



Conservation Office
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Spring 2010

Quarterly, Southwest Ohio Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Update:

Greetings Chapters,

Wow it's hard to believe it is springtime and soon will be summer. Here is another update on what has been going on with your local PF FBB to keep you all in the loop on the great things we are achieving in the area. Many of these things would not be possible without your support (both financial and technical), so thank you from the field. The last few months have been my busiest spring yet and there has been a good even spread of work over my entire area. A good amount of the work was due to a timely article about CP33 buffers back in December. There was also a large push for enrolling acres into WRP in late winter/early spring which has seemed successful and produced some very nice sites to come in the next couple years. Things are really starting to boom out in the field; the birds are doing their thing and grasses and wildflowers are jumping up. This summer will be a very busy (and hot) season in the field doing field assessments and surveys (songbirds, quail, habitat), but these things will help us understand how we are affecting the landscape and if our efforts are successful. Later in the year I will be able to give some updates and some insight on how things are going out in the field.

Key accomplishments and achievements for the past few months:

- Attended the Butler County Pheasants Forever's annual banquet
 - Great Event and Facility!
- Attended Ohio Invasive Plant Research Conference
- Attended the 2010 Butler County SWCD Conservation Workshop
 - Gave the CP33 Habitat Buffers presentation
- Attended the Ohio Deer and Turkey Expo – worked PF booth
- Attended GGO Outdoor Expo and Dinner – worked PF booth – West Milton, Miami Co.
- Attended “Think Green” Expo at Marvin’s Organic Garden – worked PF booth
- Assisting USDA with conservation programs:
 - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
 - Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
 - Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)



Projects for 2010:

- USFWS Partners Program projects - 73 acres (Miami, Butler, Greene)
- New CP33 projects – 238 total acres this spring
 - in Butler, Greene, Miami, Mont., Preble, Warren Co.s
- NRCS WHIP projects – 65 ac. – Miami, Greene
- WRP projects – Clark, Miami, Greene, Preble
- Worked in portions of 7 counties to provide technical assistance to landowners (Butler, Clark, Hamilton, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Warren)
- Working with 4 county park districts on habitat development, public education, and/or habitat management assistance (Miami Co., Preble Co., Greene Co., and 5 Rivers)
- Working Little Miami River, Inc (LMI) in Clark, Greene, and Warren counties on WHIP and WRP projects; 140 acres.
 - Conducted prescribed burn for habitat management – 45 acres (WRP)
 - Seeded 12 acres of NWSG prairie (WHIP)
 - Planted 20 acres of hardwood trees (WHIP)
- Helping to develop Wildlife Management Plans and possible spring planting for Miller Brewing Co. – will be doing habitat management of 15 acres of prairie
- Prescribed Burns this spring
 - Conducted 5 burns at approx. 100 acres as Burn Boss (Clark, Miami, Preble Co.s)
 - Participated in 7 more burns at approx. 125 acres (Auglaize, Pickaway, Preble Co.s)
- Visited many field sites throughout the region to assess functionality of various habitat components related to Federal Conservation Programs
- Distributed Food Plot (sorghum, sunflower, corn) seed donated from Butler Co PF to landowners in Miami, Butler, and Preble Counties
- Wildlife and Habitat presentation at David L. Brown Youth Center – 20 youth – Miami Co.
- Conducted “Aquatics” section for Envirothon practice test for Miami, Shelby, and Darke Co.s
 - approx. 130 high school students
- Conducted “Birds” presentation at 2010 Preble County Earth Day Event
 - approx. 120 6th graders

CP33 Updates:

- CP33 – **10,000 MORE acres allocated for Ohio in winter 2010**
 - **Now approx. 14,000 acres available in Ohio**

If you know of someone that needs personal assistance, to put some acres on the ground or enhance some existing habitat, please direct them to me.

Upcoming months:

- Participate in more educational / outreach programs or events
- 2010 ODNR Quail release site surveys – 2 in Darke Co.
- 2010 CP33 Monitoring Program – song bird, vegetation, and quail research
- 2010 CRP Mid Contract Management Field Assessments – Butler, Miami, Mont, Preble Co.s
 - approx. 200 contracts to assess
- Continue promoting wildlife and conservation programs in our area
- 2010 PF National Staff Meeting – Minnesota - June
- 2010 Ohio PF State Staff Meeting - June
- Miami River Clean-up - July
- Butler County PF/QF Summer Banquet – July

Chapter members, thank you for all you have done to help make the last few months a success. I especially appreciate the sponsorship of events, my position, the Grassroots Plan, the PF mission, and all the hard work that comes from the very dedicated people we have in our organization. We continue to set the bar nationwide. I am very proud to get to be a part of and represent such a distinctive organization.

Once again, thank you!

Cheers,

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