested in enrolling their property in the program. Practices that fall under “Continuous CRP” can still be enrolled. Stop by your local FSA office to inquire about putting quality habitat on your property!



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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia— Stoddard and Scott Counties

January 2020-March 2020

### Boots on the Ground



During this “stay at home” order, Farm Bill biologists have been having various opportunities to assist landowners with various habitat management techniques, while taking proper social distancing measures. These include prescribed fire, spraying invasive species, timber stand improvements, etc. I have been fortunate enough to be included in some management practices and learn along-side some great MDC biologists.



### Conservation Technical Assistance

- 74 landowner contacts, 48 site visits
- Working through my first Habitat Challenge Grant opportunity
- Aided MDC with invasive species management on CRP
- Aided MDC/NRCS in Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) checkout
- Learned how to write burn plans
- Helped MDC biologists conduct prescribed fires
- Held CRP meetings in Scott/Stoddard for interested landowners
- Attended Conservation Planner and Conservation Desktop (computer program) training

### So what now during all this virus stuff?

Your local biologists are still readily available whenever you need assistance. For now, we have a different definition of a “home office” (if you cannot reach us at the office, please do not hesitate to e-mail us or call our cell phones). But that’s not stopping us! We are eager and ready to help in any way we can. We ask you be patient with us as we are now expected to only have remote landowners and take all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of everybody. We want to be out in the field, you’re not bothering us by asking us to be outside on a beautiful day to help you meet your wildlife/habitat goals



**Shameless Plug ->** Stay tuned into our Facebook and Instagram pages for posts on upcoming workshops, events, and what our biologists are doing across the state.



# Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Len Gilmore—St. Clair Co.

Jan – Mar 2020

### Position Update

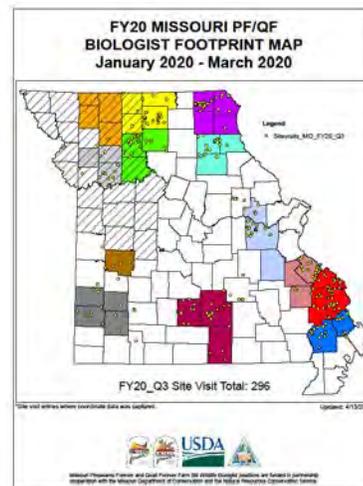
With the continuation of the push for producers to use native warm-season grasses and forbs in the forage base on their farms, Missouri Department of Conservation has partnered with University of Missouri Extension to conduct native warm season grass workshops for landowners. I worked with Missouri Department of Conservation Private Land Conservationist, Rick Rath, to finalize a presentation on managing native warm-season grasses to benefit wildlife. During the last part of January and into the first part of February several of these workshops were held by the Missouri University Extension in various locations on the west side of the state. I will continue promoting native forages into the production farming.

### People Learn about Pollinators and Eagles

Most folks look for any opportunity to get out of the house on a winter Saturday. The Eagle viewing event at Truman Visitor Center was finally held after the winter weather in January postponed it until the second Saturday in February. There were 202 people that attended to see eagles but also learned about about other natural things including pollinator plants. Many that came by the booth wanted to share how they are helping honey bees by planting clovers and other flowers that bees use. When asked about how long the roots on many of the perennial plants found on the farm they all knew that the roots of those plants grow a few feet deep into the soil. A display at the QF booth had a length of cord to represent the length of some of the native grasses and forbs root systems. Most would get their children, grand children, to pull on the cords across the room to see how long the roots of plants like Big Bluestem, Pale Purple Coneflower, and Compass Plant. They were astonished to see how long these roots go down into the ground compared to one of our well known grasses, Tall Fescue. This opened the door to discuss why these plants grow through drought periods and produce good forage during the



QF Booth gave the public opportunity to learn about pollinators and see how long the native plant roots go into the ground compared to non-native plants.



**Conservation Planning**

- 23 Landowner Contacts
- 14 Site Visits

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
Prescribed Burn	5
EQIP	3
CTA	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>



# Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Len Gilmore—St. Clair Co.

Oct – Dec 2019

## Outreach & Education

- Talked with 11 folks at a Prescribed Burn Association poster session at the Missouri Natural Resource Conference. Most had questions about how to setup a PBA and how the Upper Osage PBA functions.
- Gave a presentation at the MNRC Grazing Workshop co-sponsored by MFA about how conservation professionals should approach and work with grazing producers in managing their grazing system.
- During the Truman Reservoir Eagle Day event I manned a Quail Forever booth to discuss the importance of pollinators and showed that native warm-season grass and forbs have much longer roots than non-native forages.
- During the Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference I presented how to establish native grasses, legumes, and forbs for forage and habitat on the farm.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
MDC Quail Summit	Attended training about quail and grassland habitat held at the MU Bradford Farm in Columbia, MO.
MO Natural Resource Conference	Attended sessions on grassland management as it relates to Bobwhite quail survival and controlling invasive species.
NRCS Area 4 Training	Learning how to use Conservation Desktop in planning conservation projects.
MFA Grazing Workshop	Attended grazing/forage workshop sponsored by MFA in Vernon County that had Pat Keyser from the University of Tennessee talking to landowners about importance of using native warm-season grasses in their forage system.

## Looking Forward

- Get landowners to complete their prescribed burns for programs such as CRP and EQIP.
- Finalize draft of the Benefits of Native Forages pamphlet.
- Draft grazing contract for Spring Creek property.
- Schedule NWSG Workshops for this summer.
- Complete several site visits to complete wildlife or prairie management plans.



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



## Quarterly Partners' Report

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

January—March 2020

### FY20—Quarter 3

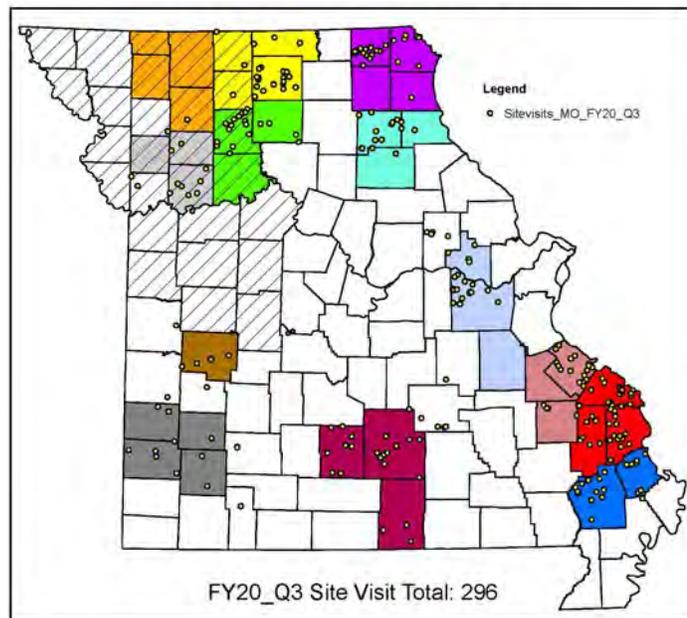
From January through March, our Missouri team conducted 296 site visits across 78 counties and logged 1,050 landowner contacts. Collectively, we impacted over 5,600 acres. Despite the inclement weather in January, we hosted a successful Annual State Habitat Convention that brought over 200 habitat enthusiasts and professionals from across the state.

I was happy to provide several landowners with conservation technical assistance (CTA). Much of the CTA from this quarter was focused on the General CRP sign-up and EQIP. As a result, I conducted 26 site visits and had 88 landowner contacts.

This quarter was a busy time for outreach. I engaged with over 1,000 individuals through landowner workshops, informational meetings, and outreach events.

I anticipate a full workload with CRP, EQIP, and CSP planning coming up and look forward to meeting new landowners aiming to put great wildlife habitat on the ground.

FY20 MISSOURI PF/QF  
BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP  
January 2020 - March 2020



\*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured. Updated: 4/13/2020



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 Technical Assistance Summary

Conservation Planning	Program	Acres Impacted	CRP Practice	Acres Impacted
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>88 Landowner Contacts</li> <li>26 Site Visits</li> <li>1 Conservation Plan written</li> <li>1 Prescribed Burn Plan written</li> <li>13 Status Reviews/Checkouts</li> <li>1,046 outreach participants</li> </ul>	EQIP	3	CP2
	CSP	-	CP12	7.4
	MDC LCAP	12	CP22	11.3
	QF Chapter	-	CP33	1.5
	Non-Program	-	CP42	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>237.04</b>

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



## Quarterly Partners' Report

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

January—March 2020

### Growing Outreach During the Dormant Season

While our native vegetation was dormant, conservation outreach was in full bloom across the state. Our 7th Annual State Convention was hosted in Columbia in January. To kick off the weekend, we held a Hops for Habitat Pint Night at the Logboat Brewing Company. This was a free event open to all who wanted to socialize and engage with habitat enthusiasts and chapter members. Some attendees left with some cool raffles and door prizes as well! Our state habitat meeting was full of informative sessions on a variety of topics such as habitat management, precision agriculture, current CRP sign ups, and habitat programs. It was also a perfect evening to recognize our chapters and partners for the hard work they do to meet our habitat mission in Missouri.

To get the word out on the current General and Continuous CRP sign ups, our Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist team held landowner informational meetings across the state during January and February. We discussed enrollment requirements, eligible practices, and answered landowner questions during these informational meetings. I assisted Wes Buchheit with meetings in Perryville and Jackson.

In February, Quail Forever participated in MDC's Winter in the Woods Festival at Rockwoods Reservation in the St. Louis area. This is an annual event where attendees learn about Missouri's natural resources and fun outdoor activities that can be done during the winter season. Over 900 attendees braved the brisk weather to participate in the event. Kim Cole, Missouri QF Outreach Coordinator, and I hosted a booth where we assisted both kids and adults with crafting butterflies made from clothespins and native wildflower seeds.

Locally, I was thrilled to present as part of MDC's Landowner Workshop Series at Mineral Area College in Park Hills. This series is held once a week in the month of February and features seminars on topics pertaining to fish, forest, and wildlife. I presented on the basics of quail habitat management for landowners. Topics discussed were bobwhite ecology, habitat requirements, beneficial habitat practices, and cost-share programs.

Community engagement is one of the goals I aim to focus on in my work area. In March, I had the opportunity to engage with Madison County 4H on the importance of pollinators and native plants. We discussed different species of native plants, how they are important to pollinators and soil health, and even guessed at how long each of their root systems were. To understand the importance pollinators play in our food production, we played a game of making our own ice cream sundaes and removing ingredients that require insect pollination. Many of the kids and parents were surprised to find out that all of their ingredients were made possible by pollinators in some aspect.



**Top:** Quail Forever participated in the annual Winter in the Woods Festival at Rockwoods Reservation. Pictured is Kim Cole, Missouri QF Outreach Coordinator.

**Middle:** Native seed butterflies were made by attendees who visited the Quail Forever booth. Many crafted their butterflies to represent their favorite sports teams.

**Bottom:** Rachel Settle teaches Madison County 4H youth about the importance of pollinators to food production and agriculture.

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

January—March 2020

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>MFA Forage Grass and Legume Production Training</b>	Learned about various forage systems for cattle to better serve cattle producers
<b>MDC SEPLS Meeting</b>	Met with MDC Southeast Private Lands staff to provide update on current projects
<b>Ste. Genevieve County SWCD Board Meeting</b>	Provided updates on current habitat projects and upcoming workshops
<b>Missouri Quail Summit</b>	Met with other quail habitat management professionals and landowners to learn the latest on quail management in Missouri
<b>Extended DISC Training</b>	Participated in a QF team training to understand communication profiles and improve our team communication effectiveness
<b>Madison County SWCD Board Meeting</b>	Provided updates on current habitat projects and upcoming workshops
<b>NRCS Area 3 Civil Rights Meeting</b>	Attended annual training and received area updates on staffing/procedures
<b>Missouri Natural Resources Conference</b>	Networked with natural resource professionals and attended various natural resource management seminars; assisted with student job fair
<b>Water Management Training</b>	Completed online AgLearn training required for Certified Conservation Planner
<b>Phosphorous Management and Concerns Training</b>	Completed online AgLearn training required for Certified Conservation Planner
<b>Air Quality, Climate Change, and Energy Training</b>	Completed online AgLearn training required for Certified Conservation Planner
<b>Pest Management and Water Quality Concerns</b>	Completed online AgLearn training required for Certified Conservation Planner
<b>Environmental Evaluation Webinar Series No. 3—11</b>	Completed online AgLearn training required for Certified Conservation Planner

### Looking Forward

- Obtain NRCS Apprentice Conservation Planner and continue working towards Conservation Planner certification
- Continue getting to know landowners in my counties and building relationships with partners
- Get out into the woods and (hopefully!) harvest a turkey!

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

January—March 2020

### Upcoming Workshops\*

#### Women Caring for the Land: Wildlife and Pollinator Habitat

**When:** Tuesday, June 9, 8:30 AM—3:30 PM

**Where:** 1101 Weber Road, Farmington

**RVSP before June 5:** Kim Cole (573) 356-0298 or [kcole@quailforever.org](mailto:kcole@quailforever.org)

This is a women-centered workshop for female landowners (operating and non-operating) that include a morning meeting and discussion followed by lunch and a hands-on field tour. Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists Rachel Settle and Kelsey DeZalia will talk with landowners about establishing habitat for wildlife and pollinators. Limited space available.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pollinator and Quail Habitat Tour

**When:** Friday, June 12, 5:00 PM—8 PM

**Where:** Loehnig Farm; Intersection of HWY T and BB approx. 6 miles east of Womack and 17 miles west of Perryville; watch for signs

**RVSP before June 8:** Rachel Settle (573) 883-2703 ext. 8078 or [rsettle@quailforever.org](mailto:rsettle@quailforever.org)

Tour managed pollinator and quail habitat, learn about establishment and maintenance, pollinator benefits for wildlife, and available cost-share programs. Meal provided. Limited space available.

**\*Public health and safety is a priority. Workshops may be postponed due to COVID-19.**

**Want to learn more about prescribed fire in Missouri?  
Visit the Missouri Prescribed Fire Council's new website:  
[www.moprescribedfire.org](http://www.moprescribedfire.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



## Quarterly Partners' Report

Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

January-March 2020

### Prepping for planning

After the holidays, there is usually a lull in the workload and time to catch up on those projects that were set on the back burner, but not this year! After the long awaited announcement for the General CRP signup that hit in December, the prep for planning began. With limited information to work with for the offer period, local partners put heads together and took to the field. NRCS, FSA, MDC, and QF staff spent a day on a few CRP offers to evaluate the conditions of the fields together to create consistency across county lines. Once we were all on the same page, we went to work assessing all the eligible offers (listed as "status reviews" in the table below) to give the best information available to the landowner before they signed the offer. A big thanks FSA for organizing the offers and to NRCS and All Solutions staff for initiating the Conservation Desktop planning portion of these offers to get us a head start on the planning process. At the end of March, FSA announced 97% of Missouri offers were accepted so the planning continues!



<u>Conservation Planning</u>	Conservation Program	Acres Impacted
• 147 Landowner Contacts	EQIP	228.2
• 46 Site Visits	CRP	676.3
• 7 Conservation Plans Written	CSP	12.4
• 25 Status Review/Practice Checkouts	MDC LCAP	144.7
• 2 Prescribed Burn Plans Written	QF Chapter	167.6
• 9 Prescribed Burn Plans Reviewed	Conservation Technical Assistance	51
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,280.2</b>

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III



## Quarterly Partners' Report

Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

January-March 2020

### New resource for prescribed fire!

With the help of PF/QF in Missouri staff, the Missouri Prescribed Fire Council (MPFC) launched its new website to better serve the citizens and resource professionals of the state with all things related to prescribed fire. Visitors of the site can find information about the structure and success of prescribed burn associations, upcoming workshops and events, and the new tool for logging completed prescribed burns. Everyone is encouraged to enter prescribed burn information as the data will help tell the story to legislators, insurance companies, and others that this is a safe and effective management tool. Find out more on the website by visiting [moprescribedfire.org](http://moprescribedfire.org)!



Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>Missouri Quail Summit</b>	Attended this event available to resource professionals and landowners with presenters sharing knowledge on a variety of topics related to quail management.
<b>PF/QF in Missouri State Convention</b>	Attended and helped host the 7th annual convention. The event was a success with chapter volunteers, landowners, partners and more enjoying the Friday Hops for Habitat followed by Saturday's State Habitat Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Reception.
<b>PF/QF in Missouri Team Personality Profile Training</b>	Individuals of the team completed the DISC assessment and learned about how to effectively communicate according to personality preferences.
<b>Missouri Prescribed Fire Council Meeting</b>	Provided position statement in support of legislation that defines liability relating prescribed fire and affordable insurance. Also discussed action items setting the date for the annual meeting and overhauling the website.
<b>NWCG S130, S190, L180 Refresher and WCT</b>	Completed the refresher course to maintain the wildland fire red card as a requirement to participate with federal partners on prescribed burns and to review prescribed burn plans for planners.
<b>NRCS Civil Rights Training</b>	Attended training to learn about navigating active shooter situations and a separate topic of generational awareness—how to communicate with members of other generations.

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III **USDA**

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

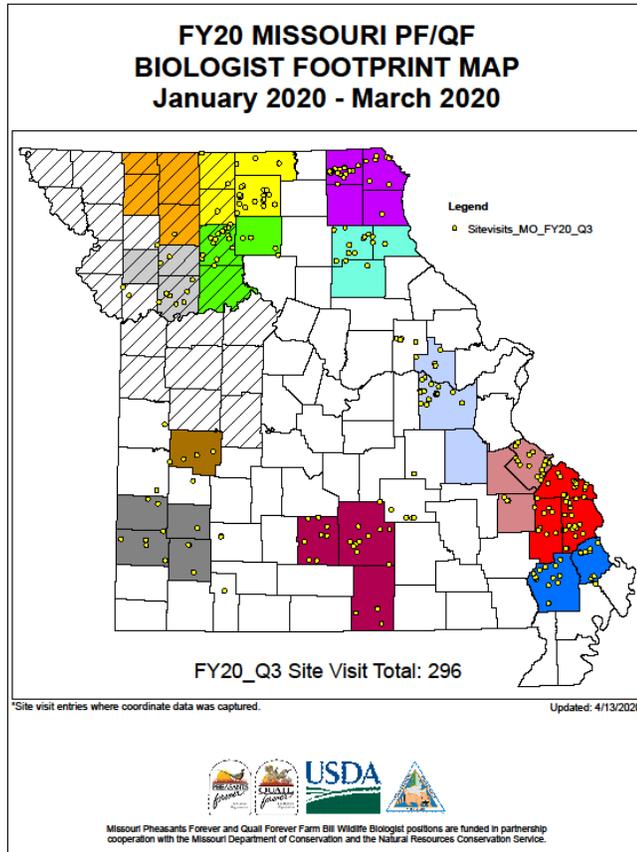
**January-March 2020**

### Outreach & Education

- Worked with FSA, NRCS, and MDC to host CRP signup informational meetings in Perryville and Jackson for landowners. A big thanks to Rachel Settle, QF FBWB, for presenting!
- With the help of landowner and prescribed fire practitioner, Paul Breitenstein, presented "Great Habitats Require Fire" at the MDC Nature Center's Native Plant Seminar.

### Looking Forward

- Assisting with the cost estimates, raking, and planning of EQIP applications.
- Continue CRP planning for accepted offers.
- Perry County Women in Ag pollinator tour.



*Left: Native grass pasture waiting for warmer weather to start producing forage.*

- Missouri Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting and Workshop in Kirksville, June 6.
- Continue to assist landowners with site visits to identify landowner objectives and habitat opportunities.
- Turkey season!



**The Habitat Organization**

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

**January-March 2020**

### Youth Pollinator Planting

Late summer last year I was approached by Nathan Baily of New Haven, who was interested in converting a portion of his lawn in town to native pollinator habitat. Initially he was looking for recommendations on what to plant and how to go about it in a roughly 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> area he'd been covering with a tarp to smother the existing turf grass. During our conversation, Quail Forever's mission of getting youth outdoors came up and with Mr. Baily, being a retired educator, this stuck a cord. I told him about a group at the local high school called the Shamrock Conservation Association and how they are always looking for new opportunities for students to get hands-on experience in the area of conservation. The original area he intended on planting was within a larger half acre area he mowed throughout the summer. With the opportunity of getting a local school group involved Mr. Bailey was on board with planting the entire half acre area. This was ideal for the local Chapter to take advantage of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever's partnership with Corteva. Through this partnership local Chapters can get reimbursed for events that get youth groups hands on experience with establishing pollinator habitat.



Members of the Shamrock Conservation Association helping plant pollinator habitat.

- Conservation Planning**
- 66 Landowner Contacts
  - 28 Site Visits
  - 7 Burn Plans Written Covering 341 ac

Practice Check-Outs	Acres
Pollinator/Monarch Planting	40.8
Brush Management	5.3
Timber Stand Improvement	1.8
Edge Feathering	1.1
Prescribed Burn	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>MFA Livestock Forage Training</b>	Learned about common livestock production practices and how MFA works with producers to help improve their operations.
<b>MO Quail Summit</b>	Learned about the most recent research on quail habitat use and response to common management practices.
<b>MO State Convention</b>	Connected with Chapter volunteers from across the state, shared information on what QF/PF is doing at a national level, and helped educate Chapters on current research and partnerships.
<b>DISC Training</b>	As the MO QF team we learned about our own personalities and thinking styles and how they impact the way we work with one another and others.
<b>MO Natural Resources Conference</b>	Connected with other natural resource professionals and learned about current research and management techniques being implemented by other professionals.

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

**January-March 2020**

### Youth Pollinator Planting Cont.

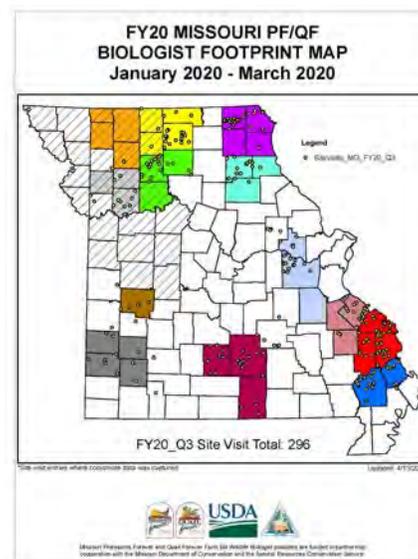
The existing turf grass was sprayed and killed with herbicide which was then followed by a prescribed burn to remove excess thatch. On February 10<sup>th</sup> students from New Haven High School's Shamrock Conservation Association and Environmental Science class helped broadcast a diverse mix of native forbs and grasses. Prior to the planting date I presented to both groups on the importance of pollinators and their habitat. The day of the planting I asked Nathan to give a brief talk on why he was interested in taking on this project. He told the students that his overarching goal is to provide habitat to native pollinators that we rely on and to leave his little patch of land better than he found it for future generations to benefit from. Small diverse plantings in towns won't really move the needle for quail, but what they can do is benefit pollinators that we need. More importantly these native plantings connect residents that may not experience it otherwise to the benefits and beauty of our native plant communities.



The group of students from New Haven High School who helped plant pollinator habitat.

### Outreach & Education

- Attended a meeting of the New Haven Garden Club and talked with them about Quail Forever's mission and how that relates to native plants and pollinator habitat.
- Presented to the Environmental Science class of New Haven High School on what Quail Forever is about and the importance of pollinators and their habitats. This is in preparation for a pollinator planting they will be helping with in New Haven in the coming months.
- Assisted the local Private Lands Conservationist with a Landowner Prescribed Burn workshop in Warrenton. This teaches landowners how to properly and safely utilize prescribed fire to benefit wildlife.
- Along with the Farm Services Agency and Missouri Dept. of Conservation, hosted an informational meeting on the most recent General CRP sign-up.



### Looking Forward

- As FSA notifies landowners about their CRP offers, I will assist NRCS with planning those CRP practices.
- I will assist NRCS in planning conservation practices for accepted EQIP and CSP contracts.
- Assist with planning the annual MO Prescribed Fire Council Meeting in early June 6th..
- Through landowner contacts I will continue to share the Quail Forever mission and help get anyone interested involved with their local QF chapter.