



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Dustin Lamoreaux - Statewide

July – September 2018

Beginning of a New Year!

It's hard to believe the first quarter of Pheasants & Quail Forever's Fiscal Year has already escaped us, but in the process there were a lot of great things that have happened. July was a busy month assisting NRCS field offices with Monarch WHEG's and planning assistance for the Monarch Initiative, attending NRCS' Conservation Planning Course, conducting site visits, and providing wildlife habitat assistance to landowners. A couple site visits had partners from NRCS, ODWC, and NWTF which was an opportunity to build relationships and provide valuable insight to landowners. Although most of this seasons field work has wrapped up for the Monarch Initiative and other NRCS programs, it is time to switch gears and work to educate on wildlife habitat management and promote available wildlife driven programs to landowners.

I have also been participating in the Oklahoma Monarch & Pollinator Collaborative (OMPC) Steering Committee monthly conference calls. Within this group, I have taken on the leader role of the "Lands Work Group" and actively working on producing an Oklahoma Best Management Practices (BMP) document to post on the Okies for Monarchs website. This will allow landowners to have access to critical information in regards to managing for monarchs/pollinators. My involvement with this group is really starting to show some fruit in the form of additional landowner contacts that I would not have been exposed to otherwise.

Okies on the Rise

Finally, to round out the quarter. In partnership with NRCS, PF/QF has concluded interviews for two new Farm Bill Biologist positions in Oklahoma, which will take us up to four full-time biologists to better assist landowners across the state. These two new positions will be located in Claremore and Woodward. We are thankful for this opportunity and look forward to all the great things this next year will bring.

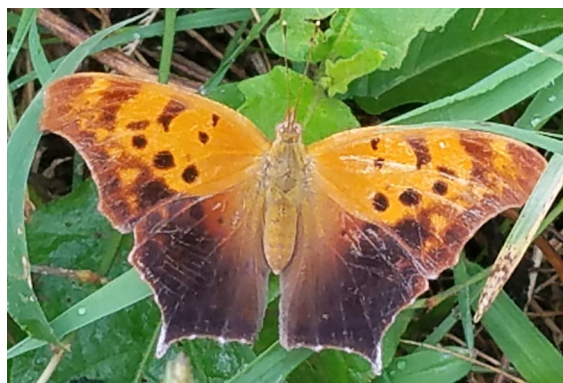


Photo: Question Mark butterfly in Pawnee County; has a distinct question mark on underside of It's wing making it easy to differentiate from it's close relative the comma butterfly which has a comma on the underside of it's wing.

Conservation Planning

- 26 Landowner Contacts
- 10 Site Visits
- 4 Management Plans

Programs	Acres
CTA Upland Habitat Management	280
EQIP Monarch Management Plans	1,209
Total	1,489



Local SWCDs

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

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Statewide

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Outreach & Education



Photo: PF/QF booth at ODWC's Wildlife Expo 2018

- **PF/QF** setup a booth at the ODWC Wildlife Expo September 21-23, 2018. Booth had butterfly constructing and wildlife photo coloring for the kids while the other half of the booth had habitat & Chapter information and contact information for Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists.
- Talked with a group of scouts to discuss the monarch butterfly migration, importance of the right habitat at the right times and the amazing migration phenomenon of the iconic monarch.
- Attended PF/QF District Meeting in Duncan, OK and gave an update on Farm Bill Biologists, programs, and what the next year holds.

- I provided **Monarch WHEG** training and monarch planning assistance to the Wagoner NRCS Field Office and surrounding counties.



Photo: Monarch WHEG transect in Wagoner County

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations/Training	3
Information Table/Booth	1
Total	4

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Toasty August Afternoon!



Photo from a growing season burn workshop hosted by Noble Research Institute near Marietta, OK. This was the 2nd of two burns conducted that day. Great opportunity to assist with and learn more about growing season burns and the benefits that can come from them. Fire behavior between the two burn units were quite different even though the sites were less than 10 miles apart.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Oklahoma NRCS Conservation Planning Course	Learned the importance of following NRCS 9-Step process to Conservation Planning, inventory tools/methods and a basic understanding of all the aspects within NRCS.
PF/QF District Meeting	Meeting in Duncan, OK to discuss the upcoming year and what to expect. I also gave an update on the Monarch RCPP and what that project looks like moving into the next Fiscal Year.
Summer Burn Workshop; Noble Research Institute	Excellent workshop that sparked a lot of great conversation among the group. We also had the opportunity to assist with two different prescribed burns, both of them being very different in behavior and exposed the group to a lot of variables that would not happen in just the classroom.
Precision Ag Roundtable/Workshop	Roundtable discussion with producers and Precision Ag representatives in Grant County to discuss Precision Ag and how it can be utilized to help producers meet their bottom line and also provide valuable wildlife habitat.
Oklahoma NRCS Zone Technical Committee Meeting	Attended meeting with Mike Sams to discuss Monarch and Pollinator technical notes and seed mix calculators associated with each. Took feedback and assisted in revision of seed mix calculators to better assist field office Conservation Planners.

Looking Forward

- 2nd Annual Great Plains Fire Summit in Ardmore, OK October 1-3, 2018.
- 2 new Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist positions will be on-board; one at the Woodward TSO and one at the Claremore TSO.
- NRCS Conservation Planning Course in Stillwater, OK October 15-19, 2018.
- Monarch Conservation Partners Meeting in Nebraksa City, NE November 28-30, 2018.

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

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Range & Wildlife Conservationist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Northwest OK

July – September 2018

What a Year!

I can't believe I joined the Oklahoma team a year ago! The past 14 months have flown by. I am grateful for all the opportunities to learn from the partners and look forward to learning much more.

July found me continuing my education of NRCS with conservation planning at Stillwater. The course gave me the opportunity to meet other partner biologists in addition to learning the proper methods for NRCS conservation planning. I also spent time wrapping up Monarch and Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative habitat management and grazing plans.

In the beginning of August, I was honored to participate in a Growing Season Prescribed Fire Field Day hosted by the Noble Research Institute. There is no better teacher than experience and the field day provided it! Participants were able to assist on two burns totaling 54 acres. The burns were very different and showed just how important fuel composition and fuel moisture are when planning a burn. The afternoon burn acted like a dormant season fire because of the hot temperatures and low fuel moisture. Overall, it was a very educational day in the field and I hope to use that knowledge to encourage others to implement growing season burns.



I found this fella on plains milkweed while conducting a follow-up WHEG on a Monarch contract.

Common Ground

One of the most exciting events of the quarter, was a round table discussion on Precision Agriculture. Thanks to the interest of chapter members in Medford, we were able to host a discussion with local professionals, farmers, and PF/QF staff. We covered everything from the challenges in getting producers on-board to the dollars gained by implementing new practices. Several local chapter members are going to work on a small pilot project to demonstrate not only the benefits to the farmers' bottom-line, but also the upland birds we all love to see. Often times, by "farming the best and leaving the rest", producers can increase profits while improving wildlife habitat. Precision Agriculture programs have gained popularity in other states, but this will be the first initiated solely by local chapters.

<u>Conservation Planning</u>
• 21 Landowner Contacts
• 13 Management Plans
• 9 Site Visits

EQIP	Acres
Monarch	
Management Plans	2492
Practice Certifications	1921
LPCI	
Management Plans	2601
Practice Certifications	5460
Total	12,474

OLAP	Acres
Habitat evaluations	1,080
Total	1,080



Local SWCDs

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 Oklahoma!

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Range & Wildlife Conservationist Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Northwest OK

July – September 2018

Burning for Butterflies (and birds)

There is no better tool in land management than prescribed fire! During a visit to the Lazy KT Ranch in Northwest Woods county the proof was right in front of us. This photo was taken on September 12. It shows the results of two burns, one in April (left) and one just a month prior in August (right).



Outreach & Education

- I wrote an article covering the Oklahoma Land Access Program and the Quail Forever partnership for habitat improvement.
- At the Quail Forever NW District meeting, I gave a brief update on the FBB program and my activities.
- I assisted the NRCS and FSA office with agriculture entries for the Harper County Fair. It was a great opportunity to meet new landowners.
- I'm currently working on a short article for local newspapers to encourage wildlife management and reach new landowners.
- At the ODWC Wildlife Expo, I manned the QF Biologist booth for School Day. It was a blast to see the kids excited about conservation.

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	1
Publications	3
Outreach events	2
Total	6

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The Brood View—Cover Crops



These photos were taken in Aug. 2018 of a summer cover crop. The inset is from the perspective of a pheasant or quail chick. As you can see, there is quite a bit of bare ground to move around in, enough overhead protection and plenty of insects to feed on. Cover crops not only benefit soil health and water quality but also wildlife. Summer cover crops can provide great

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
NRCS UTV operators training	This required NRCS course provided instruction and competence testing for Staff that will utilize UTVs in the field.
NRCS Conservation Planning	Biologists and staff in partnership positions with NRCS gathered in Stillwater for instruction on conservation planning for NRCS. This is a requirement for apprentice level certification.
Quail Forever District Meeting	Chapter members from NW Oklahoma met in Enid for an overview of FY18 and planning for FY19. I provided a brief overview of the FBB program and my activities over the spring.
Growing Season Prescribed Burn Field Day	Noble Research Institute hosted a field day to discuss and practice prescribed burning during the growing season. Participants conducted two burns totaling 54 acres.
Precision Agriculture Round Table	PF/QF staff met with local chapter members, farmers, and local professionals to discuss Precision Agriculture in Oklahoma. A small chapter-led pilot is starting in North Central Oklahoma to investigate the potential of precision agriculture.

Looking Forward

- I will attend the 2nd Great Plains Fire summit in Ardmore, OK October 1-3.
- Harper County Conservation Breakfast on Oct. 9.
- October 15-19, I will attend the second portion of Conservation Planning in Stillwater with a focus on evaluating and planning on cropland, rangeland, and for wildlife.
- In November, I plan to attend the Area OACD meeting in Woodward.

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