



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Logan Baum - Ray, Clinton, and Caldwell Counties

October– December 2023

### Second Quarter of FY24

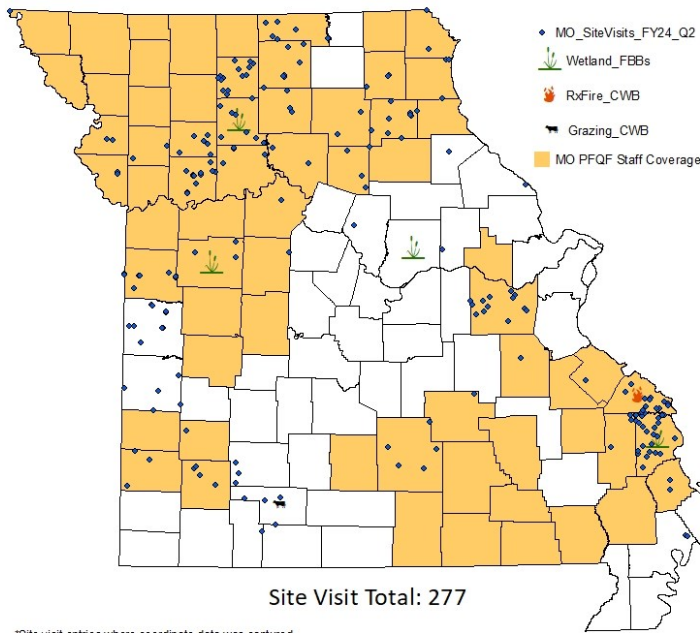
From October through December of 2023, our team had a total of 691 landowner contacts and 277 site visits. 13,684.86 acres were impacted by the Quail Forever team through planning and assessment efforts!

### Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

#### Team Outreach

- Outreach/Events: 27
- Outreach/Event Participants: 1454

**MISSOURI PF/QF  
BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT  
Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023**



### Individual Stats

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Landowner Contacts | 53     |
| Site Visits        | 22     |
| Events attended    | 2      |
| Events hosted      | 3      |
| Total Acres        | 170.67 |

\*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 1/9/2024



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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



## Quarterly Partners' Report

Logan Baum - Caldwell, Clinton, and Ray Counties

October - December 2023

### Training/Outreach

This Quarter began my “Let’s Talk” landowner workshop series. I designed this series to have a landowner workshop every month. A majority of these workshops will include a landowner talking about their personal experience with the topic of the workshop. The landowner who is presenting talks about what they have learned while completing a practice, their failures and triumphs, and the results they have seen once the practice is completed. The other presenters will be conservation professionals such as NRCS and MDC employees.

My first workshop in this series focused on Brush Management. I hosted this workshop on Mr. Hartman’s property. Mr. Hartman and his father were my landowner presenters for this workshop. They were able to talk about what worked for them and what did not. They also discussed the equipment they used, what species they were targeting, and took the attendees out on a field tour to show what the property looked like before and after their efforts. This workshop was hosted in the beginning of November. Along with the landowner and his father, FBB, Jonathan Dew, with Quail Forever and Area One Forester, Tyler Rodes, with NWTF presented as well.

The next “Let’s Talk:” workshop focused on invasives. This workshop was hosted in the beginning of December at the Liberty NRCS Field Office. For this workshop, I had one of my landowners, Mr. McCoy, come in and give a talk about his efforts for invasive species control on his property in Ray County, that he has been working on for over 15 years. He was focused on control of *Sericea Lespedeza* and Cedars. I also had Soil Conservationist, Eric Cameron out of Liberty talk about terrestrial invasive species and MDC PLC, Cassandra Messer, talk about pond invasive species.

Both of these workshops have yielded great landowner discussions amongst one another as well as great questions to the instructors. The next “Let’s Talk” that I have planned will be at the end of January and will focus on the different cost share avenues a landowner can utilize including but not limited to, NRCS EQIP/CSP, MDC LCAP, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Partners for fish and wildlife program.



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Logan Baum - Caldwell, Clinton, and Ray Counties

October - December 2023



Above 2 photos taken by Logan Baum for "Lets Talk: Brush Management." Picture to the left: Randy Hartman speaking to landowners to show where he had completed Brush Management. Picture in Middle: "round table" discussion between landowners in regards to brush management.

Above photo taken by MDC PLC Cassandra Messer for "Lets Talk: Invasives".

This past quarter, I had a strong focus on workshops and landowner outreach. I look forward to hosting more workshops and outreach events.

Coming up in 2024, we have some things to look forward to. EQIP and RCPP assessments will be completed by February ninth. EQIP round one preapprovals will begin on February 26th. RCPP preapprovals will also begin on February 26th. Continuous CRP signups began on January 12th. I will also begin compiling lists and maps for expiring CRP checks that will expire in September of 2025. CRP implementation checks will also be compiled for me to begin this year for new CRP seedings that are 2-3 years old.



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# Farm Bill Biologist II

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Jonathan Dew - Livingston, Linn, Carroll

October-December 2023

### Position Update

The second quarter of FY'24 was action packed starting off with the Missouri team meeting. We gathered in Eureka, MO to focus on team building as well as discuss important topics such as plans and goals for the year.

Due to weather and hunting season in late November and December, demand for site visits decreased. This has allowed me to focus on putting my Prescribed Burn Planner Certification to use knocking out my first burn plan with many more on the way.

A large part of my workload this quarter was continued participation in the research project through Working Lands for Wildlife and the University of Georgia. The use of Acoustic Recording Devices and accompanying point county surveys helped identify which conservation practices are effective in increasing Northern Bobwhite populations.

| Conservation Planning         | Acres Impact-ed |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Total Acres Planned</b>    | 152             |
| -RX Burn Plan                 | 72              |
| Field Border                  | 17              |
| Tree and Shrub Estab-lishment | 15.00           |
| Conservation Cover            | 62.1            |

#### Conservation Planning

- 42 Landowner Contacts
- 17 Site Visits
- 3 Habitat Management Plan
- 2 Outreach Events
- 4 Surveys/Data Collection

| Training/Meeting Type                           | Outcome  |
|---|--|
| MDC Prescribed Fire Landowner Workshop          | Landowners from all over participated in a Prescribed Fire Workshop held in Linn County. The purpose of this workshop was to present safety preparations and protocols so landowners feel comfortable implementing prescribed fire on the landscape. |
| Let's Talk: Brush Management Landowner Workshop | I was able to assist fellow Farm Bill Biologist, Logan Baum, in his landowner workshop dedicated towards brush management. Participants learned about topics such as invasive species control, prescribed fire, and TSI.                             |
| Missouri Team Meeting                           | This October, QF held its annual Missouri team meeting in Eureka, MO. The goal of this meeting was to gather everyone together to discuss plans and goals for FY'24 as well team building.   |

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# Farm Bill Biologist II

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Jonathan Dew - Livingston, Linn, Carroll

October–December 2023

### Working Lands for Wildlife ARU Study

This fall, I was able to continue my work on the WLFW ARU study looking at conservation practices and their affects on Northern Bobwhite populations and other focal bird species. The fall portion of the study also required the deployment of Acoustic Recording Units to listen for coveys inside the designated area. In person covey counts were conducted in conjunction with the ARU's to confirm the accuracy of the devices.

During the fall, there can be a variety of different weather conditions from day to day. It was really interesting to see how the quail migrated throughout the property depending on weather. In early October, I recorded quail throughout the properties. It seemed they had no real preference for a certain region. However, during mid to late November, quail were recorded concentrated around shrub cover and woody draws. This demonstrates the importance of thermal cover to protect them from the elements as well as from predators.



Pictured above is one of the properties associated with the WLFW Study. Quail were observed moving about despite the recent snow fall.



# Farm Bill Biologist II

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Jonathan Dew - Livingston, Linn, Carroll

October–December 2023

### MDC Prescribed Fire Workshop

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my position is interacting with the public to discuss important topics in the world of conservation. I had that exact opportunity this winter to assist MDC's Rich Crowe and Shane Strommer with a Prescribed Fire Workshop. Prescribed fire is one of the best tools for wildlife management we have available. This method is cost-effective and can accomplish many goals the landowner may have dependent on the timing of the burn.

The information presented during the class was aimed towards safety measures and protocols that should be implemented prior to and during the burn. Topics such as types of burn lines, fire weather, and watch out situations were highlighted throughout the class.

This workshop is a requirement for all landowners who wish to implement prescribed fire on their properties currently enrolled in cost-share programs such as CRP. Landowners who pass the online portion and attend one of many workshops throughout the state will receive their certification to conduct burns on the landscape. If you are interested in attending a workshop like this, visit this link to MDC's website to register for one near you. <https://mdc.mo.gov/your-property/fire-management/prescribed-fire>



*\*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 Biologist II Quarterly Partners' Report



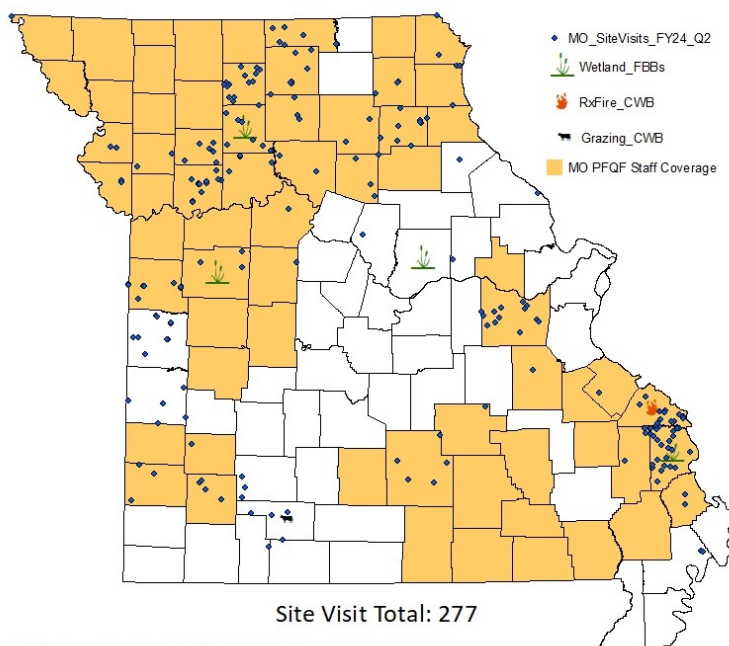
Jonathan Dew - Livingston, Linn, Carroll

October–December 2023

## Leaving Our Mark On Missouri

- The Farm Bill Biologists across the State recorded 691 Landowner Contacts and 277 Site Visits.
- Total Acres Impacted is 13,684.
- Outreach efforts reached 1454 participants through workshops, meetings, and trainings.

### MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023



\*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 1/8/2024



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# Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Trevor Dubinski - Randolph, Macon, & Chariton

October - December 2023

## October:

### Quail Forever State Team Meeting

In the beginning of October, I had the pleasure of attending the Quail Forever State Team meeting where I was able to finally meet all the Quail Forever staff in Missouri. I am thrilled to be a part of such an amazing team! Throughout the meeting all our partners gave state updates on what was going on in the world of conservation, along with Quail Forever giving an update on our state goals for this next year and what we had reached this previous year.

During the state meeting the CEO of a Quail Forever national sponsor, Alps OutdoorZ, brought the whole team out to his property in east central Missouri to give everyone a farm tour. We were able to see the progress that has been made on his farm through wildlife habitat planting for all sorts of species.



Dennis Brune's pollinator plot in east central Missouri.



# Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Trevor Dubinski - Randolph, Macon, & Chariton

October - December 2023

## Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW)

Being a Working Lands for Wildlife Biologist, part of my yearly duties are to do quail surveys on landowners properties to see how well wildlife plantings and habitat restoration are helping the quail populations. This fall I did not have my own set of survey areas due to not having data from the spring roosting counts, but I was still able to join fellow Farm Bill Biologist, Will Robinson, on setting up ARUs (Automatic Recording Units). ARUs are used to listen for quail whistles starting 45 minutes before sunrise to 15 minutes after sunrise, when quail calling is most active. Will was able to show me how to properly set up the ARUs for recording at the proper times. Along with the ARUs, the research team out of Georgia have us go to certain locations to sit next to the ARU and do our own surveys, to ensure the ARU is correctly working and picking up what we also heard. It is always nice to do some population surveys to provide confidence in how well programs are working.



Will Robinson (FBB) setting up an ARU in Northwest Missouri

**Conservation Technical Assistance Summary**

- 12 Landowner Contacts
- 6 Site Visits
- 4 Conservation Plans Completed
- 599.69 Acres Impacted



# Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Trevor Dubinski - Randolph, Macon, & Chariton

October-December 2023

## Benton Elementary School Invasive Poster Judging

Jake Swafford, Coordinating Wildlife Biologist, and I had the opportunity to do some outreach at an elementary school in Columbia. Benton Elementary is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) school located near downtown Columbia where kids learn STEM topics on top of their normal curriculum. When Jake and I visited, they were researching invasive plants in Missouri, specifically Autumn Olive and Callery Pear. The 5th graders of Ms. Carrow's class were assigned a plant and had to make a poster outlining the dangers of the invasives on our local landscape and give some advice on how to eradicate them. The students did an amazing job creating the posters and even mentioned alternative native species to plant instead of the non-native invasives. At the end of our time there, we gave out native wildlife seed packets. Many of the students were beyond excited to plant them in their yards.

## Northeastern MDC PLC Meeting

During the month of October, I had the pleasure of joining MDC's Northeast PLC's for a meeting in Macon. There were many partners there as well. It was an informational meeting and I am excited to continue to work with MDC as a partner to establish more native warm season grass in my counties.



A farm we toured with Ted Seiler during the PLC meeting.





# Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Trevor Dubinski - Randolph, Macon, & Chariton

October-December 2023

## December:

### Mark Twain Mentored Quail Hunt

I had my first opportunity to run an outreach event for Quail Forever this December in the form of a mentored youth/new hunter quail hunt at a local family farm outside of Santa Fe, Missouri. The hunt was a complete success with over 30 mentors and mentees in attendance. Many first-time upland hunters had gotten their first bird (including myself). It was such an amazing experience being able to talk to all the participants about the wonders of using habitat to provide successful quail numbers in the area. The Mark Twain Chapter of Quail Forever did an amazing job mentoring all the new hunters and providing the necessary items to be a successful hunt. I can't wait to see the next hunt and potentially become a mentor myself.



A GSP on point while kids try to catch an escaped quail.

RCPP Flagging on AECI Land in Chariton County.

### Chariton County Flagging



With the MDC PLC in Chariton/Linn moving jobs, I have taken over his work in Chariton County. Much of the work includes flagging prairie buffer strips in Regional Conservation Partnership Program properties. I am excited to have more reach in Chariton as well since most of my work now has been focused on Randolph County.



# Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



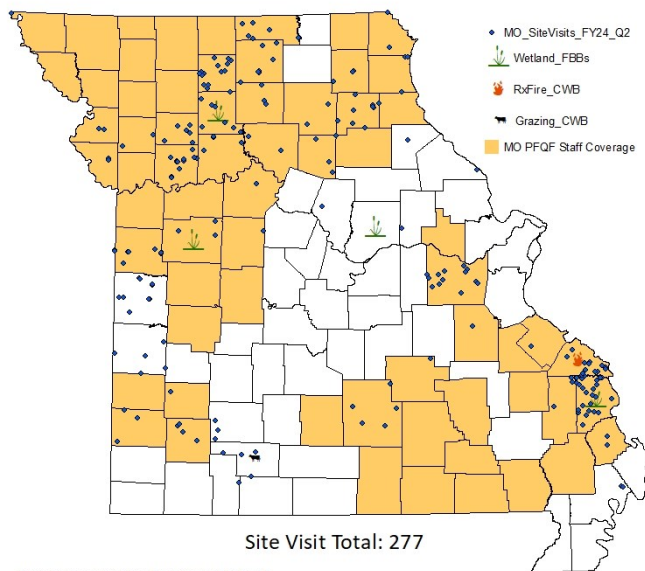
Trevor Dubinski - Randolph, Macon, & Chariton

October - December 2023

## New Seed Mix

An interesting project I have been working on has been the creation of a high diversity grazing mix for Missouri. During a webinar hosted by the WLFW east region, I learned that Arkansas has a designated high diversity grazing mix that includes high protein and palatable plants for cattle. This has led to the discussion of creating one for Missouri, giving landowners an opportunity to create good grazing land that will also benefit wildlife. The mix includes many types of forbs/legumes and three grasses. It is not done yet, but I am excited to keep working on the mix and have it available to Missouri landowners when the time comes

### MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023



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Updated 1/9/2024



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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Jeffrey Folkerts, NW Missouri WET Area 1

October — December 2023

### Position Update

At my 1.5 year mark on the team, I have continued to familiarize myself with the ACEP-WRE program structure. This quarter, I have aided in all parts of the easement application and design process including, monitoring, surveying, planning repairs, ranking, and plan writing. Fortunately, there is always more to learn and achieving proficiency in some portions of the program opens the door to the opportunity to develop additional competencies and deepen relationships with landowners. Additionally, the WETs 1 team has a big year upcoming with new easements being enrolled, planned, and surveyed, and I am looking forward to helping with all portions of the process. I have always enjoyed educating the public and I am working on developing a couple recurring events that will be previewed in March and April of 2024.

### Wetland Landowner Workshop

On what had to be the first truly cold, rainy day in October, the WETs West staff hosted a landowner wetland workshop. Aside from a bit of chilly weather, the day went off without a hitch. The Carroll county easement where the workshop was held was being flooded in anticipation of arriving teal and said teal were in residence. Landowners and local NRCS staff cycled through information stations while flocks of blue-winged teal wheeled and dove with a peregrine falcon pursuing them across the sky.

The workshop sought to offer landowners a view of an easement managed not just to attract birds but to hold them. Former MDC Wetland Services Biologist, Mike McClure, is a part-owner on this site and uses it to highlight the benefits that can come from a holistic management philosophy. In particular, Mike promotes providing ducks shelter from elements, secluded areas free from hunting pressure, and maintaining mixed vegetation types.

This workshop was a great opportunity for the WETs team to highlight good management practices, connect with easement owners, and offer local NRCS staff insight into the ACEP-WRE program. Keep a lookout for upcoming workshops in to be held in northwest and southwest Missouri in the coming year.



Mike McClure discussing the challenges of managing for desirable vegetation in a dynamic system. In particular how to strategize on the long term maintenance of plant communities and maximizing available resources.





# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Jeffrey Folkerts, NW Missouri WET Area 1

October — December 2023

### In the Next Quarter

- Attend EQIP Wetland Meeting in Warrensburg, MO.
- Attend PFQF State Habitat Meeting in Columbia, MO.
- Begin FY2024 monitoring of easements.
- Work with landowners to plan and execute repairs.
- Create materials and a program for Youth Wetland Outreach Day.
- Assist with Shortgrass Chapter Banquet

### Conservation Planning

- 33 Landowner Contacts
- 13 Site Visits
- 986.26 Assessed Acres
- 3190.14 Habitat Recommendation Acres

| Training/Meeting Type                                    | Outcome   |
|--|---|
| <b>PFQF Team Meeting</b>                                 | Gathered in St Louis with the PFQF team to discuss future organizational goals, trainings, and meet with new (and old) team members.  |
| <b>NRCS Cultural Resources Training</b>                  | Received training in the location and identification of cultural resources. Cultural resources must be surveyed for, documented and reported when working with federal programs.  |
| <b>Grand River Audubon Society Easement Presentation</b> | Gave a talk about the benefits and structure of the wetlands restored under the ACEP-WRE, EWRP, EWPP-FPE and WRP programs. Took questions from interested members of the Society and discussed how diverse wildlife habitat needs are addressed in the planning and stewardship of the easements. |
| <b>CD/CART Wetland Easement Training</b>                 | Attended a program specific wetland training in Columbia, about new features, tools and processes in Conservation Desktop and Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool applications.  |



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

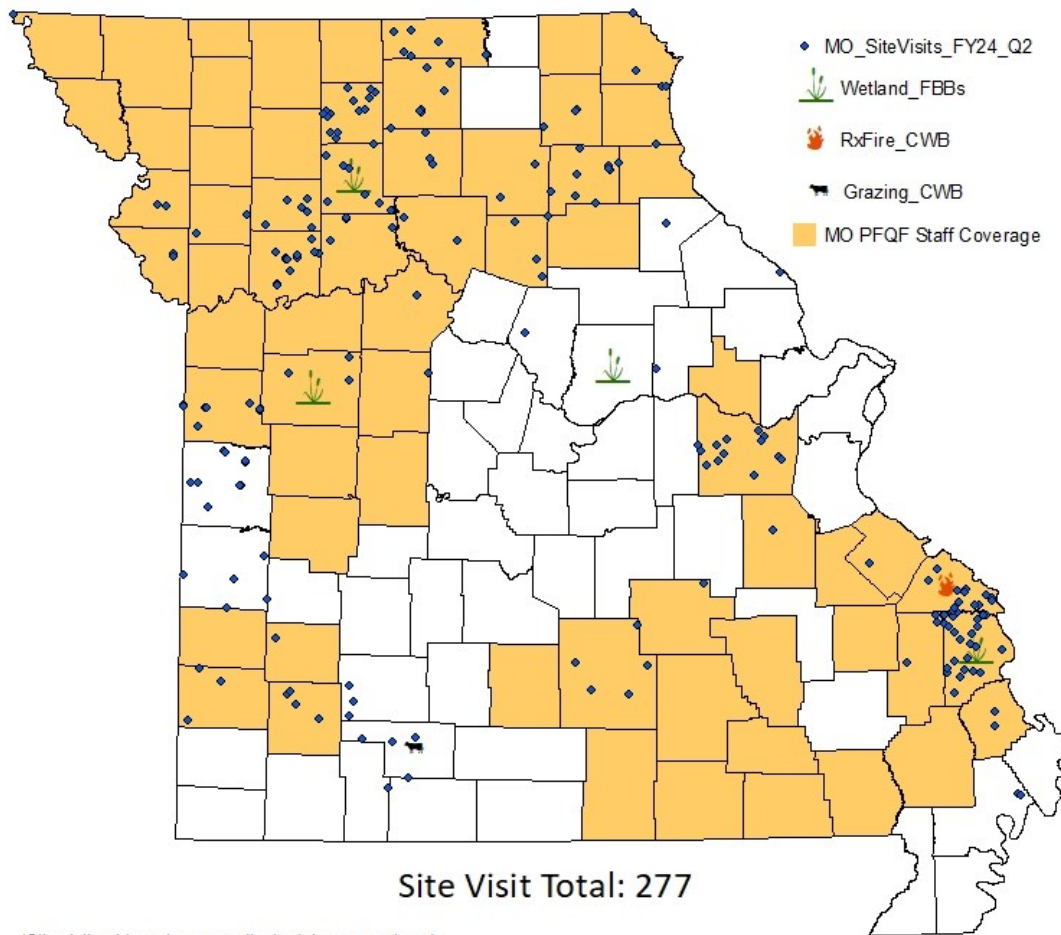
## Quarterly Partners' Report



Jeffrey Folkerts, NW Missouri WET Area 1

October — December 2023

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

**October—December 2023**

### New Equipment Available to Local Landowners

In September of 2022 local Farm Bill Biologist III, Wesley Hanks, submitted a grant proposal, that was approved in October 2022 to have a pendulum seeder unit purchased and assembled. A pendulum seeder is a broadcast seeder well suited for seeding diverse native seed mixes typically established to benefit pollinators and create brood rearing habitat for quail and turkey. Assembly of the unit was completed in October of 2023 and is now available for landowners in Franklin and surrounding counties. The seeder isn't just for seeding natives, it can be used to establish any type of annual or green browse food plot along with spreading fertilizer. The seeder will be housed at Shaw Nature Reserve (SNR) in Gray Summit and the crew at SNR has agreed to take care of routine maintenance. Anyone interested in using the seeder on their property can contact Wesley Hanks at (573) 301-9672 or [whanks@quailforever.org](mailto:whanks@quailforever.org). There is a \$30.00 per day rental fee that will go to the MO River Valley Chapter of QF to cover insurance and repairs. While most funds to pay for this seeder came from NWTF, the Missouri Dept. of Conservation, SNR, and the MO River Chapter also contributed dollars to purchase this equipment.



New pendulum seeder available for local landowners

Photo Credit: Wesley Hanks

| Trainings/Meetings/Outreach                              | Outcome  |
|--|--|
| <b>MO QF Team Meeting</b>                                | Connected with fellow QF employees, discussed and set team priorities, and connected with partner staff                                    |
| <b>Reckamp Farm Tour—Warren County</b>                   | Presented on the benefits of pollinators and pollinator habitat to 4th grade students from Warren county schools.                          |
| <b>Jefferson County Prescribed Burn Manager Training</b> | Assisted MDC staff with prescribed burn manager training for private landowners.   |
| <b>Young Farmers Connect Talk</b>                        | Along with staff from MO Soybean presented on cost-share programs that are available to private landowners to establish pollinator habitat |
| <b>CRP Menu Presentation</b>                             | Participated in a working group to review a new tool that is being developed to provide information about CRP to private landowners.       |





# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

**October—December 2023**

### Partnering to Reach Young Farmers

In November Brady Lichtenberg, with MO Soybeans, and Wesley Hanks, QF FBB III, presented to a group of young farmers and ranchers on pollinator habitat and cost-share programs available to help establish pollinator habitat. The webinar was part of the American Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Connect series that works to highlight programs and resources available to farmers and ranchers 18 – 35 years old. This was a great opportunity to introduce new agricultural producers from across the country to the benefits of pollinator habitat and the types of programs that are available to provide both technical and financial assistance.



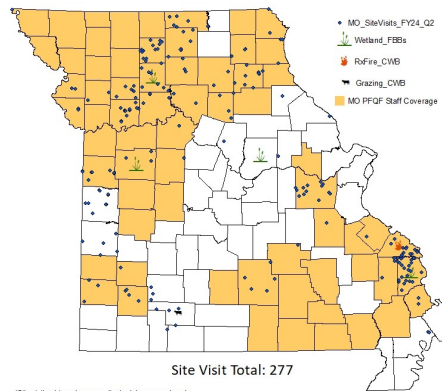
ECPPA getting some fall burning done.

Photo credit: Ayden Carey

**Conservation Planning**

- 41 landowner contacts
- 15 Site Visits
- 14 Burn Plans - 880 ac
- 7 LCAP/HCG Project Plans - 154.8 ac

**MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT**  
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| 8 Conservation Plans Completed | Acres |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Brush Management               | 51.8  |
| Native Forage Seeding          | 8.5   |
| Herbaceous Weed Control        | 14.4  |
| Pollinator Seeding             | 44.8  |

### Looking Forward

- Work with landowners completing projects for LCAP and HCG
- Train local Partner and QF Staff on the use of the recently completed pendulum seeder.
- Help with the MO State Habitat Meeting on January 19th-20th in Columbia MO
- Assist NRCS staff with the assessment and ranking process for recently submitted EQIP applications.
- Attend Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic in Sioux Falls South Dakota to help with the Habitat Help Desk
- 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

Lizzy Johnson - Howell, Texas, & Wright Counties

October – December 2023

### FY24—Q2 Summary

The past quarter was spent mainly in the office, getting signatures from landowners for their CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) payments. Sometimes this can be a tough job when several landowners do not live on the properties that they manage. It requires a lot of communication, through phone calls, texts, emails, snail mail, or even taking paperwork directly to the landowner. I was also working on CSP renewals and had one contract approved for a landowner who has a large tract of forested acres. He is planning to complete some prescribed burning on his woodlands during the duration of his contract. I also spent the last few months making sure all landowners who had applied for the EQIP program were entered into the system, as the deadline for the first round of sign-ups was in October. I have been getting ahold of these landowners and discussing what they would like to include in their conservation plans and setting up site visits with those I hadn't met with in the past. This next quarter will be spent working on assessing and finalizing conservation plans for approval of these applications. I am excited to start getting landowners approved and see all of the habitat improvement to come!

#### Conservation Planning

- 82 Landowner Contacts
- 2 Conservation Plans
- 7 Site Visits
- 20.6 Acres Assessed

### Looking Forward

- Attending the MOPFQF State Habitat Meeting.
- Completing the Fire Management Level 1 training hosted by MDC.
- Completing assessments and rankings for EQIP applications.
- Completing checkouts on dormant season native plantings.

*\*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

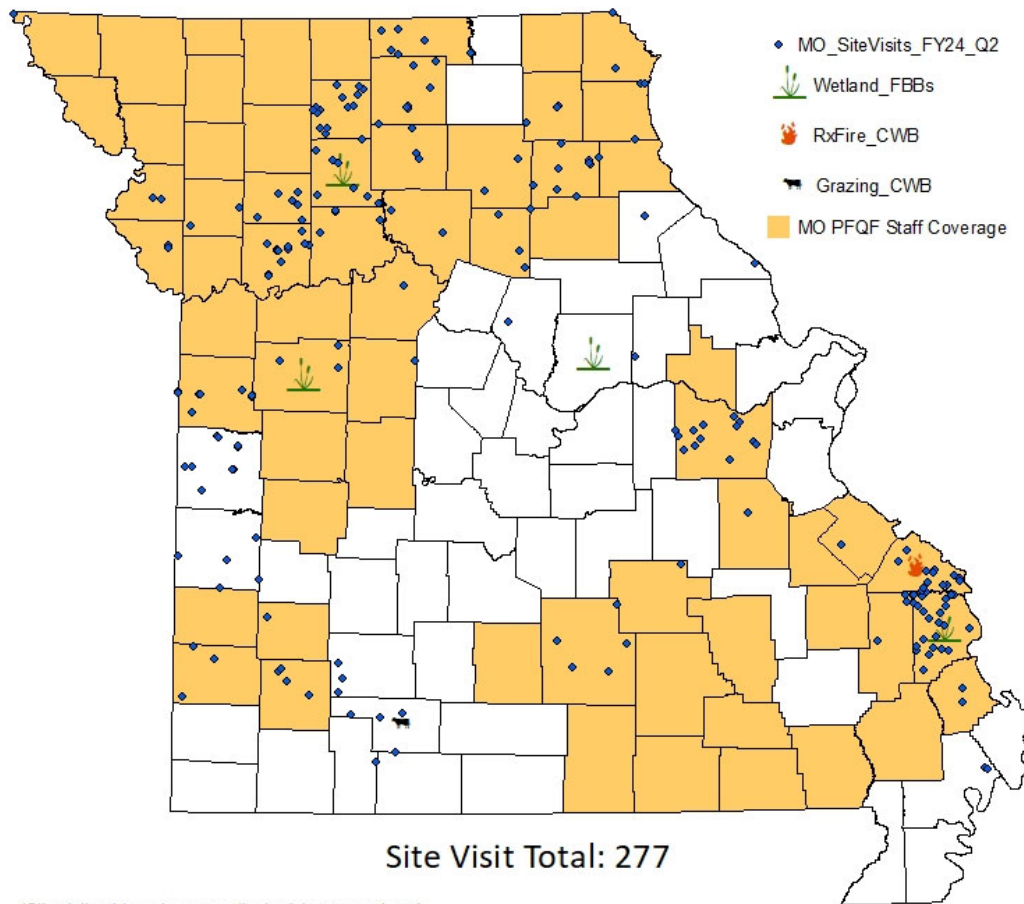
## Quarterly Partners' Report



Lizzy Johnson - Howell, Texas, & Wright Counties

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# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Taylor Jones - Southwest counties

Oct – December 2023

### New Beginnings

Hopefully, this will be my shortest quarterly report due to the fact that my employment with PFQF didn't begin until Thanksgiving week of 2023. I am incredibly excited to begin this new venture with such a prominent and respected conservation organization. So I figured the best way to kick off my first report is to give a little background about myself and what you can expect from me in the future.

During my senior year at Northwest Missouri State University, (which was from fall 2019 to spring 2020) I was employed as a biology technician through the university and worked at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge. It was my time working at the refuge that my love of wetland ecology began. The experience and knowledge I gained from the staff at Loess Bluffs was crucial to developing my foundation as a wildlife professional with a keen interest in the world of wetlands. I also volunteered much of my time outside of work to assist biologists from MDC and Missouri DNR with various projects including fish surveys and water quality monitoring.

Prior to my employment here at PFQF as a Wetland Specialist, I was employed at an environmental consulting firm as a Wildlife Biologist where I further developed my skills working with private landowners throughout Kansas and Nebraska who wished to restore the streams that ran through their ranches. Our main focus was implementing structures called beaver dam analogs (BDAs) which have shown promise out west, but this was one of the first times this practice was being implemented in the Great Plains region.



*Incidental find of another male Blanding's turtle while tracking a tagged individual at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge summer of 2019.*



*Post-construction monitoring of a beaver dam analog (BDA) on a ranch in south-central Kansas from my time as a Wildlife Biologist*

**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 Iowa!**



# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Taylor Jones - Southwest counties

Oct – December 2023

### Current Work

With a new position comes a host of new policies, procedures and practices to learn. I'm currently working with my team to learn all aspects of the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) program in order to best assist the landowners of southwest Missouri. I have been assisting with writing compatible use agreements (CUAs) and have been conducting site visits with the team to provide technical assistance to landowners currently enrolled and wishing to enroll in the WRE. On top of that, I have been attending workshops to further my knowledge of NRCS programs and tools to further enhance my capabilities as a Wetland Specialist.

| Training/Meeting Type                | Outcome  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Conservation Desktop Workshop</b> | This was my introduction to a software program that I will be utilizing daily to write Compatible Use Agreements for landowners enrolled in the WRP. I also met many of my colleagues in PFQF as well as from partner organizations such as MDC and NRCS as well as toured the state office.   |
| <b>CRP Menu Workshop</b>             | This workshop was organized and presented by staff and students from Mississippi State University. They are currently developing an online tool that would assist landowners as well as NRCS staff and partners with understanding eligibility requirements for enrollment in CRP as well as providing estimates based on acreage, land use and other factors. This tool could eventually be expanded to other programs such as the WRP. |

### Connect with Us!



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Missouri Quail Forever



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# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Taylor Jones - Southwest counties

Oct – December 2023

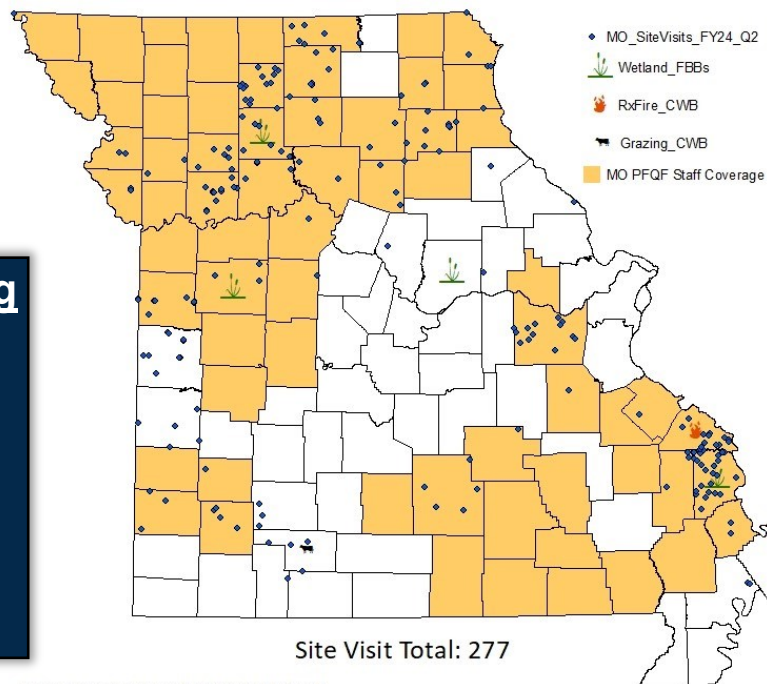
### Looking Forward

The next quarter looks to be very eventful. In January, I will be attending the State Habitat meeting in Columbia, Missouri as well as attending fire training put on by MDC in the southeast region to begin developing the skillsets to write burn plans.

In February, I will be working at the PFQF booth at the annual Missouri Natural Resources Conference down in the Ozarks. I have attended this conference several times, but this will be the first time I will be working a booth as a wildlife professional. So, I am thoroughly excited to participate in my new role and talk to students and professionals about PFQF and the WRE.

Future quarterly reports should be full of new events, projects, and workshops as I progress within The Habitat Organization and continue to develop as a Wetland Specialist.

### MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023



### Conservation Planning

- Landowner Contacts: 9
- Site Visits: 8
- CUA contributions: 6

Acres impacted: 895.5

\*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 1/8/2024



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.

*\*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 Invasive Species Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



**Valarie Kurre- Butler, Carter, Dent, Shannon, Reynolds, Ripely, Oregon, Texas, and Howell  
October—December 2023 Counties**

### Valarie, the Traveling Gnome

This quarter I had several conferences and events I attended in back to back to back weeks in October. I guess you could say I was living out of my suitcase! First was the Missouri Quail Forever Team Meeting. It's always nice to get together from all parts of the state and see what projects and new things our biologists have been up to. This year, we also go to tour Dennis Brune's property just outside of St. Louis. There, he has been implementing different cost share methods to make his property more wildlife and pollinator friendly. We also got to hear from partner organizations on updates to some of their programs. The week was filled with lots of learning and great team bonding!

The next week I was off to Springfield to attend and present at the Missouri Department of Conservation's Partner Roundtable. My presentation focused on explaining the power of partnerships when dealing with invasive species and giving a background on the Scenic Rivers Invasive Species Partnership. I also attended sessions on including underrepresented groups in conservation and nature, and how nature can improve mental health. The roundtable ended with an opportunity to have a Q&A with the commissioners, which was very enlightening.

Next on the docket was a trip to Lincoln, Nebraska where I attended the North American Invasive Species Management Association's (NAISMA) Annual Meeting. I started by taking a trip to Spring Creek Prairie to learn how the management team there deals with invasive species coming in to their tallgrass prairie system. There was also an herbicide drone demonstration. The programs and functions of the drone and its system were amazing to learn about and see in action. Needless to say, I think the SRISP definitely needs one in the future! There were so many sessions I attended over the three days including learning



Top: The Spring Creek Prairie field trip during the NAISMA conference was a perfect picture—the fall colors were really popping!

Bottom: The herbicide drone that was used for the demonstration.





# Coordinating Invasive Species Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



**Valarie Kurre- Butler, Carter, Dent, Shannon, Reynolds, Ripely, Oregon, Texas, and Howell  
October—December 2023 Counties**

The Missouri Quail Forever Team poses in front of a scenic overlook at Dennis Brune's property outside of St. Louis, Missouri.



how land managers have used AI to find invasive Callery Pear, how other CISMAs operate and what they do, and the successes of roadside invasive treatments. It was a wonderful week learning so much and meeting so many people from across the country. Straight from Lincoln, I headed back to Missouri to help in WildHERness' GO WYLD Women's Weekend. This event focuses on getting women outdoors, whether it's

through hunting, shooting, growing and foraging food, or learning how to make crafts from things found in nature. Each year, Quail Forever Missouri hosts a wild game dinner one night, which I assisted with. We featured pheasant salad, venison meatballs and chili, and several wild game summer sausages. Many of the participants commented that the meal was excellent and they enjoyed trying new things!

After a busy three straight weeks of travel, I got a few weeks off before heading to Rolla to attend the Missouri Botanical Symposium. This annual event brings talks and presenters

from all over the state and surrounding states to talk about the latest in the world of botany. This year, some of the talks included research on beavers and their effects on fens, Ozark Chinquapin regeneration, and how willows may be an ecosystem engineer in Ozark streams. It was great to catch up with so many folks working around the Ozarks area and learn about new and interesting topics!



I really enjoyed touring Dennis Brune's property during our team meeting!



# Coordinating Invasive Species Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



### Valarie Kurre- Butler, Carter, Dent, Shannon, Reynolds, Ripely, Oregon, Texas, and Howell Counties October—December 2023

This quarter was indeed one that included a lot of travel, but a LOT of learning. I'm so glad I was able to attend all of these events and get to meet so many different people from different areas and backgrounds. It's always good to get out of your comfort zone every once in a while and try something new!

**@MissouriQF**

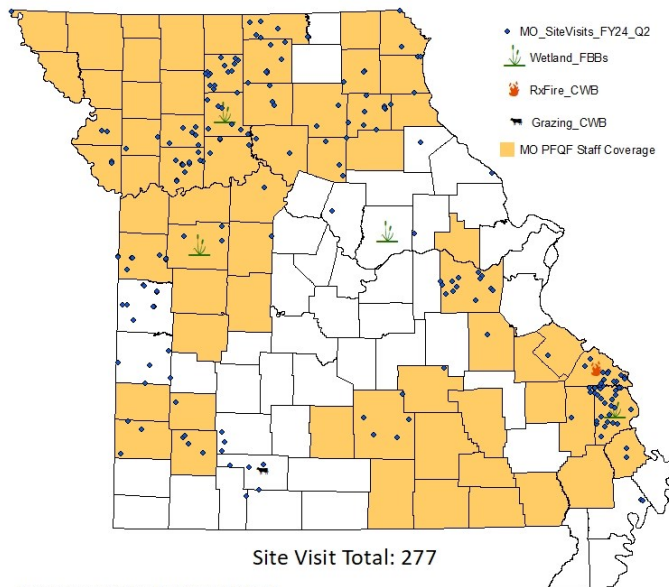







**MissouriPFQF.org**

### MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023



\*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.  
Updated 1/8/2024



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.





# Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



**Emaily Lear - Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois and Madison**

**October—December 2023**

## What I've been up to...

While this Quarter has been filled with holidays, vacations and hunting seasons, I still managed to have a busy and exciting time with work! Lots of continuing education opportunities, from trainings with partners, field days spent with coworkers checking out practices, and discussions on further understanding herbicides and other management practices. I've been working on assisting with a few EQIP projects, working through checking seed mixes for a few of my new CRP landowners, and conducting a field visit to get some points for a large "in the works" continuous CRP project.



### Conservation Activities

- 15 Landowner Contacts
- 5 Site Visits
- 7 Events;
  - 5 Outreach & Education Events
  - MO Team Meeting
  - Partner training



Above is a stunning photo of a Common Buckeye found while doing an initial site visit with a landowner who is interested in converting his old field into a diverse pollinator habitat. The photo to the left was taken in Massachusetts while I was visiting on vacation. While it doesn't seem relative, I thought it was fun to include that even while I'm away from my job, the draw of conservation never seems to leave. It was interesting to visit a place so far away but still conserving similar things to our own 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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# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Emaily Lear - Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois and Madison

October—December 2023



### Outreach & Education

- While this Quarter was a little slower in the O&E category I was still able to participate in a few events. To the left is a photo from the Perryville County FFA Grassland Contest; I assisted Chad in the Plant ID portion of the contest. I also attended the Missouri Forage & Grazing Council Annual Conference, where myself and two other staff held a table with the interactive root board & some other informational handouts. I was also able to attend two Women's Events; I presented at another Women in Ag event in Cape County and also attended the 3rd Annual Women's GO WYLD Weekend.

Below show photos of an old field going into a monarch planting for an EQIP project in Madison County. Because there is an excess of woody vegetation grown up I have been working with the MDC Area Biologist and Area staff to come up with a solution to allow Brush Management to help eradicate any of the concerning invasives and persistent woody species.







# Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Emaily Lear - Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois and Madison

October—December 2023

## Expanding your Knowledge



In November the Area Biologist invited me along to Shannon County to assist in some practice checkouts. During this time we checked out a prescribed burn, which is shown by the photo to the right. While checking out this stand we had a great discussion about prescribed burning in woodlands, how the timing and intensity can determine the outcomes of the stand and can be adapted to the landowners goals and objectives. The photos above show examples of a FSI project, this was a fairly large stand so we spent some time wandering around and taking different stopping points to check the basal area to determine if it met the recommended reduction & objectives of the project. This field day was a great experience because while I do think I'm starting to grasp a better understanding of woodland management, you never know what more you can learn!

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# Missouri Quail Forever

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Cass, Johnson, Pettis

Oct—Dec 2023

### Covey Sunrise

October 15th kicked off the Fall survey period for the Outcomes Assessment. During the fall, we conducted covey count surveys on the same sites as the spring. Due to staffing vacancies, I also completed fall surveys for Lawrence and Barton counties. I'm happy to report that I heard several coveys during brisk fall sunrises.

We are also busy with assessments and ranking for EQIP and RCPP applications. I'm meeting with participants to discuss various wildlife practices and complete site evaluations.



| <u>Conservation Planning</u>  |
|-------------------------------|
| • 67 Landowner Contacts       |
| • 40 Site Visits              |
| • 3 Conservation Plans        |
| • 4 Status Reviews/check-outs |
| • 2 Practice Certifications   |
| • 6 Surveys & Data Collection |

| Delivery Activities                   | Acres         |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Assessment Acres</b>               | <b>64</b>     |
| Status Reviews                        | 64            |
| <b>Conservation Planning</b>          | <b>24.06</b>  |
| Conservation Plans                    | 13.76         |
| Rx Burn Plan                          | 10.3          |
| <b>Practice Certification</b>         | <b>14</b>     |
| Prescribed Burning - Grasslands - 338 | 7             |
| Herbaceous Weed Control - 315         | 7             |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                    | <b>102.06</b> |

| <u>Outcomes Assessment Activity</u>                    |
|--|
| • 13 ARU units   |
| • 11 Landowners participating in 12 EQIP/CSP contracts |
| • 27 ARU deployments                                   |
| • 6 Covey Counts                                       |

91 people reached at  
7 Outreach Events and Trainings

### Connect with Us!



Haley Lockard  
Senior WLFW Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

hlockard@quailforever.org



# Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



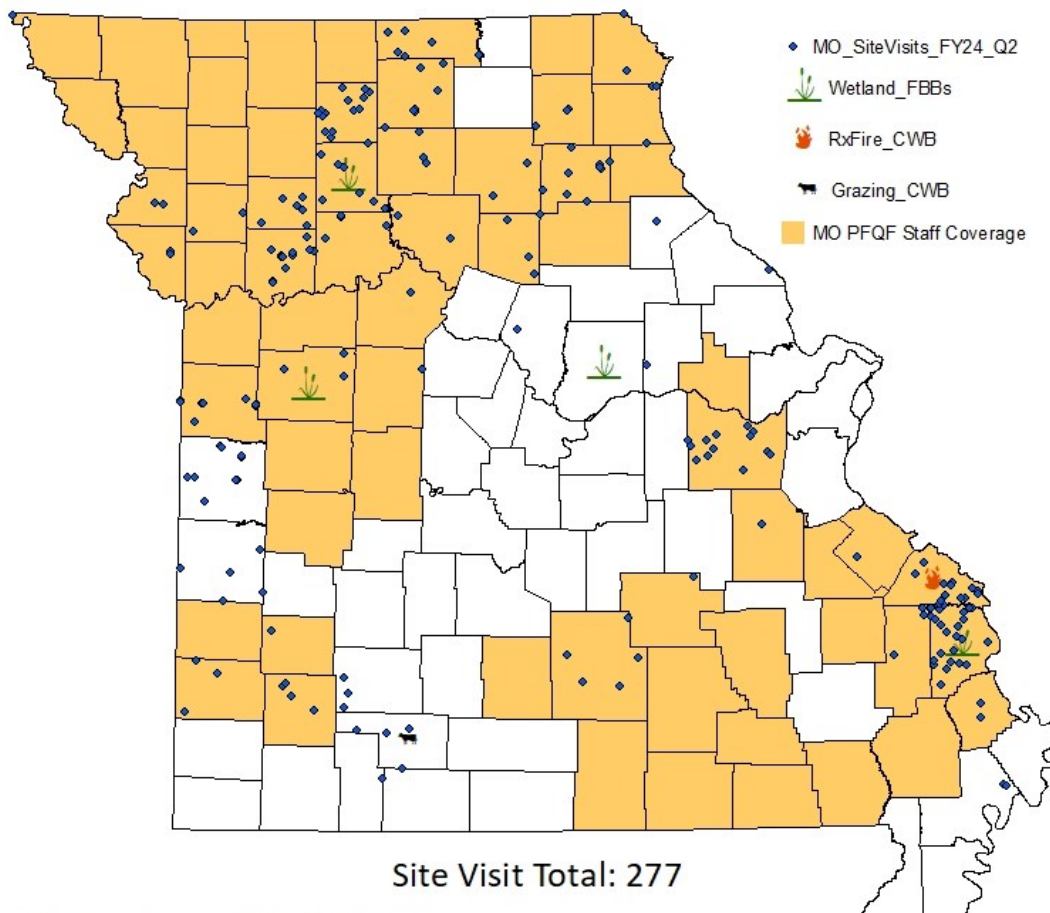
Haley Lockard

Oct—Dec 2023

## Looking Forward...

- Hire and Onboard current FBB vacancies in southern Missouri
- Help the team host the 9th Annual Missouri Quail Forever State Habitat Meeting Jan 19-20
- Complete planning and assessments on wildlife EQIP and RCPP applications for FY24
- Attend MNRC Feb 6-8
- Provide Assistance to Habitat Help Desk and Youth Village at Pheasant Fest Mar 1-3
- Continue to provide technical assistance to landowners

## BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023





### Quarterly Overview

We started this quarter off with a bang by gathering together for our annual team meeting. We met as a team both to recharge for the upcoming year and celebrate last year.. Throughout the meeting, we were able to listen to guest speakers, tour a landowner’s properties, present awards to our hard working staff, and relax with our teammates. I was privileged to attend and participate in several workshops, training events and partner meetings throughout the quarter as well. I also had the chance to go out in the field which allowed me many opportunities to provide positive feedback and recommendations for habitat. With the coming of the dormant season, I was able to find some time to sit down and visit with landowners about burn plans and draft several plans so they could complete management for various programs. Even with as much planning as we do ahead of time, I am always surprised by the unexpected opportunities that show up as the quarter moves on.

### Haying and Grazing CRP

The FSA office in Trenton reached out to me and asked if I would help them conduct haying a grazing inspections on CRP from last summer. Because of the wide ranging drought across Missouri, all my counties were able to open up landowner’s CRP for haying and grazing, if the landowner chose to. Several landowners requested to hay their CRP and part of the process includes checking fields to make sure it was hayed appropriately and the hay has been removed from the field in a timely manner. These checks allowed me to go out into the field during a time when I am typically in the office because most of our field work has slowed down. I was able to use these checks to view the habitat on these CRP fields and offer suggestions to help make the habitat better for wildlife. With the cover cut, it provided a good look at the fields and made it easier to identify if there were invasive species that needed treated or management that needed conducted.



**A Bald Eagle spotted during CRP Haying and Grazing checks**

### Horizon’s II Project

In early December, I was contacted by a contractor working on a landowner that I knew inviting me to join in on a call with them and Roeslein Alternative Energy (RAE) to discuss the Horizons II project. RAE has won a grant from the USDA to complete a project of planting 40,000 acres of native grasses and forbs and 40,000 acres of cover crops for use by wildlife and use in their anerobic digesters to create natural gas. We were able to discuss the project with the landowner and look at if it is right for his property. Through this program landowners receive a rental rate payment from Roeslein and assistance in implementing the native planting. I was able to further visit with Roeslein’s Conservation Coordinator and discuss the project, how it can benefit wildlife, the landowner and Roeslein as well and look at and provide advice on the mix they are using for the native plantings. This project has the capability to add 80,000 acres of quality cover crops and habitat to the North Missouri landscape and provide an incentive to landowners to plant them. I look forward to following this project helping Roeslein in this project.

### Connecting New Audiences

In Early October, our Outreach Coordinator, Kim Cole, took a national level position with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever. This allowed me the chance to manage our social media pages for a few weeks. Through this experience, I was able to create outreach material that was used by landowners, resource professionals, and general public across Missouri and many neighboring states. I was also able to help our page grow and provide more information to a variety of audiences than I do in my typical day to day activities.





**Unique Wildlife**

Within my job, I am able to help to build incredible grassland habitat. While the primary species we work for is quail and pheasants, our habitat work impacts a variety of other species particularly grassland birds. One species of grassland bird that is on the decline and interesting and unique is the Loggerhead Shrike. These song birds are birds of prey that have a distinctive feeding habit. They impale their food on thorns and or sharp objects and come back to eat it later. With the invention of barbed wire , they are able to create a convenient buffet along long stretches of fence. Like quail, these birds rely on a diverse insect population which thrives within our native wildflowers. Where native grassland habitat is restored, shrike populations are starting to increase. Their unique feeding habitats has lead to their nickname "butcher birds." Even though they are slightly smaller than a robin, using precision strikes with their beaks, they can even hunt larger prey such as mice, which also rely on grassland habitat. While it is uncommon to see shrikes, a keen eye can see when one is using an area by its displayed food. Within this quarter, I was able to photograph one shrike and identify four different locations across two counties that shrikes are using. I was also able to inform my coworkers about shrikes and now they are on the hunt to identify areas that shrikes are using. It was thanks to their efforts I was able to find the locations where I photographed these unfortunate shrike victims. Missouri wildlife is certainly fascinating the more I learn about it.



**Loggerhead Shrike aka Butcher Bird**

**Grazing and Wildlife**

In August, the Missouri Forage and Grassland Council along with the Missouri Department of Conservation hired Marine Osier as their Conservation Grasslands Specialists. She will be working in Northeast Missouri with landowners to promote the benefits of native plants in grazing and haying operations. In October, I was able to join Marina and Cody Colyer, NRCS Soil Conservationist for Sullivan County, in the field touring a property with a local landowner. The landowner showed us several of his crop fields where he has been experimenting with cover crops. He is a big believer in cover crop and their benefits. He has even tried haying and grazing cover crops and then recording crop yields the following year. This landowner also plans to utilize the Native Forage Initiative to establish native warm season grasses. It was a chilly morning, but an enjoyable time being able to learn from a landowner who is dedicated to conservation. I look forward to having Marina on-board and helping with work in the county. Having someone dedicated to native forages will be a valuable resource to landowners and wildlife. I know Northeast Missouri will benefit from having Marina available to discusses with farmers how they can benefit from adding native forages into their rotation and increasing their cattle's production and health.



**A variety of Loggerhead Shrike Prey.**



# Senior Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist **USDA**

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

**OCT – DEC 2023**

| Trainings and Outreach            | Summary   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>QF Missouri Team Meeting</b>   | The entire QF Missouri Team met to discuss team goals, celebrate team members, and catch up with teammates.   |
| <b>Landowner Burn Workshop</b>    | Assisted the MDC PLC for Sullivan County in hosting an Rx burn field day and demo fire.   |
| <b>MDC Poosey Fall Tour</b>       | Hosted a booth during the Poosey Conservation Area Fall Driving Tour.   |
| <b>NE Region PLC Meeting</b>      | The MDC Private Lands Services and other private lands staff met for a meeting and field tour.  |
| <b>Pack Test Refresher</b>        | Attended the Wildland Firefighter pack test refresher and field day in Kirksville.  |
| <b>CRP Menu Training</b>          | Attended a workshop for conservation professionals involved in CRP to test and provide feedback on a new tool that is being designed by Mississippi State University. |
| <b>NRCS Area 2 Awards Meeting</b> | Attended the awards meeting for NRCS Area 2 and was able to help recognize some of the hard working members of the PF/QF Missouri Staff.                              |

**Quarterly Numbers**

- 103 Landowners Contacted
- 37 Site Visits

### Looking Forward

- **Jan 19-21** MO State Habitat Meeting
- **February 6-8** MNRC
- **February 27th** NWSG Establishment Workshop
- **March 1-2** CFM Annual Conference

| Program                                      | Impacted Ac.   |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Assessed Acres</b>                        | 1285.57        |
| <b>Habitat Recommendations (planned)</b>     | 1756.83        |
| <b>Habitat Recommendations (Implemented)</b> | 243.57         |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>3285.97</b> |

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



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

**Joshua Marshall**  
Senior Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

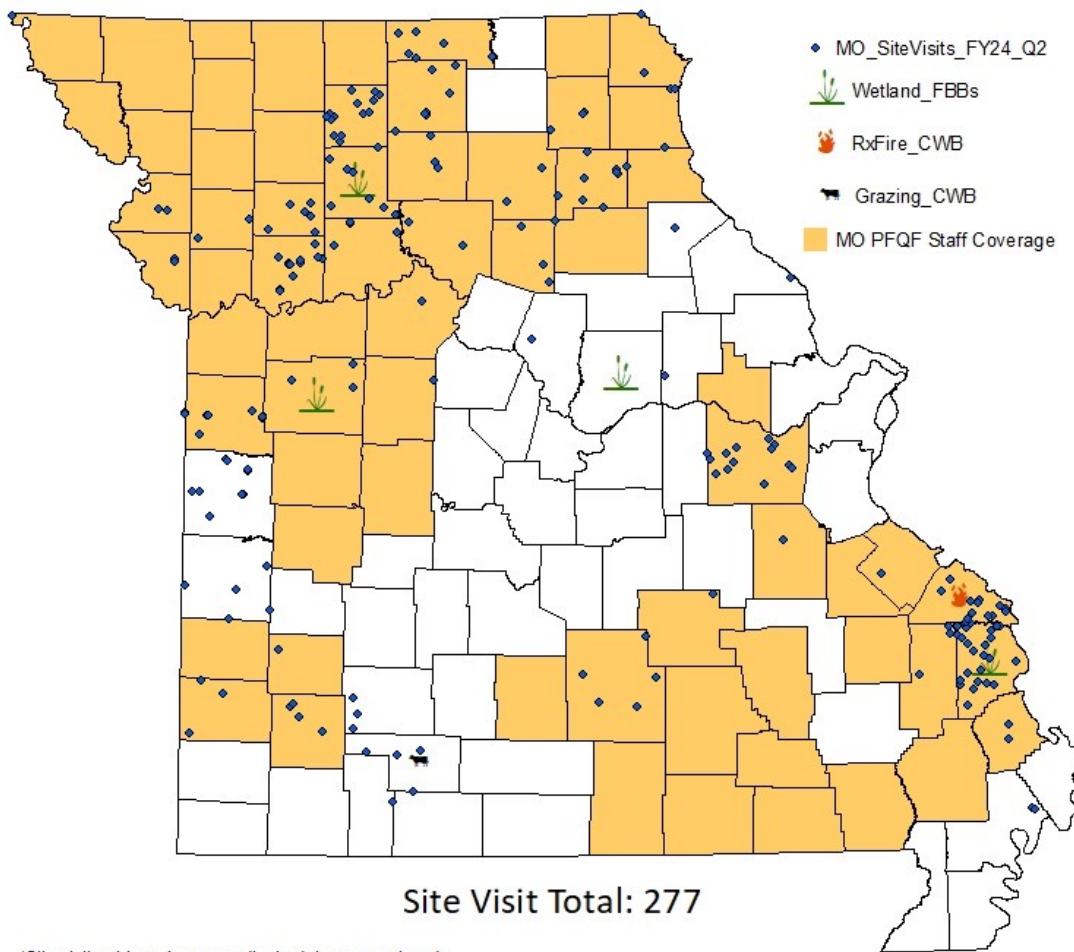
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- Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties -



# MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023



\*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 1/8/2024



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.





## Position Update

This quarter, the team and I continued to wrap up a few ongoing wetland restorations from this past summer. We completed construction on a massive ~300 acre pool ACEP-WRE in Pike County, another ACEP-WRE in Lincoln County, and an MDC cost-share project, restoring a ~3 acre wetland in Boone county. I also wrapped up a 90 acre forest stand improvement (FSI) contract on one of our existing easements in Knox County. With FSI becoming more of a focus on our wetlands, this landowner called at the perfect time to get the ball rolling. He was concerned about the amount of oak mortality on his land, so I decided to go drive the property with him to assess. After learning about the many years of drought and flooding in the past, I decided FSI could help relieve stress from the residual community and provide some resilience to future adverse conditions. The project was completed in October, shortly before rifle season, and the landowner was very pleased. Come rifle season, I received pictures of a smiling landowner and his friend with two mature whitetail bucks harvested from the tract. Restoring healthy wetlands across the landscape and establishing positive relationships with landowners will never get old!



*Above and Below: Post FSI pictures on Knox Co easement*



*Below: Whitetail bucks harvested on Knox Co easement*





**Conservation Technical Assistance Summary**

**Conservation Planning**

- 14 Landowner Contacts
- 14 Site Visits
- 2 Topographic Surveys Completed



*WET2 conducting checkout on Lincoln Co easement*

| Trainings/Meeting Type        | Outcome  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Conservation Desktop Training | Our statewide WETs staff were able to gather in Columbia to learn more about using CD and to synchronize how we enter data into the program.   |
| Cultural Resources Training   | I attended the Cultural Resources field portion, where I learned more about the significance of our cultural resources and the protocol for if I were to come upon them in the field.      |
| Conservation Planner Level 1  | With the completion of the Conservation Desktop and Cultural Resources trainings I was able to successfully wrap up and obtain my Level 1 Conservation Planner Certificate. On to Level 2! |







## Moving Forward

As we approach the ACEP-WRE application deadline we have been working diligently to meet with all of our new applicants, educate them on the benefits of our program, and help their applications get filed and ranked. Shortly thereafter, we will be getting boots on the ground to conduct topographic surveys which will be used to develop designs for future restorations. In addition, monitoring season is quickly approaching, where the team and I will travel to all the easements due for onsite monitoring to ensure the wetlands are functioning properly and to address any concerns from landowners who may not have reached out to us just yet. Lastly, the Missouri PFQF team has been gearing up for our 2024 State Habitat Conference and banquet located in Columbia, MO! I am looking forward to getting back together with the entire team and interacting with other conservationists from around the state. I am also excited to be presenting at the conference with fellow farm bill biologist Will Robinson to discuss the benefits of wetland and upland habitat for wildlife habitat.



*Setting a manhole water control structure on the ~300 acre pool for our Pike County easement*





# Farm Bill Biologist II-Wetland Specialist **USDA** Quarterly Partners' Report



**Colby Mohler—Northeast Counties**

**October 2023 — December 2023**



*Post-restoration of  
the MDC cost-share  
wetland restoration  
in Boone County*

**Colby Mohler  
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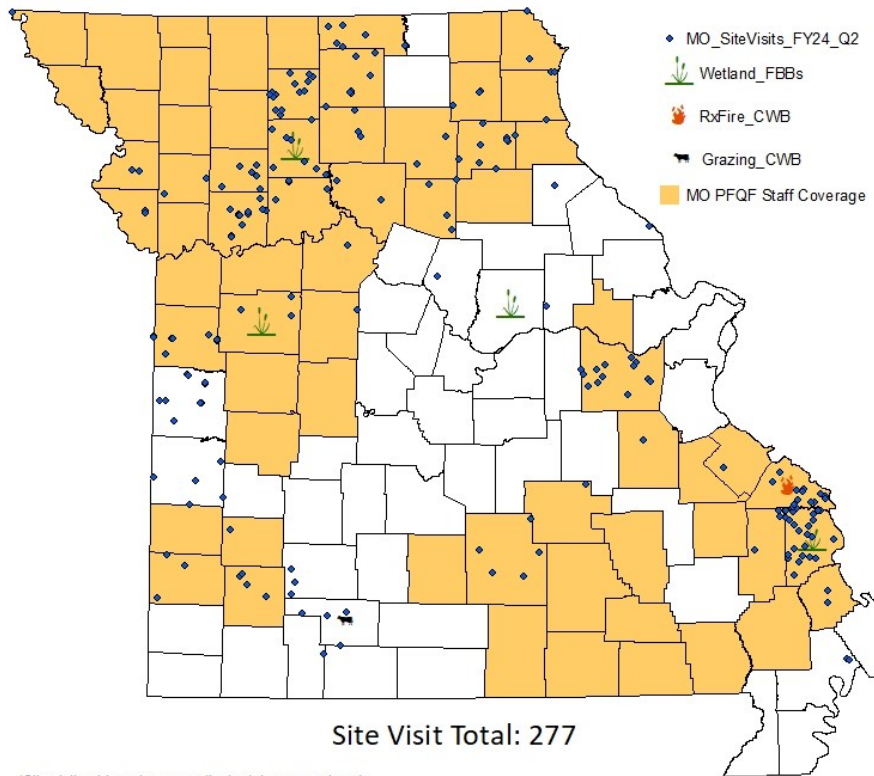




Second Quarter of FY24

From October 1 through December 31, our team recorded 691 landowner contacts and 277 site visits. The team impacted 13,685 acres. Outreach efforts reached 1,454 participants through workshops, meetings, and trainings.

MISSOURI PF/QF  
BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT  
Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023



\*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 1/8/2024



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# Grazing Lands Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Tanner Patton - Missouri

October–December 2023

### Position Update

The final quarter of calendar year 2023 has been both busy and exciting. With Missouri's quail season opening November 1, landowners seemed to have quail on the mind and I was happily able to assist in providing technical assistance for producing new quail habitat around the state as well as answer questions pertaining to the life cycle of quail. I also aided landowners with their cool season grasses and helped stretch those grasses farther through the use of rotational grazing.

### Winter Quail Habitat

The importance of proper winter habitat for quail and other ground nesting birds cannot be overstated. Native warm season grasses can be a crucial component in this habitat as they provide both shelter and food. Clumps of native grasses like those seen in the picture to the right can provide microclimates during the colder months for quail to stay warm. Temperatures above the grass can be 20°F and, in the sunlight, temperatures at the base of the grass can be as high as 80°F. The grasses also provide nutrient rich seeds that can be an invaluable food source for the birds along with other seeds from native forbs. This is another reason why allowing native warm season grasses a minimum of 35 days before the first frost date in a region is so important. Fields like the one shown on the bottom right of this page can become quail wintering hot spots and can be the missing ingredient for landowners who are struggling to hold birds on their place during the hunting season.



### Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

#### Conservation Planning

- 47 Landowner Contacts
- 20 Site Visits
- Advised on >900 acres



Tanner Patton  
Coordinating Grazing Lands Biologist

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# Grazing Lands Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Tanner Patton - Missouri

October–December 2023

### MFGC



A presentation about the benefits of using South Poll cattle in Missouri.

I was fortunate enough to attend the Missouri Forages and Grasslands Council Annual Forage Conference this year. This event took place at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Jefferson City and there was a large turnout this year.

There were many knowledgeable speakers who talked on a myriad of topics including stockpiling grasses, proper stocking rates, native grass establishment, small ruminant grazing, and many more. I would highly recommend this conference for producers and partners alike.

| Training/Meeting Type        | Outcome   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>MFGC</b>                  | This annual conference took place in Jefferson City and had many great topics discussed during it including many topics relating to the efficiency of NWSG.   |
| <b>Missouri Team Meeting</b> | I attended the Pheasants and Quail Forever Missouri State Team Meeting in early October. This provided an excellent opportunity to meet everyone on the team in person and discuss topics with partners to better be able to serve producers in the future. |
| <b>MOFAT Training</b>        | This online training was held to help users better understand how to use the MOFAT tool in conjunction with CART when using cost share programs.  |

**@MissouriQF**

**Missouri Quail Forever**

**MissouriPFQF.org**

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Coordinating Grazing Lands Biologist

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# Grazing Lands Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Tanner Patton - Missouri

October–December 2023

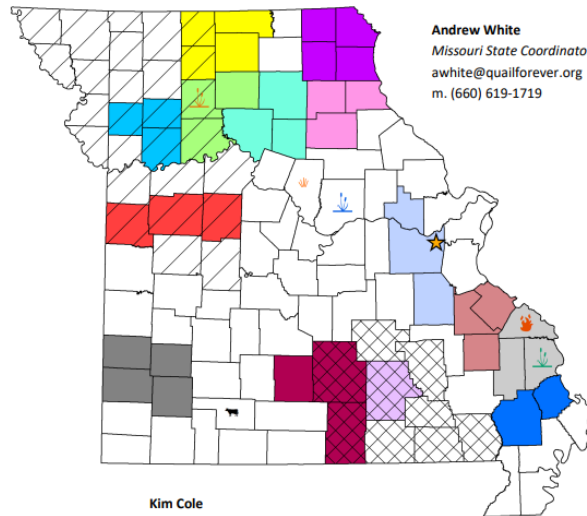
### Looking Forward

- Attend the MNRC conference.
- Get out and enjoy the sport of upland hunting before the season closes.
- Take someone out with me hunting who does not have a background hunting.
- Stay in touch with producers who I have existing relationships with and continue to assist them with any grazing related questions they may have.

## PF/QF in Missouri Staff

- VACANT**  
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II  
Scott, Stoddard
- Chad Doolen**  
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II  
Perry, Bollinger, Cape Girardeau
- Colby Mohler**  
FBB II– Wetland Specialist  
Northeast MO
- Emally Lear**  
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II  
Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve
- VACANT**  
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II  
Jasper, Barton, Dade, Lawrence
- Haley Lockard**  
Senior WFLW Farm Bill Biologist  
Cass, Johnson, Pettis
- VACANT**  
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist  
Clark, Lewis, Knox, Scotland
- Jacob Swafford**  
Senior Coordinating Biologist  
Stationed in Columbia
- Jeff Folkerts**  
FBB II– Wetland Specialist  
Northwest MO
- Jonathan Dew**  
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II  
Linn, Livingston, Carroll
- Josh Marshall**  
Senior Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist  
Putnam, Mercer, Grundy, Sullivan

- Kelsey DeZalia-Jenkins**  
FBB III– Wetland Specialist  
Southeast MO
- Lizzy Johnson**  
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II  
Howell, Texas, Wright
- Logan Baum**  
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II  
Ray, Caldwell, Clinton
- Tanner Patton**  
Coordinating Grazing Lands Biologist  
Stationed in Ozark
- Trevor Dubinski**  
Farm Bill Biologist  
Randolph, Macon, Chariton
- Valarie Kurre**  
Coordinating Invasive Species Biologist  
Stationed in Shannon County
- Wes Buchheit**  
Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist III  
Statewide
- Wesley Hanks**  
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III  
Warren, Franklin, Washington
- Will Robinson**  
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III  
Shelby, Marion, Monroe
- VACANT**  
Monarch RCPP CWB
- Habitat Specialists– Shaw Nature Reserve**  
Dylan Jacobs, Crew Lead  
Josiah Sutton, Ty Price, Phoebe Ellis, Crew



**Andrew White**  
Missouri State Coordinator  
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- Kim Cole**  
Outreach Coordinator III
- Katy Hulsey**  
Habitat Partnership Specialist
- Donnamarie Duffin**  
Missouri Monarch & Pollinator Coordinator
- Trevor Day**  
Regional Representative - North MO
- Ayden Carey**  
Regional Representative - South MO



For contact information and to learn more about us visit [missouripfaf.org](http://missouripfaf.org)

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



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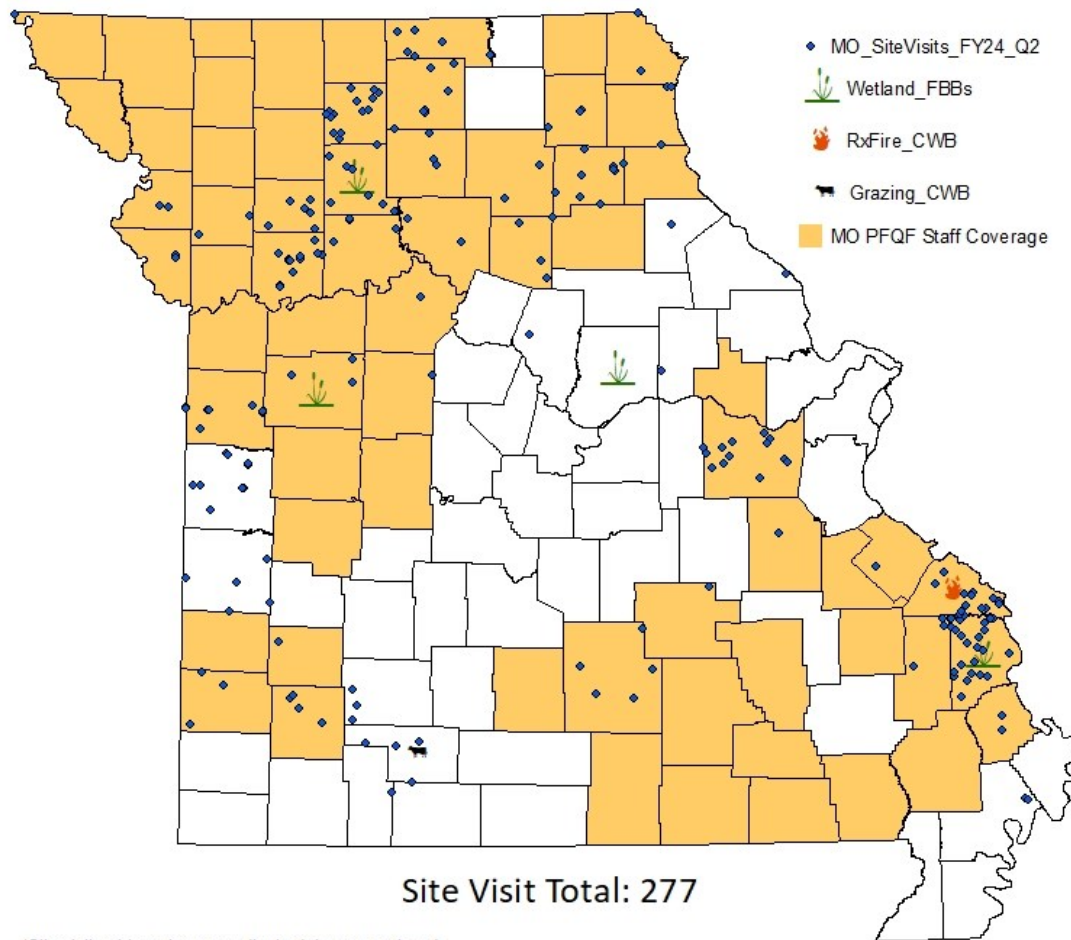
# Coordinating Grazing Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Tanner Patton - Missouri

October–December 2023

## MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023



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Updated 1/8/2024



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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III **USDA**

## Quarterly Partners' Report



**William Robinson— Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties**

**October to December 2023**

### Position Update

Quarter 2 has come and gone. As we entered into the new year, I spent some time reflecting on this past year. There is a lot of hard work that has been put into creating, maintaining, and improving habitat in the Northeast part of the state. As each quarter passes, I have a deeper appreciation for the people I get to work with, for the native ecosystems of Missouri, and, of course, wild quail. Through work, and in my personal time spent in the field, I can't help but marvel at these little, tasty birds, that find a way to survive on the landscape. It continues to push me to help more people implement quality native habitat to make the lives of quail a little easier. Thank you for your continued support of Quail Forever. We couldn't do it without our partners or chapter members.

Branch and I enjoyed many miles together on public land in search of Quail this fall.



### Producer Spotlight

Shelby County, like most of Missouri, has seen a drastic decline in the quail population since the late 1900's. There are still some quail around and many producers are doing the best they can to provide habitat for them.

One Producer that is doing an exceptional job is Wes Russell. He started working with Farm Bill Biologist, Casey Bergthold, enrolling his crop ground into CRP. He has an excellent stand of native species, shrub and tree plantings that are thriving, as well as brushy fencerows around the field. The quail love it. Recently, Wes and his son had an opportunity to expand their farm and they took it! They are adding CP43 Prairie Strips around the crop fields, and are looking to improve habitat in other places on the farm. They have also had the area trapped for the last three winters. Which, in conjunction with habitat improvements, provides a better chance of survival for the local quail population. Wes has seen an excellent response to the quail population in the area already. With this new habitat, he hopes to get closer to

what it was like in the "good ol' days". Maintaining quality habitat is hard work, but habitat works. I am excited to see how he improves the farm in the future.



Wes' dog, Suzie, on point.

### Q1 FY24 Activity Highlights

- 49 Landowner Contacts
- 16 Site visits
- WLFW ARU Study Data Collection

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

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# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III **USDA**

## Quarterly Partners' Report



**William Robinson— Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties**

**October to December 2023**

### WLFW ARU Study

This last quarter, I had the pleasure of assisting with the Working Lands For Wildlife Automatic Recording Unit Study. This is a nation wide study using these recording units to look at quail populations and how they relate to habitat implemented through various programs. The units are set to record for an hour each morning. These recordings will pick up any coveys calling in the area, and that is used to estimate populations. The other part of the study is analyzing surrounding habitat and seeing how that relates to quail populations. It is an interesting study, and I am looking forward to seeing the results.



A mentor with two youth hunters as they recover a downed bird.

Setting up Automatic Recording units on a farm in Lewis county.



### Mark Twain Quail Forever Youth Quail Hunt

Quail Season is officially over. I was able to hunt behind my dog several times, and make memories with him as well as with the people I had the pleasure of hunting with. The Mark Twain Quail Forever Chapter was able to provide the same opportunity for youth and new hunters in the beginning of December. They had a great turn out, and everybody had a great time. Thank you to all of the volunteers that work hard to make these events happen.

### Looking Forward

- Burn Plan Writing
- Flagging CRP
- Providing CRP Seeding Technical Assistance

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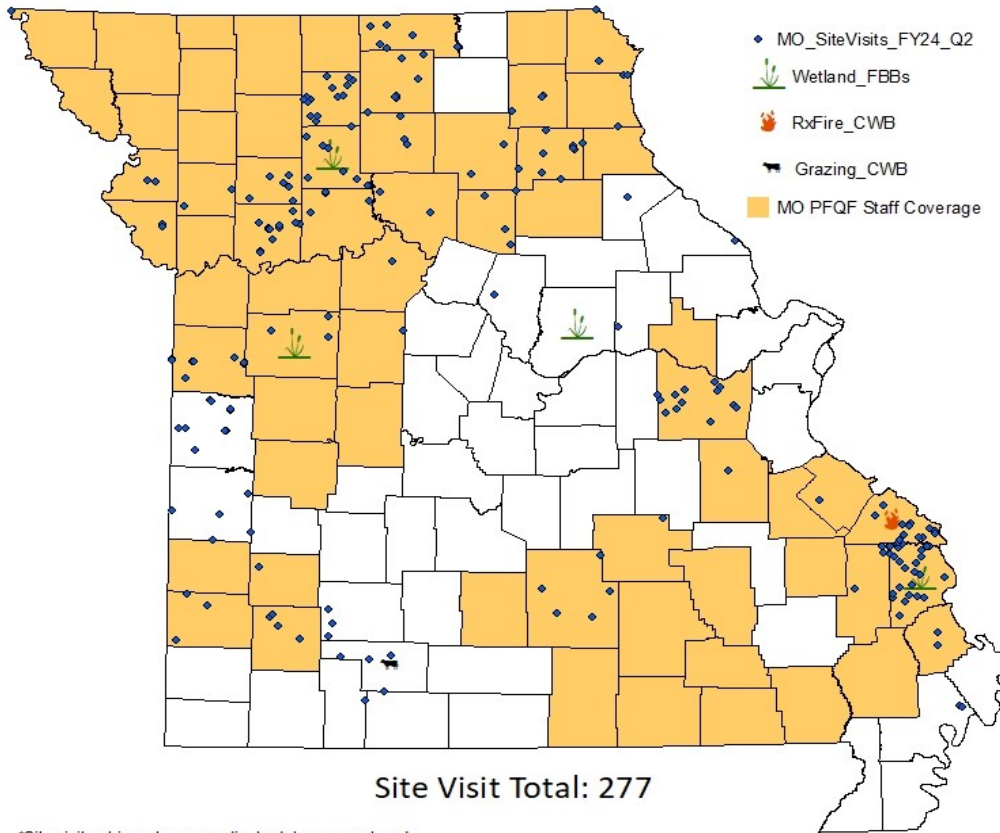
## Quarterly Partners' Report



**William Robinson– Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties**

**October to December 2023**

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**ADD @MISSOURIQF on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter**  
**You can find us on YouTube @Missouri Quail Forever**

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# Sr. Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



**JAKE SWAFFORD - Missouri**

**October – December 2023**

## Position Update

This past quarter, I've been focused on building strong relationships, whether with new staff or conservation partners. The Missouri Quail Forever team got together for our annual team meeting, where we participated in training and planned for the following year. I was also lucky to attend the Missouri Department of Conservation's Partners Roundtable, an excellent opportunity to network with partners and build support for ongoing initiatives. I'm happy with the progress the SRISP has made in its setup and am eager to hear back on the grant opportunity we were able to pursue with the support of partners. I look forward to seeing familiar faces at the QF State Habitat Meeting and onboarding our new prescribed fire coordinating biologist.

## Missouri Expands Support for Prescribed Fire

Quail Forever is excited to be expanding its prescribed fire efforts in the state with the addition of a new Coordinating Biologist in northern Missouri. The new position will provide technical assistance for private working lands by developing and reviewing burn plans, training conservation planners, and providing other coordination services. Currently, QF supports a prescribed fire CWB in southern Missouri that has made substantial strides in training and delivery of prescribed burning practices at a statewide scale. To further complement these successes, an additional coordinator for northern Missouri is being hired to facilitate conservation planning and technical assistance shortfalls related to prescribed burning.



For lands enrolled in Farm Bill programs, prescribed fire is a historically underutilized yet highly cost-effective tool for improving quail and other upland wildlife habitat. Looming climate change effects, such as the increased occurrence and spread of wildfires driven by shifting precipitation frequencies, can be positively impacted by the intentional use of prescribed fire.

This new position will work with partners to develop prescribed burn plans, coordinate and deliver landowner and TSP training, and boost the safe and effective use of prescribed fire, further enhancing wildlife habitat on working lands. The proposed project will also work closely with qualified contractors and technical service providers (TSPs) to assist in alleviating workload bottlenecks and advancing prescribed fire efforts related to the mutual goals of PF/ QF, NRCS, and other key conservation partners in Missouri.





Sr. Coordinating Wildlife Biologist  
Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Missouri

October – December 2023

| Training/Meeting Type                      | Outcome   |
|--|---|
| <b>Missouri Quail Forever Team Meeting</b> | Attended the Annual Missouri QF Team Meeting to receive important state updates, participate in trainings, and coordinate with staff and partners from across the state.                              |
| <b>GBFWI Meeting</b>                       | Participated in the Greater Bonne Femme Watershed Initiative (GBFWI) committee to improve water quality and wildlife habitat within the GBFW.   |
| <b>MDC Partners Roundtable</b>             | Participated in MDC's Partners Roundtable to network with partners and learn about conservation projects and needs across the state of Missouri.  |
| <b>SRISP Board Meeting</b>                 | Attended the Scenic Rivers Invasive Species Partnership (SRISP) board meeting to continue engaging in invasive species work and work to support the organization as it becomes its own entity .       |
| <b>Ecological Sciences Staff Meetings</b>  | Participated in the NRCS Ecological Sciences Teams monthly staff meetings discussing current conservation issues, NRCS technical assistance policy, business tools, and special initiatives delivery. |

**Looking Forward**

- I will continue to lead the delivery of the Monarch PRIME- RCPP during it's third signup.
- Develop funding proposals for PF/QF initiatives as well as M4M, SRISP, and RxFire partnerships.
- Work with State Coordinator and partners to identify conservation priorities and assist with special initiatives to address them.
- Continue providing leadership to Quail Forever's Coordinating Biologist Team across the state.
- I will continue providing technical assistance to landowners in Missouri who are interested in establishing habitat for Monarchs, quail, and other upland wildlife.
- Work with partners to engage as a Sr. Coordinating Biologist to strategically provide lift to shared initiatives and priorities.



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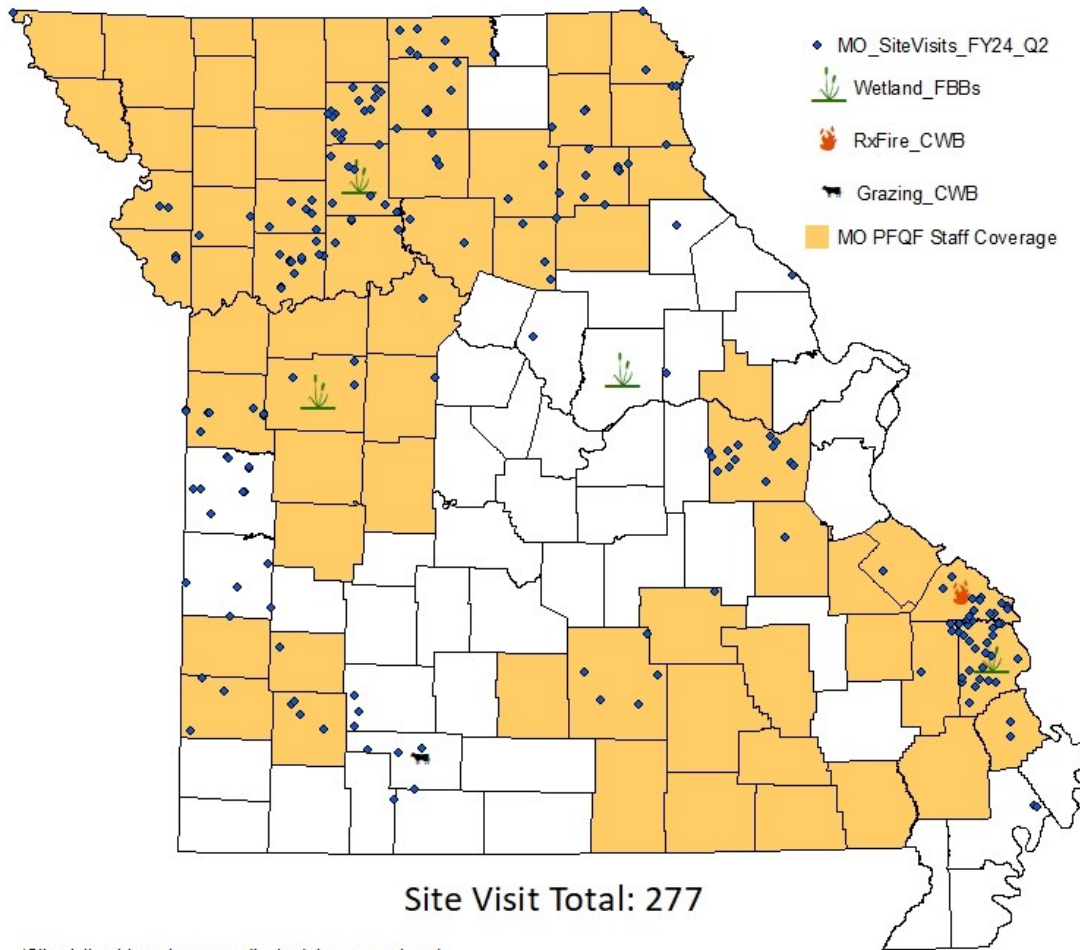
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