



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III



Quarterly Partners' Report

Andrew White - Livingston, Linn, and Carroll Counties

July – September 2020

Beating the Deadline(s)



While a majority of the first quarter for FY21 was spent at my desk assisting partners in planning EQIP and CSP, CRP kept me quite busy with juggling the September 11 Conservation Planning deadline, as well as getting a start on FY21 site visits. I anticipate being completed with those site visits by the end of October, well ahead of the December 1 deadline.

Even though my offices and I were extremely busy with the heaviest program workload we have seen in over a decade, not once was I worried about meeting, and even beating the deadlines ahead of us. Extremely busy times like these help me reflect on just how fortunate I am to work with a great group of folks from

partnering agencies, as well as my PF/QF team. I would be lying if I said it wasn't challenging at times, but we made it happen and put quality conservation acres on the ground, TOGETHER.

Although the deadlines have passed and a brunt of the workload has relatively subsided, we are still busy helping landowners by reviewing seed mixes, performing status reviews on contracts up expiring, GPS-flagging pollinator and food plots, and working at getting ahead of what FY21 will bring us. Completing the CRP status reviews prior to the sign up allows us to assist landowners in making informed decisions on what is currently out there and provide them options and scenarios to boost the EBI score, if they choose to re-enroll.

There is no doubt in my mind that we will make those deadlines in the not-too-distant future, all while providing quality service to our producers and putting those programs to work conserving the amazing natural resources Missouri has to offer.

Conservation Planning

- 405 Landowner Contacts
- 43 Site Visits
- 224 Conservation Plans Written/Modified
- 42 Status Review/Checkout
- 1 Rx Burn Plan written

Programs	Acres Impacted
FSA	8,157.34
NRCS	27.2
OTHER	3.84
TOTAL	8,188.38

Looking Forward

- Complete FY21 expiring CSP status reviews
- Prep for CRP Sign Up 55 and 56 (December)
- NBCI October Covey Counts
- Continue providing quality technical service to landowners and partners



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Site visits are one of my favorite aspects of the job. I get to see some really interesting plants and topography. More importantly, I enjoy getting the chance to see how some of these projects progress and mature and the wild creatures utilizing them. Here are a few pictures I snapped while out and about completing status reviews this year.



1) CP38E - Quail SAFE field (with food plot)

2) Maximilian Sunflower - *Helianthus maximiliani*

3) Common Milkweed - *Asclepias syriaca*

4) Stiff-leaved Goldenrod - *Solidago rigida*

5) Wild Bergamot - *Monarda fistulosa*

6) Black-eyed Susan - *Rudbeckia hirta*

7) Great Blue Lobelia - *Lobelia siphilitica*

8) Tall Boneset - *Eupatorium altissimum*

Page 1, top left: New England Aster - *Symphotrichum novae-angliae* | Bottom right: CP42 Pollinator plot



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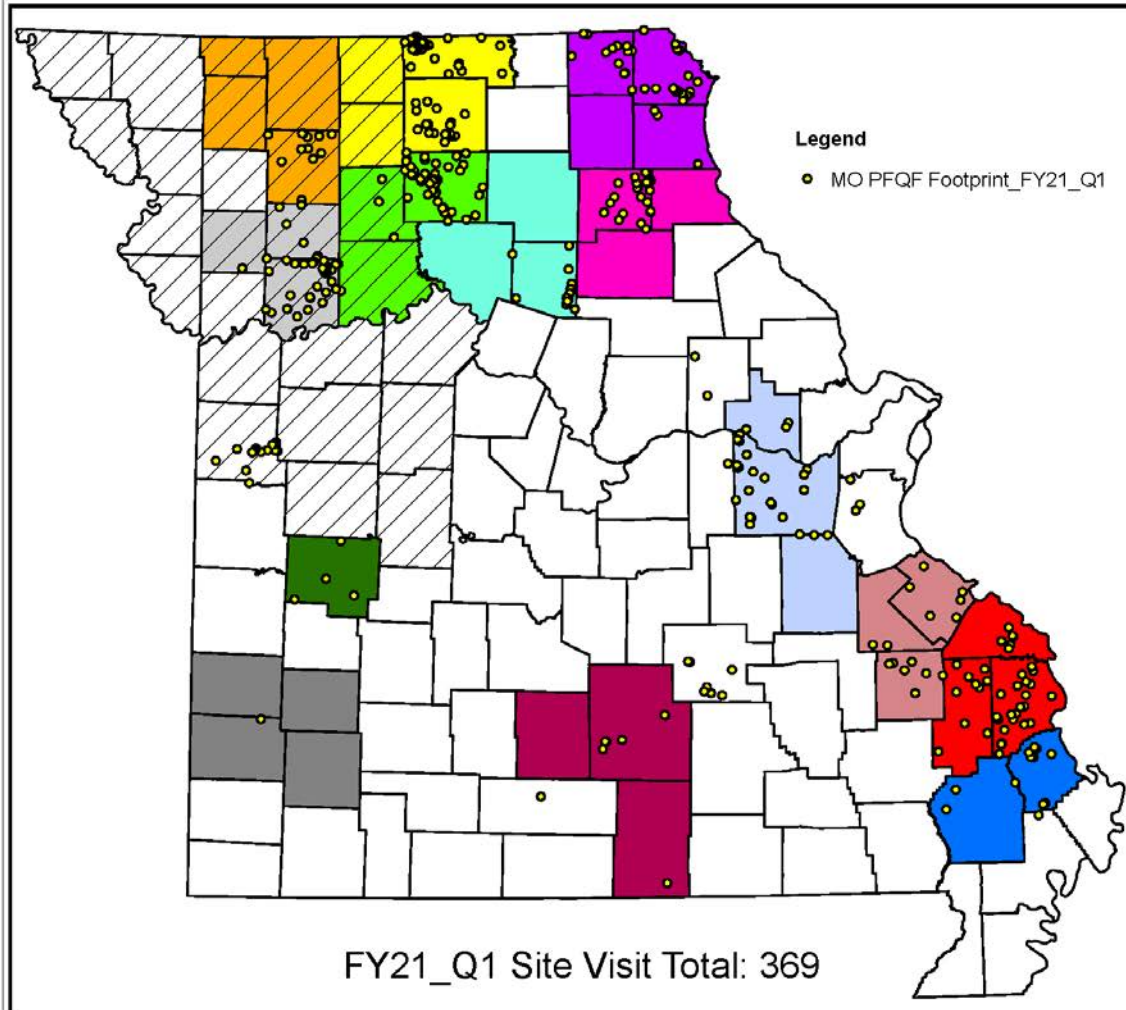


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FY21 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP July 2020 - September 2020



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 10/13/2020



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



Colby Sharp - Texas, Wright, and Howell Counties

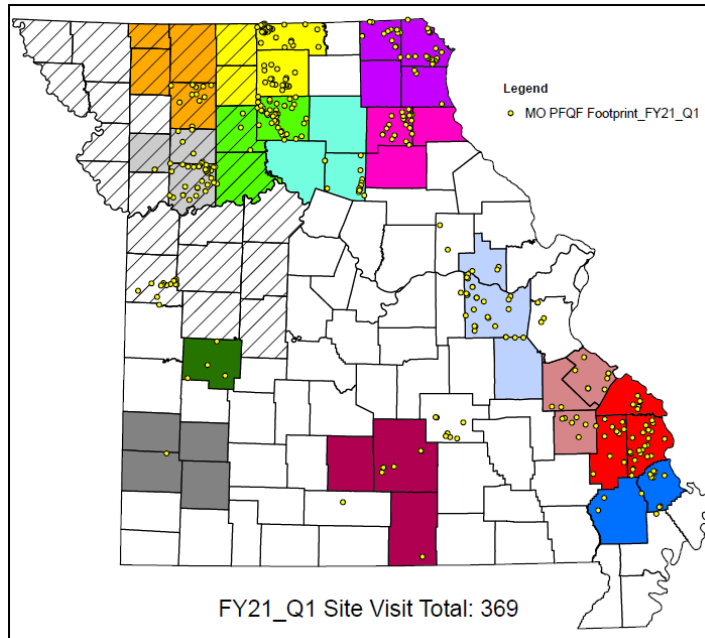
July – September 2020

This Past Quarter...

Its been a busy quarter full of Farm Bill program contracting and project status reviews throughout the Ozarks. Program planning and reviews in the field included multiple practices such as glade restoration, prescribed burning, forest stand improvement, and riparian buffers.

When I was not working on program contracting or in the field reviewing projects, I was assisting landowners with questions about the benefits of monarch plantings, edge feathering, and woodland restoration. During this time I also assisted partners with EQIP, CSP, and LCAP applications, contract eligibility reviews, mapping, seed mix creation and seed mix review. Checkout the above map to see 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 July – September 2020



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 10/13/2020



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Conservation Planning

- 158 Landowner Contacts
- 14 Site Visits
- 11 Conservation Plans Completed
- 3 Status Reviews/Checkouts
- 46 Ranking and Eligibility
- 1 Article Written

Program	Acres Impacted
EQIP	304.5
CSP	0.5



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Colby Sharp - Texas, Wright, and Howell Counties

July – September 2020

“To Seed or Not to Seed”

There is often the assumption among landowners and even some professionals that if the goal is to have native early successional habitat, then a wildflower seeding is required, but this is not always the case. The history of that specific piece of ground has a drastic effect on what will germinate after non-native plants are removed. When assessing a site, we have to ask the right questions to understand how to get the site back to its native state. Was the site over-grazed, hayed, or left to fallow? Has there been a broadleaf herbicide regimen on the site for multiple years? When was the last time that it was burned? All of these questions give answers that slowly paint a picture of what to expect when converting back to native early successional habitat.



(1) Pasture that was left to grow after over-grazing from previous owners. Shows to have great diversity of grasses and forbs

To get a better understanding of what plant species are present in the native seed bed, it is recommended that competition, especially non-native plant species, be removed and a prescribed burn be performed to see what germinates and grows during the first growing season after the project begins before seeding. In areas where continuous over-grazing or heavy use of broadleaf herbicide was present, there is high likelihood that the seed bed will be less diverse and have more generalist species. This is a scenario where a native seeding may be needed to increase diversity. When looking at a site that has been left fallow or has had burning in the past, the seed bed will likely have a high diversity of plant species with potential of having remnant species from



(2) Old field left to fallow for many years, with great diversity but invasive species invasion.

its original native state of prairie, savannah, or woodland, thus not needing a native seeding.

It is important to remember that these two scenarios are not always the case, where over-grazing equals bad or fallow means good. For example, in picture 1 above this pasture has a history of being over-grazed but shows to have a great diverse seed bed. If left to fallow you can have a great seed bed but may have issue with invasive species such as sericea like on the site in picture 2 to the left. So before deciding to put native seed on the ground, be sure to remember that history makes a difference and you may already have a great seed bed just waiting to germinate after removing competition.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Colby Sharp - Texas, Wright, and Howell Counties

July – September 2020

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Quail Forever and USFS Collaboration Field Meeting	Participated in meeting that discussed future work on public land in Howell County through a collaboration between Heart of the Ozarks Quail Forever Chapter and USFS
MDC Farm Bill Training	Attended MDC training that covered Farm Bill programs and how to best implement wildlife and forestry practices on private land.
NRCS CSP Meeting/ Training	Attended NRCS FOSA meetings where we discussed a CSP practices that we would be seeing in older contracts that may not be available in new contracts, as well as discussed game plan for CSP payments and renewals.

Looking Forward

- Assist NRCS with site visits for new EQIP and CSP applications for wildlife and forestry practices.
- Create LCAP/HCG management plans for landowners that are interested in state and local cost share.
- Evaluate new methods for holding education workshops, and providing assistance during continuing pandemic.
- Continue to assist landowners and producers with Farm Bill programs, while continuing to further my understanding of EQIP, CSP, and MDC's LCAP 2021 planning.



Newly cut red cedars on a Glade Restoration project in Texas County, Missouri.



Green Antelope Horn Milkweed seed pods releasing seed at sunset on a property in Texas County, 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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Activity Highlights

Conservation Planning

- 102 Landowner Contacts
- 23 Site Visits
- 74 Projects with Acres
- 5 Attended Webinars

Outreach

- 2 Events
- 1 Articles

Total Acres Impacted: 1689.48 acres

New location, same great MISSION!

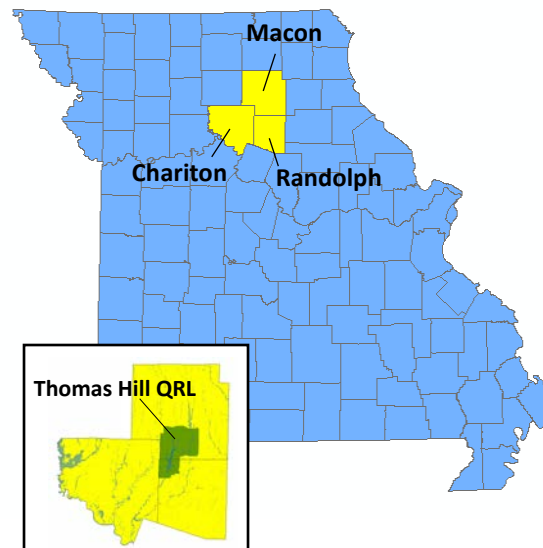
This quarter produced new and exciting opportunities as I transitioned to the new FBWB position serving Randolph, Chariton, and Macon Counties. My position, housed in the NRCS office, is located at the USDA Service Center in Moberly, MO. This is the first PF/QF partnership position serving these counties and provides technical assistance to the area's farmers, recreational landowners, and anyone looking to improve wildlife habitat on their acres. My workload

has been dominated by CRP efforts. Following hundreds of field checks the previous quarter, I assisted with plan writing and provided technical assistance to newly contracted and re-enrolled landowners this quarter. I am quickly learning the area and becoming familiar with the local resources. In preparation of the next CRP sign-up, CRP status reviews are underway to evaluate field conditions of expiring contracts in Randolph County. This will enhance technical assistance given when landowners inquire about CRP re-enrollment of expiring acres. After completing reviews for Randolph County, my efforts will shift to Chariton and Macon Counties as I assist with any remaining status reviews.

In addition to the heavy CRP workload that dominates this area, I plan to provide targeted technical assistance within the local Quail Restoration Landscape (QRL). The Thomas Hill QRL is a priority area surrounding the Thomas Hill Reservoir southwest of Macon, MO. MDC has incentivized quail habitat enhancements in this area by providing additional aid for habitat improvements to encourage landscape scale impacts and increase quail numbers within this dedicated area.

Although we are currently faced with challenging times, I will continue to look for ways to stay connected with the local community, as well as my assigned offices. I look forward to meeting the professionals within my work area and develop strong working relationships in the upcoming months.

Work Area Coverage Map





Dedicated Volunteers



Our annual Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever District meeting for the central and northeastern chapters was held on August 3rd in Macon, MO. The PF/QF Regional Representative, Trevor Day, introduced innovative ways for chapters to engage with their local communities to combat the COVID-19 challenges. With many

events cancelled and banquets postponed, we discussed ways to conduct online auctions, drive-thru banquets and much more. This year is the year to think outside of the “box” and that is what has happened. Chapters have held online sponsorship drives and initiated new ways to hold raffles. One of our newest chapters even hosted a 3-D Archery Tournament that was quite successful.

Mentored Dove Hunt

Regardless of this year’s challenges, the Mark Twain Quail Forever Chapter of Paris was able to host their annual dove hunts. Of course, it looked a little different this year as we took extra measures to conduct a safe yet exciting event. The end result was the same as previous years, a SUCCESS! We had a total of 23 mentors, 17 youth hunters, and 1 new hunter that attended one or more of our three hunts. A big thanks to NWTF, MDC, and the Kendrick family for making this event possible each year. Here are a few moments we captured from the event.





Going the Extra Mile

Shelby County



John Behr, a Shelby County landowner, showcases the progress he has made as he prepares his fields for a new CP42 seeding. John used prescribed fire in September and plans to follow with an herbicide treatment on the regrowth to prepare his acres for a broadcast seeding this winter.

Randolph County



While conducting field reviews on expiring CRP acres, I had the opportunity to inventory a very well maintained CP33 buffer in Randolph County. This buffer along the perimeter of a soybean field had over 20 native species when I visited in August.

Frank Russel Prairie Project



I was asked to participate in the planning and preparation of some exciting work being done to restore a prairie site near the Frank Russel campground at Mark Twain Lake. This is one of several restorations the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has engaged in. I look forward to the progress of these projects and future collaboration.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Courtney Nicks - Randolph, Chariton, & Macon Counties

July–September 2020

Quail Forever Partners with MDC to Promote MRAP

Our Quail Forever team has several internal committees that focus on specific commitments and interests. These are things such as Prescribed Fire, Precision Ag, and Grazing. I lead the MRAP committee in our efforts to promote the use and awareness of MDC's MRAP properties across the state. With that said, QF in Missouri has recently initiated a **Mentor Challenge** encouraging hunters to take new hunters and youth hunters hunting on these public use areas. Entering their hunt on our website offers each participant a chance to win a \$300 gift certificate. Make sure to visit our website and participate now through the end of November!

PRIZES

Oct 1—Nov. 30, 2020!
HUNTER MENTOR CHALLENGE!

Winner's Choice!
\$300 Gift Card

ALPS OUTDOORS, Bass To Shops, REEDS

3 EASY STEPS!

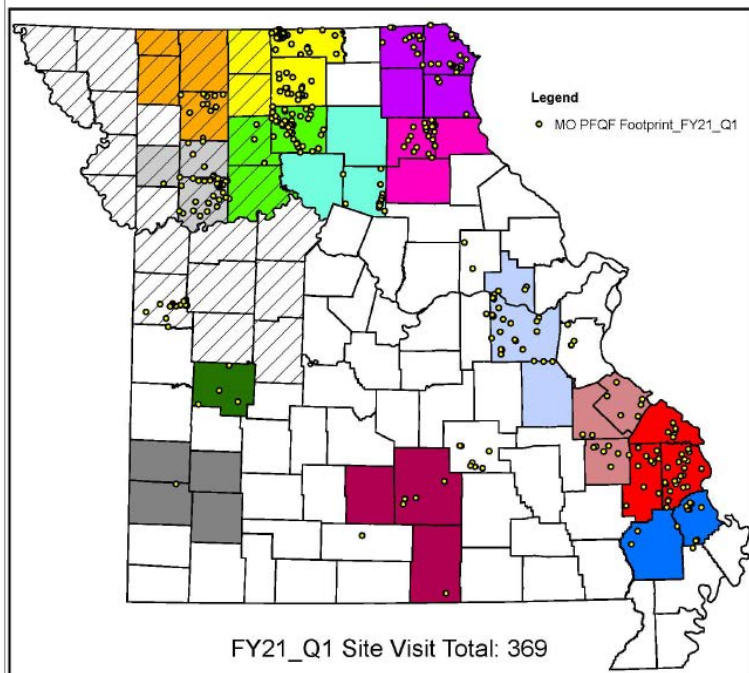
1. Take a new hunter or youth hunter hunting on an MRAP property. October through November.
2. Take a photo of yourself and the Mentee in front of the MRAP sign.
3. Complete and submit an entry form for each MRAP visit (one entry per day).

Visit www.MissouriPFQF.org for complete rules and entry form!

Rules & Entry Form

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FY21 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP July 2020 - September 2020



Looking Forward, I will...

- Complete field reviews for expiring CRP acres
- Assist with EQIP conservation planning
- Consult with landowners to write wildlife management plans
- Hold a virtual Mark Twain Prescribed Burn Association meeting
- Become acquainted with local staff within my work area to extend my reach throughout my counties

FOR UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

visit

<https://missouripfqf.org/events-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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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

July — September 2020

The Broader the Better

In his last two “Conservation Conversations” emails to NRCS and partner staff, State Conservationist, Scott Edwards, has begun referring to us, collectively with the land-owners and stewards we serve, as the *Missouri Conservation Movement*. Though I have not yet heard his articulated vision for where he would like said movement to go, or how exactly he envisions it getting there, I wholeheartedly embrace the language nonetheless.

A movement carries momentum; it builds on past successes and looks strategically to the future. It seeks progress. In my mind, a successful conservation movement must both *activate* and *retain* participants, and needs to consistently look to broaden its coalition. Simply put, there needs to be enough room aboard for all “stakeholders”.

Not unlike any small town diner, every USDA office has its “regulars”, fixtures in the county’s conservation efforts. It might appear to some that these producers have simply cracked the code to unlock government assistance with their farming operations, but in truth, the terrace and cover-crop dollars run deep, and these farmers have been consistently courted for decades. Still, it’s always nice to see some new faces walk through the door. And now, thanks to provisions in the Agricultural Act of 2014 assisting historically underserved farmers and ranchers, and those in the 2018 Farm Bill doubling financial allocations to wildlife-specific practices, I believe we are seeing just that.

This past quarter, we were able to obligate a tremendous number of EQIP and RCPP-Monarch contracts for Ray, Caldwell, and Clinton County for landowners seeking assistance with wildlife habitat restoration projects. I worked closely with 24 of these participants, many of whom fall into the category of traditionally underserved stakeholders. *Continued —>*

Conservation at a Glance

- 130 Landowner Contacts
- 42 Site Visits
- 4 Presentations (103 attendees)
- 79 Conservation Plans Completed

Program Involvement	Acres Impacted
CRP	2,470
CSP	88
EQIP	362
RCPP—EQIP	123
Total	3,043

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

July — September 2020

The Broader the Better *continued*

Of those 24 participants, 75% are so-called non-operating landowners, meaning they own land, but choose to either idle the ground, or rent it out to another operator to hay, graze, or row-crop. Moreover, exactly half of those 24 landowners are considered beginning farmers, a group that NRCS officially recognizes as having been historically underserved by the agency. Thus, we are indeed engaging a new audience, and it's a trend I believe will continue.

The prevalence of off-farm income is steadily growing in Missouri's rural communities, and it will continue to do so. This leaves new, non-operating owners and retired farmers with a quandary: what to do with the land. Ground with recent crop history often gets put back into production, or perhaps CRP, but those on less arable land typically have fewer options.



Extensive mowing is a common scene on ground owned by landowners with no farming background, like this Clay County property with 15-acres of fescue mowed weekly due to a perceived lack of a better alternative.

In much of my work area, this results in a lot of rented-out cool season hay fields, hardly a lucrative enterprise, and certainly not an environmentally friendly one. Worse still are the fields that get mowed monthly or even weekly simply to keep sapling encroachment at bay. Fortunately, recognition of the environmental and aesthetic value of native vegetation, as well as the financial incentives to establish it through NRCS programs, has begun to skyrocket.

In Ray, Caldwell, and Clinton Counties this quarter, we were able to contract nearly 500 acres of habitat improvement through EQIP and RCPP, including renovating almost 170 acres of nonnative cool-season grass fields into high diversity native forb and grass plantings. In doing so, we are not only greatly improving the habitat, we are also adding members of an under-represented stakeholder group to our coalition. All that's left to do is ensure their experience is positive, and then let them spread the word!

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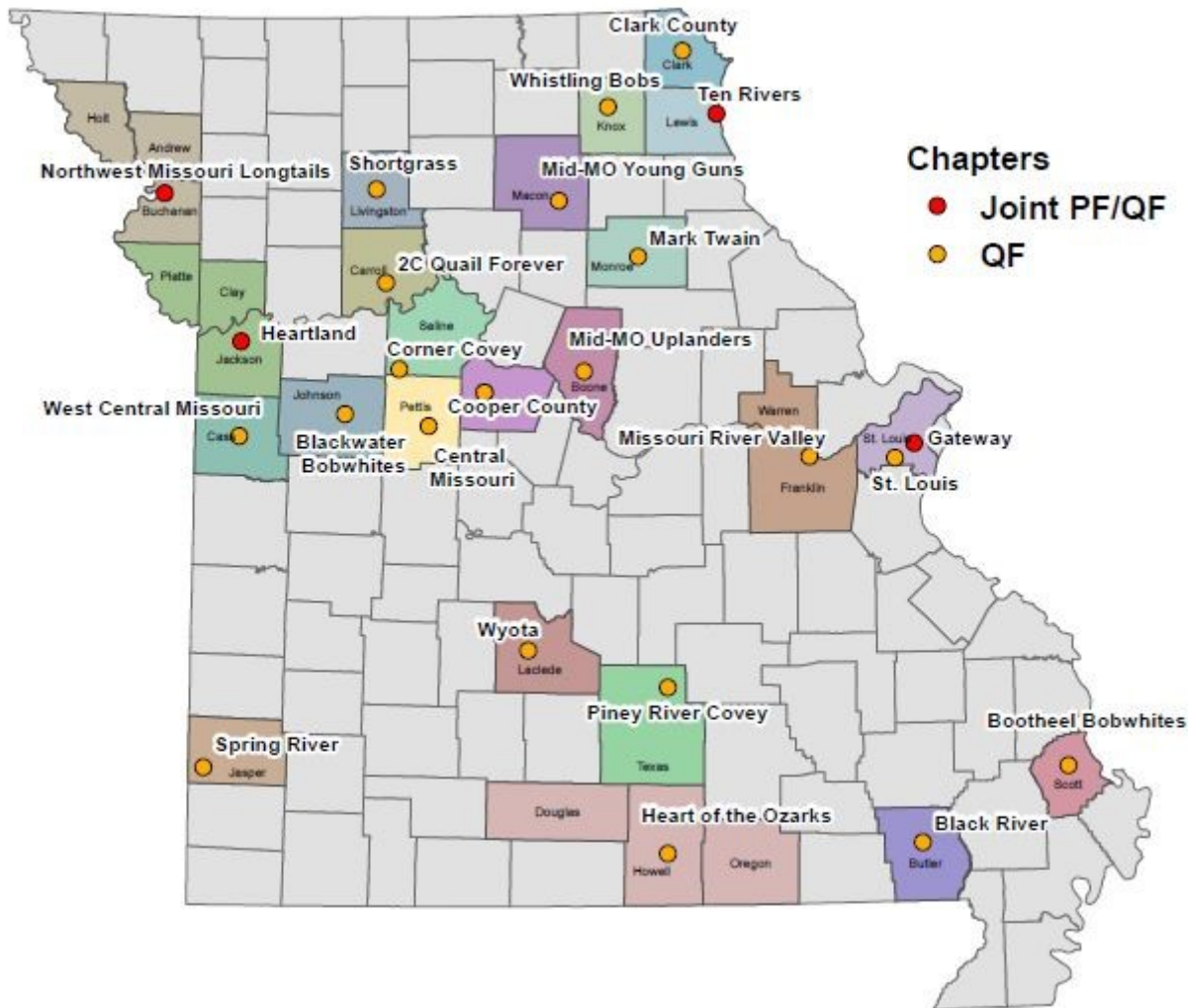


Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

July — September 2020

MO Chapter Growth

This quarter, I again teamed up with our PFQF Regional Representative, Trevor Day, to launch two new Missouri QF chapters. I had the opportunity to speak about habitat restoration, the farm bill biologist program, and community engagement opportunities at two well-attended meetings in Warrensburg and Sedalia. With the newly minted “Blackwater Bobwhites” and “Central Missouri” joining the ranks, we now have 24 chapters spread throughout the state! Look for this number to grow as we continue to elevate our message.



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Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

July — September 2020

Outreach & Education

This quarter, I was able to help strengthen our relationship with another great non-profit organization dedicated to bird conservation in Missouri. In July, Kim Cole, our Missouri PFQF Outreach Coordinator, connected me with Dana Ripper and Ethan Duke of the Missouri River Bird Observatory (MRBO). A prolific outreach & education organization, in April, MRBO went “virtual” in response to Covid-19, and have been hosting weekly webinars ever since.



I had the pleasure of joining their panel in July for “Game Birds of Missouri”, where I discussed Ring-necked Pheasant and Northern Bobwhite life-history needs and habitat management. I was then able to contribute a follow-up lesson on prairie restoration and Farm Bill cost-share programs during their August “Habitat Restoration for Birds” webinar. Both broadcasts were well attended, and we had a fantastic response from landowners and other attendees. Recordings of each can be viewed at:

<https://mrbo.org/game-birds-of-missouri/>

<https://mrbo.org/habitat-restoration-for-birds/>

LOOKING FORWARD

- Field visits on expiring CRP contracts
- Fall Covey Counts in the 2C Quail Restoration Landscape
- Follow-up site visits with this year’s new EQIP & CSP contract holders
- Continued virtual outreach and education efforts
- Hunting season!

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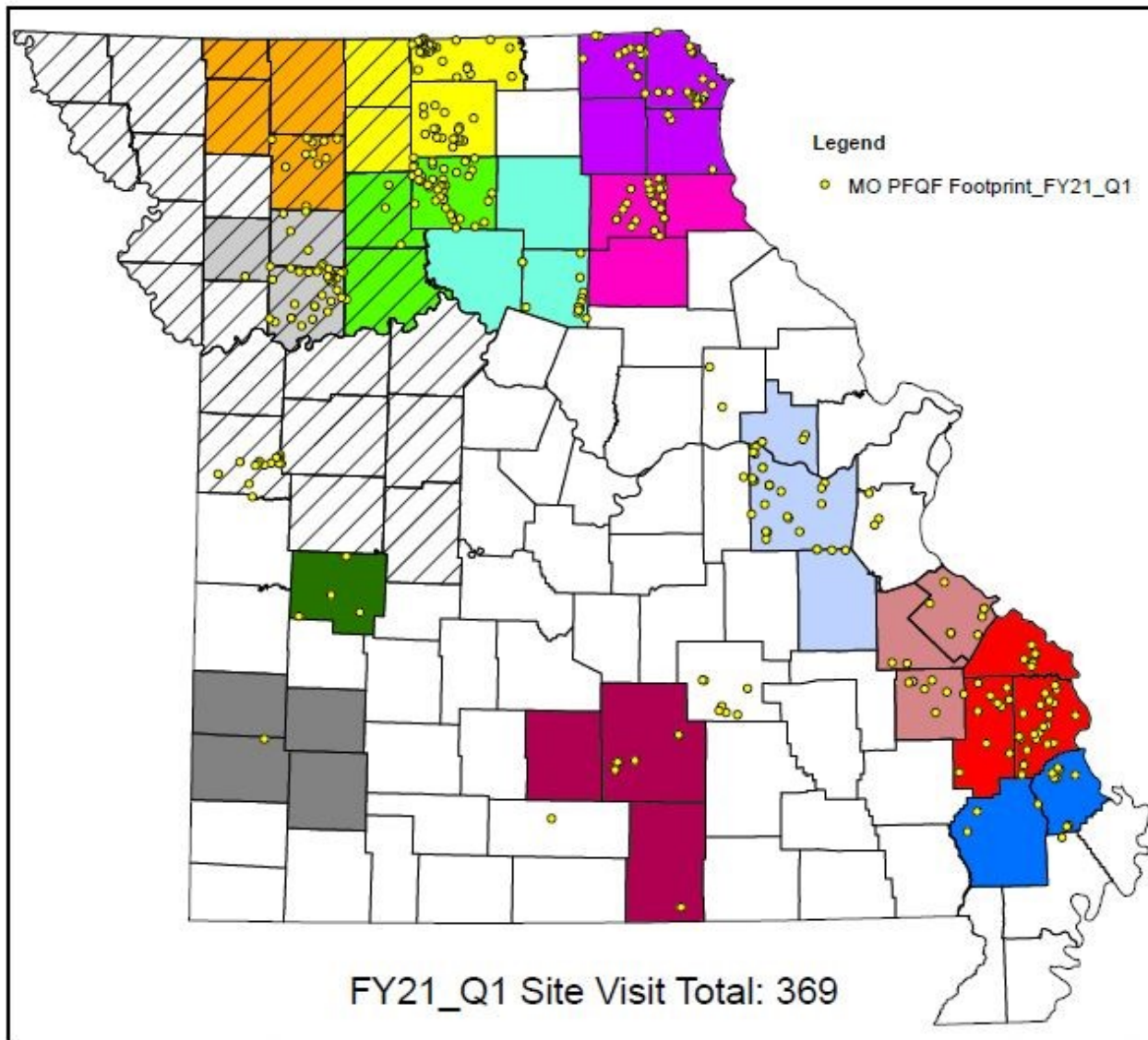
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Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell & Clinton Counties

July — September 2020

FY21 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP July 2020 - September 2020



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 10/13/2020

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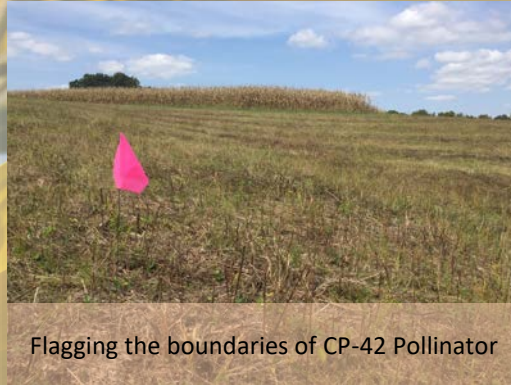


Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

July—Sept 2020

Catching our breath

This quarter was a race to the finish line to wrap up CRP planning and meet deadlines for all other Farm Bill programs. With teamwork from multiple agencies, we were able to meet tight timelines and get landowners on their way to putting conservation on the ground. Lately, I've been helping landowners and seed vendors in understanding the seed mix requirements for new or enhanced CRP contracts. I've also been fielding questions regarding site preparation for new seedings as well as requests to flag pollinator boundaries. Although the sun set on one CRP sign-up, the next is on the horizon. We are working diligently to complete field visits and reviews on all CRP contracts that are expiring in 2021 and eligible for re-enrollment. By providing an inventory of current conditions, landowners can make educated decisions about what CRP practices they want to enroll in and know the expectations or reseeding requirements when they make their offers to the Farm Service Agency.



Flagging the boundaries of CP-42 Pollinator

Quarter Highlights

Conservation Planning

- 46 Landowner Contacts
- 37 Site Visits
- 146 Projects With Acres
- 117 Conservation Plans

Total Acres Impacted: 5,091.61

Drone over the corn field



Incorporating Technology

In August, I went to the field with MFA partners to take drone imagery of a few of the Precision Ag Demonstration Farms as well as complete initial wildlife habitat evaluations. The imagery allowed analysts to look at plant health. After harvest they will compare yields to the plant health imagery and see if any correlations can be made. This technology could open new doors for analyzing crop field performance and identify potential areas for conservation practices. The habitat evaluations will help assess the habitat improvements made when conservation practices are installed.

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Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

July—Sept 2020



Abundant sunflowers



Praying mantis feasting on a butterfly



Indian grass



Mixed grassland



Bee on prairie milkweed

Field Checks at a glance

We never know what we are going to find in CRP fields. These grasslands are only as fruitful as the management they receive. CRP fields need to be routinely managed to ensure woody species do not encroach, as well as looking out for noxious and invasive weeds. The best management techniques to use are prescribed fire or prescribed grazing. Mowing is not a management technique and is only allowed in preparation for approved practices.



Entire field mowed annually



Overgrown in trees and shrubs



Sericea lespedeza infestation

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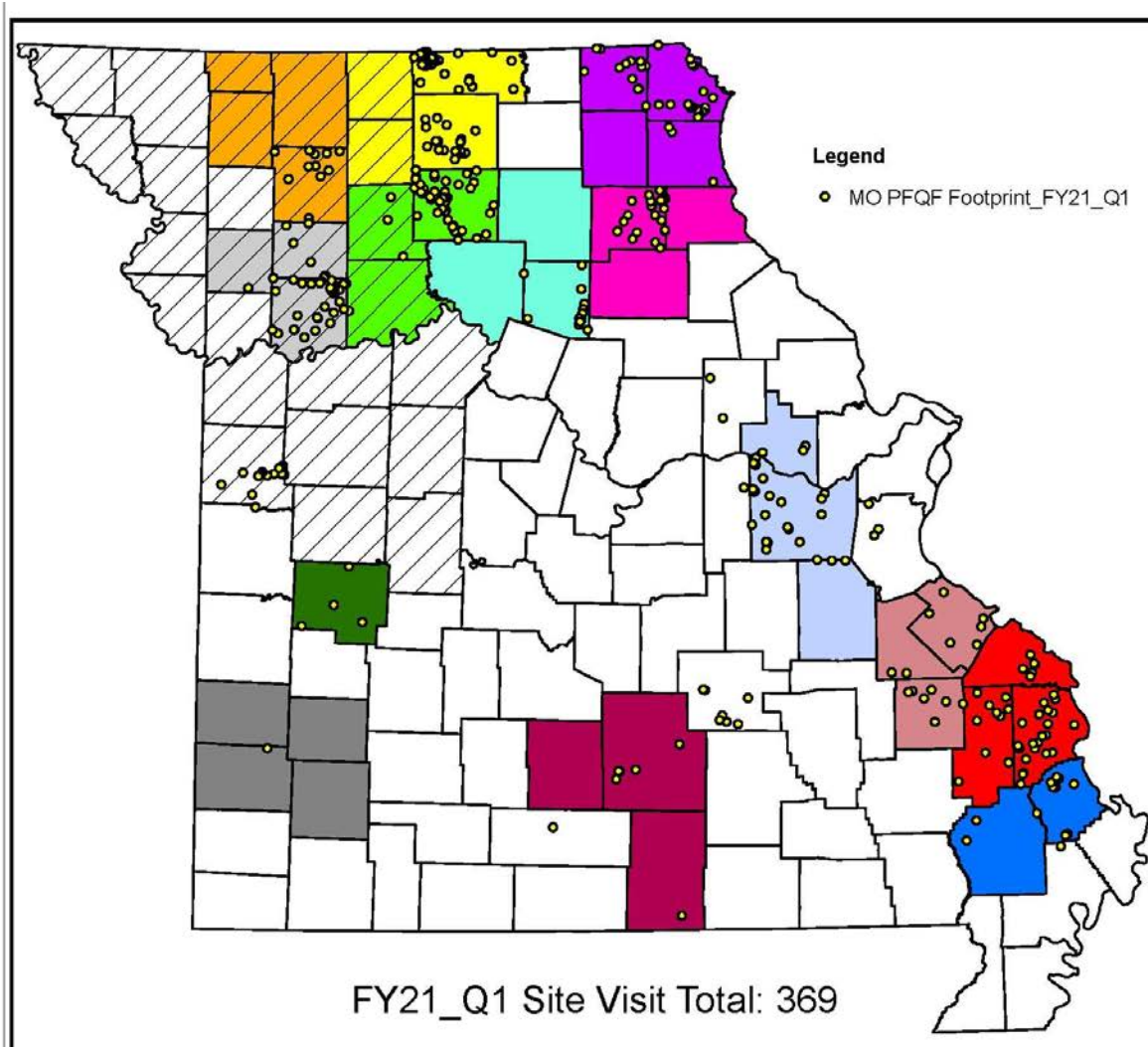
Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

July—Sept 2020

Looking Forward...

- Continue to provide technical assistance to landowners
- Assist NRCS with completion of FY21 expiring CRP status reviews
- Establish butterfly garden at Clark County Pre-school
- Assist landowners during the next CRP sign-up (expected in Dec)
- Enjoy the best season of the year

Missouri PF/QF Biologist Footprint July - Sept 2020



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 10/13/2020

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Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Harrison, Gentry, Worth, Daviess Counties

July – September 2020

Position Update

That's it, that's all! The monarch RCPP program finished up on September 30th. It's been a great program to work with over the last 3 years and I'm excited to look at the impact that it's had on monarch and pollinator habitat. As I compile the final report, wrapping up the Monarch RCPP, I'm also working to finalize the agreement for a new RCPP project titled the Program for Restoring and Improving Monarch Ecosystems (PRIME). I'm excited for the opportunities and challenges that this fall will bring. Stay tuned!

CLC Students Tackle Missouri Conservation Issues

I've been involved with the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) in one way or another since joining their youth program in 2005. The Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC) offers students, high school through college undergrad, a unique opportunity to personally influence conservation policy and actions in our state. I was lucky enough to participate in CLC and now serve on the committee that oversees the program.



Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC) students attending the 2019 Fall Workshop. This year's was done virtually.

On September 19th, CLC Students met for their annual Fall Workshop, although this year's workshop looked a little different than years prior since the event was held virtually. During the Fall Workshop students, learn about how to network with conservation professionals, CFM's resolution process, and how legislation affects Missouri's natural resources. The most important part of the workshop is when students share conservation issues that they feel strongly about and would like to influence. They then work to develop resolutions that will be voted on, and if passed, will become something CFM acts on.

It's a lot of fun to work with these future leaders and the ideas they come up with are usually outstanding. Resolution topics students are working on this year include incentives and initiatives to plant natives, education on stream access laws, action regarding neonicotinoid impact on pollinators, and creating an apiary program for MO schools.

If you know a student who would be great for the program or just want to know more about CLC, check out their website at <https://www.confedmo.org/clc/>.

Conservation Planning

- 15 Landowner Contacts
- 10 NRCS Cons. Planner Contacts
- 14 Site Visits
- 14 Status Reviews

Programs	Acres Impacted
CRP	594
Total	594

Jake Swafford
Coordinating Wildlife Biologist
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Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Harrison, Gentry, Worth, Daviess Counties

July – September 2020

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
IS-100.C Fire Training	Completed the online IS-100.C training, Introduction to the Incident Command System.
CFM - Affiliate Summit	Attended The Conservation Federation of Missouri's annual affiliate summit along with partners from across the state for trainings and updates.
Conservation Leadership Corps. Fall Workshop	Assisted CFM with the CLC Fall Workshop where students are introduced to natural resource partners from across the state, discuss conservation issues important to them, and begin working on resolutions for CFM's annual convention in March.
RCPP Portal Training for Missouri Partners	NRCS held a training for RCPP partners to walk through program agreement requirements and how to navigate the RCPP Portal.

Outreach & Education

- Created a spotlight story to be included in NABCI's 2018 Farm Bill Field Guide focused on monarch work in Missouri.
- Participated in a listening session with Scott Edwards, the new NRCS State Conservationist.
- Attended Grand River Grasslands Fire call with partners as they discussed the delivery of fire across the priority geography.

Additional Work

- Assisted Daviess County with CRP site visits
- Coordinated with NRCS and partners to develop RCPP-PRIME program partnership agreement.
- Developed reports for the Monarch RCPP and continued to assist with delivery across its range.

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 renew my NRCS conservation planner certification.
- Working with the Monarch Coordinator in Oklahoma, we will deliver the final report for the Monarch RCPP to NFWF and NRCS.
- Maintain my role in the Pollinator Habitat Working Group and sub-committees.
- 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 RCPP-PRIME.

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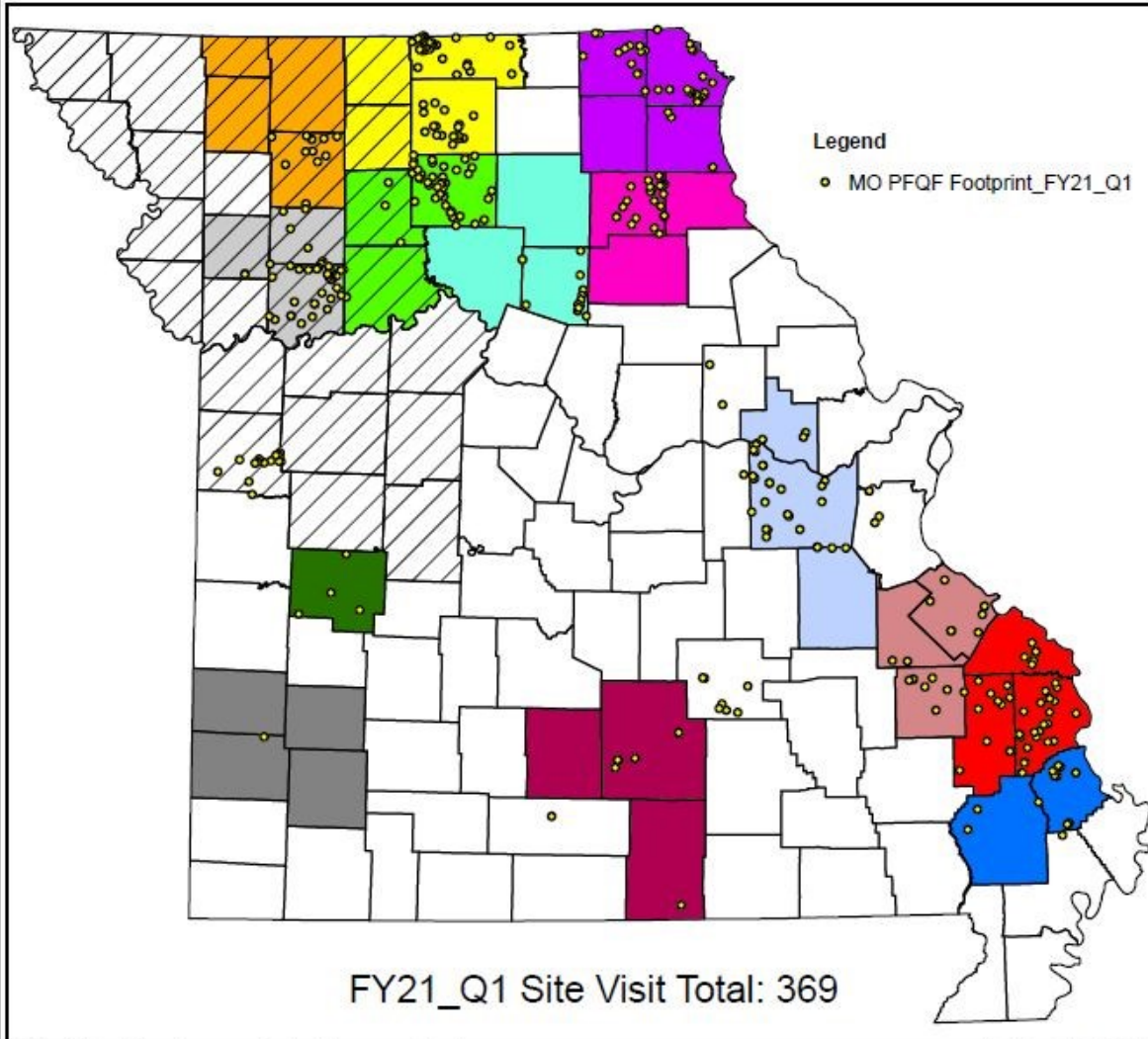
Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Harrison, Gentry, Worth, Daviess Counties

July – September 2020

FY21 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP July 2020 - September 2020



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 10/13/2020



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

JUL – SEP 2020

Quarterly Overview

Missouri started its new fiscal year in July of 2020. Other than that, nothing seemed to change. CRP continued on but was rapidly coming to a close. As CRP shifted from site visits to plan writing, a sense of urgency was felt to prepare the office for landowners coming in to sign their plans. The summer was also beginning to end and with it came the rush for everyone to wrap up last minute summer projects. These last few days of summer provided many opportunities to reach more citizens with conservation. This quarter also provided a few challenges as the federal fiscal year ended and project due dates and start dates were quickly approaching. I look forward to FY21 because I know there will be several new and great opportunities to increase habitat on the ground in Missouri

FY20 CRP WRAP

This last quarter continued with wrapping up CRP visits and then assisting landowners in creating and signing their plans. Visiting with landowners about their plan provided many opportunities to discuss conservation goals with the landowner before they signed their new contract. For some, the discussion included the decision to not renew their CRP plan because that was what would be best for them and their long term goals. However, most landowners signed their plan and we discussed the best way to implement it. There is a lot of planning that goes into implementing a CRP plan, and I enjoyed helping landowners understand everything that was required and ensuring they knew exactly what they needed to do. Hundreds of acres were re-enrolled or newly enrolled in CRP, making a difference for soil health and wildlife.

(Top) Eared False Foxglove
(Bottom) Plot of Eared False Foxglove



False Foxglove

About this time last year, I shared a landowner story about the Mestads and finding Eared False Foxglove on their property. Eared False Foxglove is a vulnerable species in Missouri and finding a few stems on their property was an amazing find. The Mestads were thrilled to have it. This year, while on a site visit to plan their EQIP contract, we decided to take a look at the location where we found the False Foxglove last year. We were amazed to find the population of the False Foxglove had exploded. Last year there were close to 20 stems counted on their property. This year we counted over 100 stems spread across the whole field. We could not have imagined a better find when we drove out there. I will continue to work closely with the Mestads to assist them in developing a plan that benefits this vulnerable species.



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JUL – SEP 2020

New Partners and New Opportunities

At the end of August, I was able to present at Crowder State Park as part of their summer Evening Program series. This was a great opportunity to meet and share with new Missouri citizens who were visiting and staying at the state park over the weekend. My topic was titled “The Diverse World of Native Plants.” During my presentation, I discussed how native plants are tied to every eco-system we have in Missouri. I talked about how native plants are important in keeping a balance in all of our ecosystems. I presented on the connection that native plants have with insects, other plants, wildlife, and soil health. I wrapped up by discussing how homeowners can improve their yard with natives and in return, improve the eco-system around them. Presenting at Crowder’s outdoor theater was a unique challenge that provided a new opportunity for me to try new engagement strategies with my audience. Since the theater is outdoors, I did not know if I would have access electricity for a PowerPoint, so I used different items to engage with my audience. I had several species of native grasses and forbs that I allowed my audience to look at and pass around. This allowed them to see up close what the native plants look like and the differences between them. I also had soil health items to demonstrate the difference between healthy soil and unhealthy soil. Finally, I used a root board to demonstrate the depth of native plant roots compared to non-native turf grass. I received great feed back from my audience and they enjoy themselves during the presentation. I look forward to more opportunities to engage audiences at Crowder State Park and I am thankful for their dedication to engaging folks with the outdoors.



(Top) Presenting at Crowder State Park

(Bottom) Participant demonstrating the root board

Team Meeting and Recharge

During the middle of August the Missouri Quail Forever North team was able to meet in Chillicothe. We planned our next fiscal year by setting both team and personal goals and challenging each other to grow in the upcoming year. It was a great two days of catching up with teammates and recharging our batteries from a very busy, but successful year. The camaraderie within the Missouri team is strong and we all enjoy when we can get together with each other. Stories are told, ideas are exchanged and memories are made with every team event. We even set aside time to challenge each other with a friendly clay pigeon shooting competition. I look forward to the day when the whole team can meet together and we can learn from each other and continue to grow together.



Shooting Clays at the Team Meeting

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JUL – SEP 2020

Trainings and Outreach	Summary
QF Missouri North Team Meeting	Set Fiscal Year goals for the QF Missouri Team and personal goals.
Wildlife Seed Mixes & Seed Calculator Training	Gave a period of instruction to FOSA planners about the difference in Missouri's wildlife seed mixes and how to use the wildlife seed calculator and seed mix review tool.
The Diverse World of Native Plants	Presented to 13 participants about how Native Plants benefit all the eco-systems they developed with.

Program	Impacted Ac.
CRP Programs	2,875.8
NRCS Programs	2.1
Total	2,877.9

Quarterly Numbers

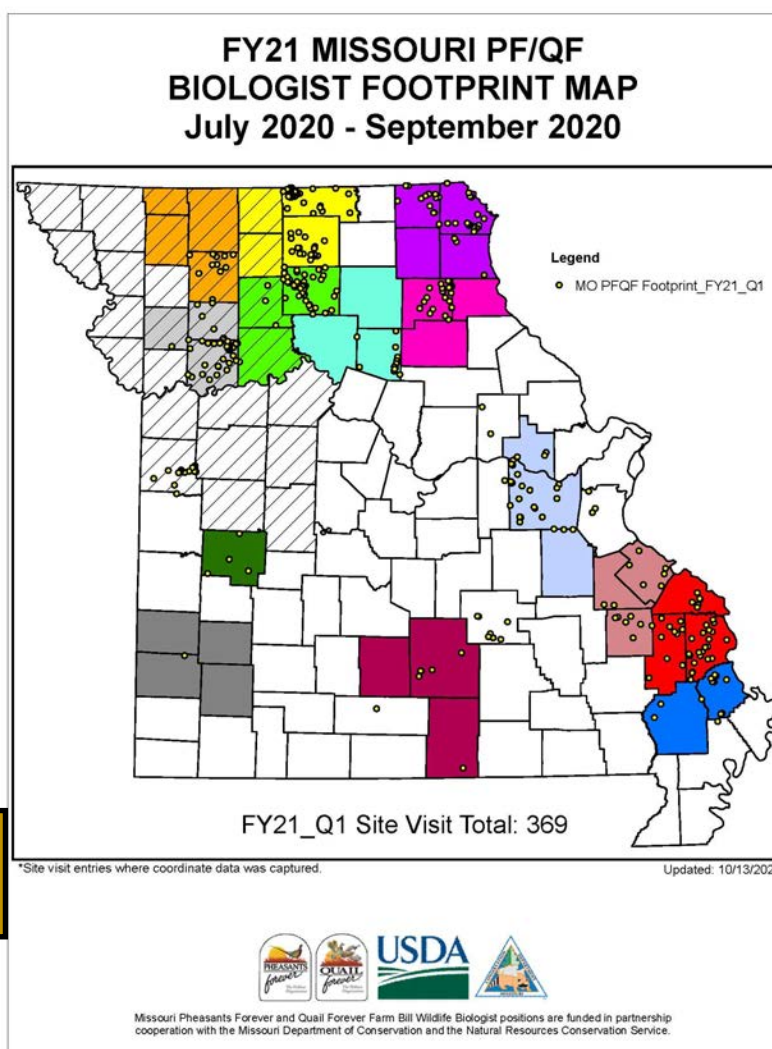
- 132 Landowners Contacted
- 49 Site Visits
- 1 Conservation Outreach Event
- 1 Training event

Looking Forward

- Trenton High School Conservation Class Trap Shoot.
- Trenton High School Conservation Class native plant planting.



New England Aster at my Residence



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

July 2020-September 2020

Get it in shape! ...your CRP ground that is.

Did you enroll in the Conservation Reserve Program about 9-ish years ago? If so, then this is for YOU! If it was expiring this past September, hopefully you re-enrolled and are all set to go for another 10 years! But if your CRP contract is set to expire next September (2021), it's time to take a look at it. If you're interested in re-enrolling into the program, now is when you should be evaluating the condition. This might include getting a head start in attempting to eradicate invasive species, or get those saplings (unless it's a tree inclusive practice) under control. If you've kept up with the management, it is likely the property is already in good enough shape for the program and wildlife. If it is not, now is when you should be "getting it back into shape." Do you have questions about what yours is supposed to look like? Don't fret! The QF biologists are working hard to meet an end of November deadline to set foot on each CRP contract set to expire.

"Get me a Shrubbery!" - every quail

Well...ACTUALLY that's a quote from the movie *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. But, I believe that if quail could speak to us, this would absolutely be something they say.

With the winter weather approaching, shrub components are key for quail populations on your property. Of course we have to put the shameless plug in for the bobwhites (and pollinators when they bloom); but this kind of cover benefits a wide array of wildlife. Small game utilize these areas as escape cover from predators, as well as protection from nature's harsh summer and winter conditions. Your local QF/MDC biologist can recommend a variety of native shrubs to plant.



This kind of cover can also be created without planting, although I would recommend having a diverse range of elements to accommodate different species. Felling trees to create edge feathering or a down tree structure are also great ways to provide cover for wildlife. Already have some existing shrubs? You can always improve those!

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia— Stoddard and Scott Counties

July 2020-September 2020

Women Owning Woodlands & Women Caring for the Land Workshop

On August 12, QF/PF collaborated with MU Extension University of Missouri to host a workshop (St. Genevieve) specifically tailored to women landowners who are interested in managing their woodlands in favor of wildlife. There was a classroom portion (maintained social distance protocol + masks) where the biologists presented topics such as “Forest Management Basics, Timber Stand Improvement, and Prescribed Fire”. After a lunch provided by grant funds through Corteva AgriScience, we met with Kyle Lorenz (MDC PLC) and a few members of a private hunting club who took us on the “habitat tour” portion of the workshop. This club had been managing



their woodland predominately with prescribed fire which was already showing some fantastic results, but also had included elements such as a pollinator plot in areas that “needed something”.

We are very grateful to everyone involved who made this workshop such a success! Our workshop schedule is available on our website at <https://missouripfqf.org/> under the events tab.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia— Stoddard and Scott Counties

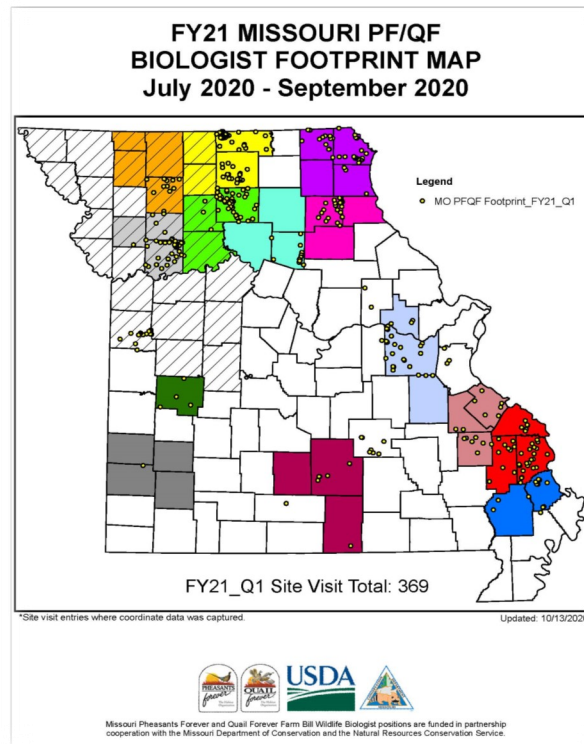
July 2020-September 2020

Sikeston Moving Forward

Patience, everything in time! The Sikeston pollinator plot is progressing as scheduled. It's a brown site for sore eyes but that's a good thing. The existing vegetation needs to be eradicated before planting so there is less competition for all the wildflowers to establish and eventually bloom. If everything goes as planned, the site is to be seeded to native wildflowers late February 2021!

Conservation Technical Assistance

- 65 landowner contacts
- 30 site visits
- Assisted in hosting WOW/WCFL workshop
- Assisted NRCS/FSA in writing CRP conservation plans for landowners in Scott, Stoddard, and Cooper county
- Continued partnership pollinator project with QF, MDC, Corteva, BMU for Sikeston Park



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Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Len Gilmore—St. Clair Co.

Jul – Sep 2020

Position Update

Summer is the time to see how successful the spring plantings did. Landowners called with concerns with native grass and pollinator plantings that were seeded in 2019 and 2020. Identifying native grass seedlings in the two to three leaf stage is challenging, but that is the stage when the landowner becomes worried that the planting is a failure. Most landowners will take your word that the native seedlings are there growing in the field but others want to see the seedlings. By Sept. the natives become quite obvious to see which is a relief for the landowner.



Indiangrass seedling

Several questions were asked this quarter about grazing native forages. Several asked about the timing of grazing or grazing a pasture with natives a second time during the grazing season. Some inquiries came from biologists in other states with farmers wanting to get cattle on 2-3 year old plantings. The QF crew from Arkansas drove up to a pasture walk in Benton County to hear the cattle owner, Steve Clubine, talk about the grazing he does on native forages.

Prairie Plantings Draw More Than Pollinators

Prairie plantings vary from only grasses seeded to mostly flowering plants seeded. One particular landowner in St. Clair County planted 20 acres of prairie forbs under a Fish & Wildlife Service Partners program in 2019. First year plantings look anemic but in 2020 this planting exploded with blooms. The landowner was so please he took photos of the planting every other day and sent it out over social media. He was proud of the success with his planting. It wasn't long before people were contacting him and me wanting to see the flowers he had produced. One local group of plant enthusiasts gathered on a weekend to see this marvelous field of flowers. The landowner gave them a tour explaining how he planted the prairie seed. As a result many people enjoyed the field and in several instances those folks became interested in planting a pollinator plot/field on their property. The owner of the 20 acre pollinator field..... just grinned.

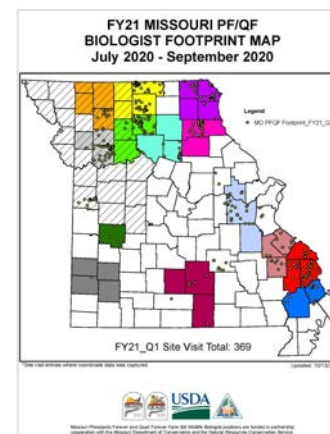


Pollinator prairie planting became a show that local folks heard about and wanted to see.

Conservation Planning

- 27 Landowner Contacts
- 25 Site Visits

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
CRP	226
CTA	17
Total	243





Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Len Gilmore—St. Clair Co.

Jul – Sep 2020

Outreach & Education

- Clubine Pasture Walk. Talked about importance of pollinator plants in grazing system.
- Led field tour with six native plant society plant enthusiasts to look at 20 acre pollinator planting on Brett B. farm.
- Submitted Landowner Benefit of Native Forages pamphlet draft to Josh Colligan and Kim Cole to format. Re-created pamphlet illustrations for the pamphlet.
- Helped with conducting a native grass pasture walk hosted by a producer in Bollinger County. Landowners in attendance could see the difference between plantings done in 2019 & 2020.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Grazing training	Helped conduct grazing training at Clubine farm to five QF biologists from Arkansas for stocking rate and native forage management in pastures.
NRCS training	Completed USDA Information Security Awareness training

Looking Forward

- Help MDC conduct fall quail covey call counts.
- Participate in Missouri Partners Roundtable virtual workshop. Be speaker during grazing session.
- Continue monitoring grazing contract for Spring Creek property.
- Work with Josh Colligan to do habitat videos on a quail cooperators' property located in Morgan County.
- Help Patrick Davis, Missouri University Extension, complete soil samples on grazed prairies.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

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

July—September 2020

FY 2021—First Quarter

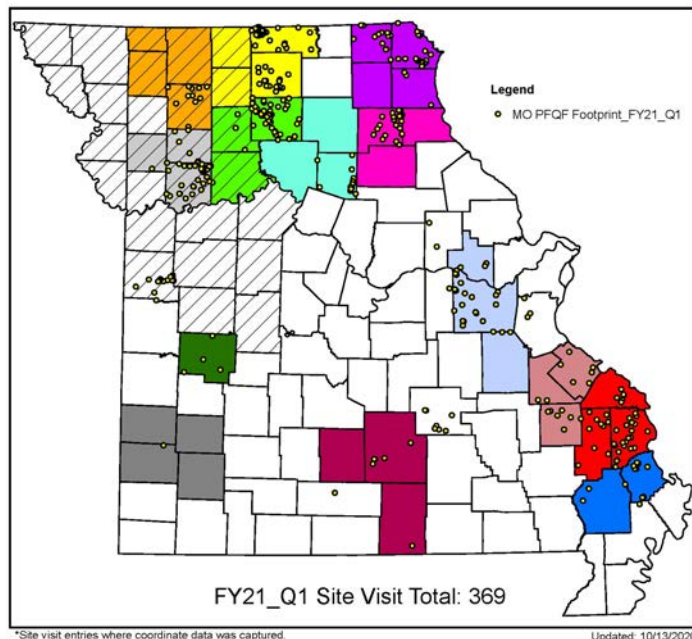
From July through September, our Missouri team conducted 369 site visits and logged over 1,500 landowner contacts while working in 69 counties. We were able to impact over 34,000 acres of habitat statewide and reach over 300 workshop and meeting participants at 22 events.

During the last quarter, much of the habitat planning and technical assistance I conducted focused heavily on CRP. Through habitat planning and technical assistance, I impacted over 410 acres. I conducted 19 site visits and reported 141 landowner contacts. I wrote several conservation plans for CRP, planned 2 LCAP projects, and completed 2 seeding plans for EQIP.

As for conservation outreach, I assisted with a Women Caring for the Land/Women Owning Woodlands workshop in Ste. Genevieve and gave presentations on prescribed fire and landowner assistance programs.

Looking ahead, I will be completing several site visits for expiring CRP contracts and will continue meeting with landowners interesting in putting more wildlife habitat on the ground through conservation programs.

FY21 MISSOURI PF/QF
BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP
July 2020 - September 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

- 141 Landowner Contacts
- 19 Site Visits
- 4 Status Reviews/Checkouts
- 16 Conservation Plans
- 1 Landowner Workshop

Program	Acres Impacted	CRP Practice	Acres Impacted
EQIP	13.13	CP1	5.8
CSP	-	CP2	221.84
MDC LCAP	108.2	CP12	5.5
QF Chapter	-	CP22	3.3
Non-Program	10	CP30	9.5
		CP33	28.8
		CP42	4.28
Total	131.33	Total	279.02

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Women's Forest Management Workshop in Ste. Genevieve

In August, Quail Forever in Missouri and the University of Missouri Extension partnered to host a socially-distant forest management workshop in Ste. Genevieve for women landowners. This Women Caring for the Land and Women Owning Woodlands joint event provided women landowners with the opportunity to learn more about managing their wooded acreage and included a habitat tour of a well-managed property. This event utilized a "learning circle" where landowners shared the history and management goals for their property.

To kick off the event, Missouri QF Outreach Coordinator, Kim Cole, lead a discussion to engage with each landowner and learn their land management goals. Sarah Havens, Field Specialist in Natural Resources for MU Extension, presented on the basics of forest management and provided an in-field demonstration on how to measure timber with a Biltmore stick. Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Kelsey DeZalia provided information on forest stand improvement. I presented on how to management habitat with prescribed fire and how to navigate landowner assistance programs.



Kim explained the importance of prescribed during her matchstick demonstration.

Kim Cole provided a creative demonstration to show the benefits of using prescribed fire as a management tool for woodlands. She used matches in aluminum containers filled with dirt to represent two different stands of timber. In one container, matches were densely packed together to represent an unmanaged woodland. In another container, she used fewer matches spaced farther apart to represent a woodland managed with regular prescribed burning. Matches in both containers were lit and attendees saw how the fire carried throughout amongst the matches. Kim effectively showed how regular use of prescribed burning reduces fuel loading and can prevent damaging forest fires.

The event concluded with a habitat tour of a woodland managed by members of the 640-Acre Hunting Club. Attendees learned about the history of the property and were able to see completed woodland restoration projects that utilized timber stand improvement and prescribed fire. We would like to express our thanks to the 640-Acre Hunting Club for the opportunity to showcase their property!

These pictures show a stand toured during the workshop. This stand was recently thinned and burned to open the canopy and promote the growth of forbs in the understory.

Sarah showed the importance of timber stand improvement by providing examples of trees of nearly the same age from a thinned stand (left) and an unmanaged stand (right).





Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

July—September 2020

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Listening Session with Scott Edwards	Met new NRCS State Conservationist and discussed challenges and opportunities to continue putting conservation on the ground in Missouri
Ste. Genevieve SWCD Meetings	Gave update of current projects and landowner workshops
Madison County SWCD Meeting	Gave update of current projects and landowner workshops
Patton Pasture Tour	Attended landowner tour of native grass pastures

Looking Forward

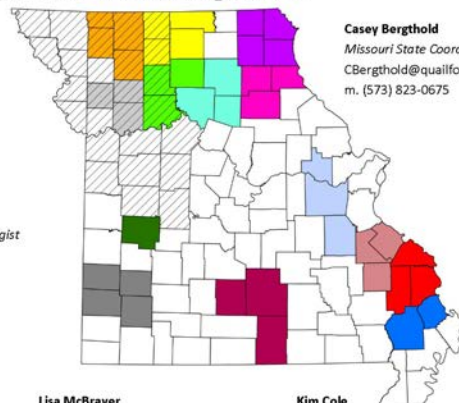
- Attend upcoming NRCS virtual trainings on RUSLE, Graze 4, Resource Concerns and the Planning Process
- Obtain NRCS Apprentice Conservation Planner and continue working towards Conservation Planner certification
- Continue getting to know landowners in my counties and building relationships with partners

Check out our growing team in the updated staff map below!

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

July-September 2020

Program Planning and...More Program Planning!

CRP was in full swing this past quarter in all three counties. This was the first General CRP signup in several years so there was high interest. There were some new offers but the majority were expiring contracts that were offered and accepted as re-enrolls. There were several Continuous CRP re-enroll offers that needed site visits and planning as well. With the help of partner staff in each county, we began the planning process for 83 offers that resulted in 65 contracts.

Just as CRP planning process wrapped up, the next workload was quickly upon us. Contracts expiring in September of 2021 require field visits to document current conditions. These visits have begun with a goal to finish by early December.

CRP Practices	Acres Impacted
CP1—Introduced Grasses	170.28
CP2—Native Grasses	1,023.35
CP3A—Hardwood Tree Planting	102.13
CP4D—Wildlife Habitat	0.80
CP9—Shallow Waters for Wildlife	11.20
CP12—Wildlife Food Plot	22.40
CP21—Filter Strip	64.87
CP22—Riparian Buffer	102.95
CP30—Wetland Buffer	10.32
CP31—Bottomland Timber	5.20
CP33—Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds	60.45
CP38—Bobwhite SAFE	55.34
CP42—Pollinator Habitat	75.05
Total	1,704.34

Don't forget EQIP! There was a large interest in wildlife EQIP practices, especially monarch plantings that will establish native wildflowers that will benefit the migrating butterflies during their journey, as well as resident wildlife such as deer, turkey, quail and other grassland birds. Other planned practices include prescribe burning, edgefeathering, woodland

restoration, forest stand improvement, and herbaceous weed control to name a few.

This is a "partner" report and enough thanks cannot be given to staff in the USDA offices. All of this program planning could not be made possible without the true partner effort!

Conservation Planning

- 238 Landowner Contacts
- 41 Site Visits
- 77 Conservation Plans Written/ Job Sheets & Seeding Sheets Completed
- 28 Status Review/Practice Checkouts

Conservation Program	Acres Impacted
EQIP	544.7
CRP	1,704.34
CSP	-
MDC LCAP	27.7
QF Chapter	-
Conservation Technical Assistance	22.8
Total	2,299.54



Interest in Native Forage Continues to Grow



Big bluestem seed head against the evening sky. Photo credit: Rachel Settle

With the tremendous success that came from the native pasture tour in August 2019, we had to continue what now seems like could be an annual event. Charlie and Donnia Beshar welcomed guests to the second native pasture tour on August 26, with proper health precautions in place. About 30 local producers attended the tour of the pastures, many of which were returns from last year to see the native pasture grazed during its second growing season and a new planting establishing in its first growing season.

Great discussion was had about the benefits of adding native warm season forage into a grazing system with a focus on how to properly graze and manage them. Charlie, and a few other producers, were able to share their experience of their own conversions. Those producers took the leap with the conversions and their words go farther with fellow producers than words from a wildlife biologist, so I thank them for sharing.

The question was asked to the audience, "What is the biggest hurdle in implementing these native forages?" The answer from a

producer resounded among the crowd, "I can't ask my neighbor for help because they have no experience with them." As the resource professionals in local offices, we have to be that friendly neighbor to help them directly or to put them in contact with the right person. Events like this native pasture tour help connect neighbors that may not live down the road from one another, but they have similar goals to improve the forage and production of their farm.



Attendees were impressed by this stand of native forage in its first growing season. Photo credit: Rachel Settle



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

July-September 2020

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Quail Forever FY21 Strategy Session	Meeting with PF/QF leadership in MO, AR, LA, and IL to develop goals for this next year to engage chapters and continue team development.
South Missouri Quail Forever Team Meeting	Led team meeting with the south MO team to refine goals together for this next year.
Missouri Prescribed Fire Council (MPFC) Annual Meeting—Virtual	Gave report of the “log your burn” tool on the website that captures private land prescribed burn data. Discussed training opportunities, prescribed fire legislation, and MO prescribed fire plan.
Listening Session with Scott Edwards	The new NRCS State Conservationist met with the FOSA staff to discuss challenges and opportunities serving customers and natural resources in Missouri.
MPFC meeting for Missouri Prescribed Fire Needs Assessment	Attended meeting to help the development of a document based upon the Illinois needs assessment and approach. IL authors shared their experience.
Georgia Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting—Virtual	Attended webinar to learn how other state fire councils deliver meetings. Viewed presentations on fire modeling, prescribed burn associations, and “National Efforts to Increase the Scale and Pace of Prescribed Fire” by Sonny Perdue, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Looking Forward

- Complete CRP field reviews of contracts expiring September 2021 with the assistance from NRCS staff.
- Review native seed mixes for EQIP and CRP plantings.
- Host an exploratory meeting with landowners to see if a local prescribed burn association opportunity can move forward successfully.

PARTICIPATE IN THE MRAP HUNTER MENTOR CHALLENGE

Share the experience of the outdoors with a new or youth hunter out this fall and enter for your chance at some great prizes! Visit the link, <https://missouripfqf.org/mentor-challenge>, or scan the QR Code for more details



MissouriPFQF.org

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Promoting Growing Season Burns

For all wildlife habitat, diversity is very important. That can be wildflower and grass diversity, shrub and tree diversity, and even diversity in how those different plants are arranged. The importance of diversity does not end with the plants. The diversity in management tools and the timing of management can directly determine how plants respond and impact their diversity. This message was highlighted at the recent meeting of the East Central Prescribed Burn Association (ECPBA). The ECPBA meeting was held in conjunction with a workshop that focused on the use and benefit of growing season burns. Unfortunately, burn conditions the day of the meeting were unfavorable, but the following weekend PBA



Pre-burn briefing for the 9/19 ECPBA demo burn. Photo Credit: Kim Cole

members were able to get together and conduct a growing season burn. On September 19th, 17 PBA members gathered to burn two small native grass units south of New Haven on Ken and Cathy Buchmann's property. Regardless of landowners experience with fire there is only so much that can be taught by just telling them about fire. It takes seeing how fire reacts to different weather conditions and topography to really learn and become comfortable with using prescribed fire. That is why demonstration burns like this one can be so important and valuable to anyone interested in using prescribed fire to manage wildlife habitat.

Conservation Planning

- 98 Landowner Contacts
- 36 Site Visits
- 5 CRP Status Reviews Impacting 385 ac



Burn crew evaluates the test fire to ensure conditions are right. Photo Credit: Kim Cole

CRP Practices Planned	Acres
CP2—Native grasses	133.9
CP 9—Shallow Waters for Wildlife	3.5
CP 12—Wildlife Food Plot	5.7
CP 22—Riparian Buffer	4.4
CP 23—Wetland Restoration	8.4
CP 25—Rare & Declining Habitats	8.0
CP 29—Wildlife Habitat Buffer	6.0
CP 33—Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds	24.1
CP 38E—Bobwhite SAFE	48.3
CP 42—Pollinator Habitat	27.7
Total	270



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

July-September 2020

Continuing Monarch Habitat Monitoring

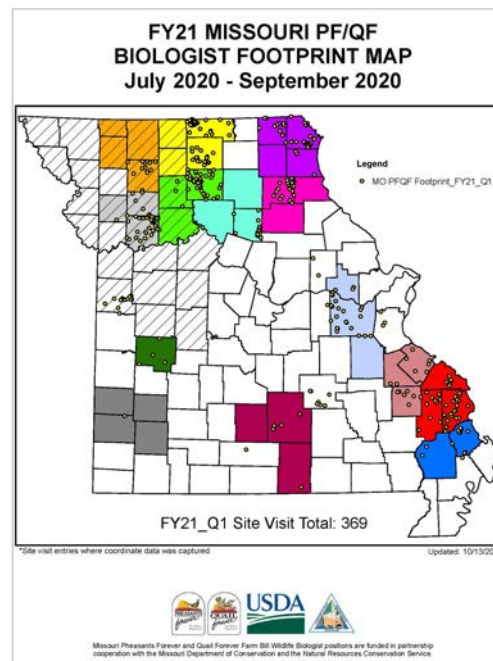
Last summer the MO QF team completed surveys to evaluate the quality of monarch habitat established by members of the Missourians for Monarchs Collaborative (M4M). This summer those efforts were continued with a slight change. During the Summer of 2019 QF FFB surveyed sights on privately owned land reported by M4M members to benefit monarch butterflies. In the summer of 2020, the focus shifted from private land to public land owned and managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation. While monarch habitat on private land is important, most of the habitat acres reported by MDC is located on their Conservation Areas found throughout the state. These conservation areas are managed with the goal of benefiting fish, forest, and wildlife. These efforts help one of QF's valued partners validate the quality of the habitat they are creating through their staff's hard work. Local Quail Forever Biologist, Wesley Hanks, teamed up with MO's Education and Outreach Coordinator, Kim Cole, to survey monarch habitat on August Busch Wildlife Mgmt. Area, Danville CA, and Marshall Diggs CA.



9/19 ECPBA growing season demo burn. Photo Credit: Kim Cole



Post growing season burn



Looking Forward

- Assist landowners interested in applying for EQIP and continuous CRP
- Assist FSA and NRCS with CRP site checks on expiring CRP contracts.
- With help from local landowners, complete Fall covey counts in the local Quail focus area.
- Assist landowners plan projects for the upcoming Fall/Winter using HCG and LCAP cost-share.
- Through landowner contacts I will continue to share the Quail Forever mission and help get anyone interested involved with their local QF chapter.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

William Robinson– Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

July – September 2020

Position Update

I started as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist in August of 2020. I am based out of the Shelbyville USDA office and provide technical assistance to landowners in Marion, Monroe, and Shelby counties. Prior to joining the Quail Forever team I worked as a Forestry Technician for the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). During my time with MDC, I had the opportunity to hone many invaluable skills related to habitat management that prepared me for my current role as a Farm Bill Biologist. I look forward to working with landowners and promoting quality habitat in Missouri!

Q1 FY21 Activity Highlights

- ◆ 27 Landowner Contacts
- ◆ 13 Site Visits
- ◆ 47 Projects with Acres

1,383.66 Acres Impacted

First CRP Sign Up

As soon as I began my position in August, I dove in head first to CRP sign up 53 and 54. This was a great experience and allowed me to become familiar with Farm Bill programs quickly. It was also a good opportunity to meet with producers and become familiar with the community. Once we had finished the contracts for the current sign up, I began to get the lay of the land in Shelby County by completing field reviews on CRP acres that expire in September of 2021. I am looking forward to working more with QF partners to deliver technical assistance to landowners and help create quality habitat through the use of these Farm Bill programs!



Rough Blazing Star in bloom



CRP Field, September 2020

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
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Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

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Standing Sunflowers



Hunters and mentors after a successful dove hunt



Mowed Sunflowers

2020 Mentored Dove Hunt

On September 12th and 13th I had the opportunity to be a mentor for the Mark Twain Quail Forever dove hunt for youth and new hunters. Everybody knows dove fields can be a little hectic on opening day, this event provided an excellent chance for youth hunters and folks new to the sport to learn about dove hunting in a controlled environment. Over the weekend there were 23 mentors that volunteered their time and knowledge to work with the new hunters. Over the course of four hunts there were 18 participants that harvested 27 birds. Even though the weather was not ideal everybody managed to have a good time! A huge thank you goes out to Farm Bill Biologist Courtney Nicks and the Mark Twain Quail Forever Chapter for putting on this successful event. Thank you also to Dane Kendrick and the Kendrick family for planting ten acres of beautiful sunflowers and hosting this event. Getting new hunters involved in the sport is crucial to the future of conservation. I look forward to being more involved in the planning and execution of many more mentored hunts in the future!





Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

William Robinson– Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

July – September 2020

Pollinator Plots in the Community

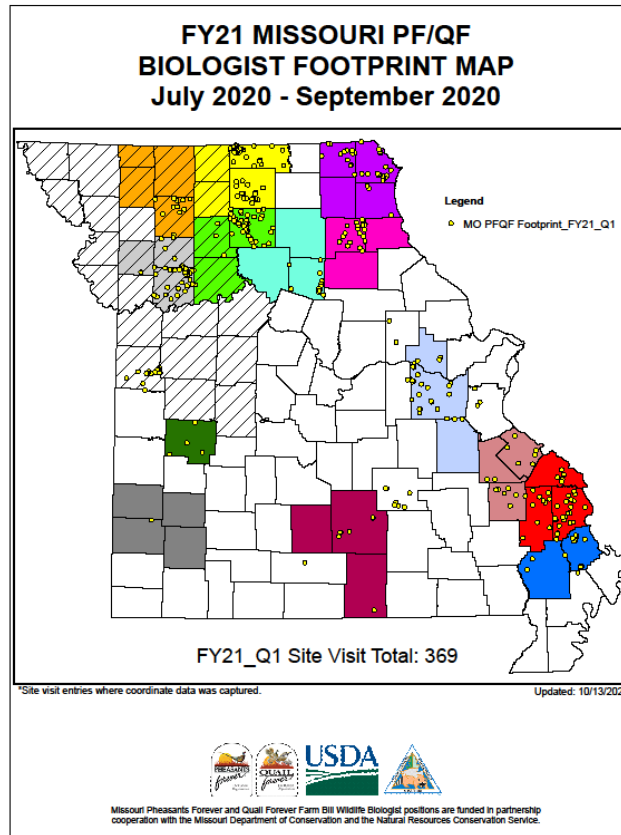
Community pollinator plots are a great way to bring conservation to urban areas. These plots offer a unique opportunity for members of the public to see, first hand, the benefits native plants have on an ecosystem. In Shelby County, we are in the process of establishing a one acre pollinator plot on the Shelbina Lakeside Golf Course. Prior to establishment, this acre was predominantly fescue and foxtail. The existing vegetation was mowed in the middle of August and the plot was sprayed with glyphosate in the beginning of September. The pollinator plot will be burned in October and dormant seeded this winter. The plan is to establish a showy mix of native wildflowers with several species that bloom in each season to provide habitat for pollinators, as well as a nice viewing area for the campers, trail users, and golfers that utilize the space.



Pollinator Plot after being mowed in August



Pollinator Plot after being sprayed in September



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

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