

Edge Feathering

A Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Practice Job Sheet

Ohio Pheasants Forever, Inc. (OPF) and Ohio Quail Forever, Inc. (OQF)

DENSE SHRUBBY COVER IS IMPORTANT FOR SURVIVAL OF MANY SPECIES OF WILDLIFE ESPECIALLY BOBWHITE QUAIL!

PURPOSE:

Quail need dense “shrubby” cover on a daily basis. Without this habitat component, few quail will be present. Most field edges are abrupt changes from grass or crops to mature trees. Quail habitat can be enhanced around a field edge by creating a gradual transition zone, consisting of “wildlife friendly” grasses/legumes and shrubs. Edge feathering can create high quality shrubby habitats that are beneficial for quail and other wildlife.

SPECIFICATIONS:

- ❑ Edge feathering should be located according to plan map.
- ❑ If sod-forming grass is present, kill it with an approved contact herbicide before cutting trees. This provides good growing conditions for annual food plants and shrubs.
- ❑ Edge feathering should be completed in a 30' x 50' (0.034ac x 3 = 0.1ac) area or along fencerows. Length of feathering should be 50' or 100' separated by uncut areas of 100' or 150'. If doing 50' sections, then use 100' uncut sections, 100' with 150' (ex. 50' → 100' → 50' or 100' → 150' → 100').
- ❑ Cut all large trees within 30 feet of the edge. Treat all stumps except cedar with an approved herbicide. Leave native shrubs like dogwood, sumac, or plum. You can drop the trees and let them lie, cut the logs for firewood or build brushpiles for rabbits. Within one year, a variety of shrubs, vines, and seed-producing plants will be growing and providing cover for quail and other wildlife.



MAINTENANCE:

- Exclude livestock from edge feathered areas.
- Use herbicides to suppress invasive vegetation and to control noxious weeds.

PRIMARY HABITAT CONSIDERATIONS:

- Provide natural cover sources for bobwhite quail and other wildlife.

Consult with ODOW private lands biologists or OPF/OQF biologists for recommendations on more complex sites. Contact your local ODOW office or OPF/OQF biologist for additional information on wildlife management.

COMMENTS

LANDOWNER _____ **Field No.** _____ **Farm No.** _____ **Tract No.** _____

ADDRESS _____

CONTACT:

DATE: _____

