



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Dustin Lamoreaux - Statewide

January – March 2019

A Glimpse of Spring!

This past quarter has been cool, wet and numerous days with gray skies. Even with all the gloom I was able to get out and cover several parts of the state with outreach. While field work may have been a little slower than previous quarters, outreach efforts were really ramped up. Things started off in Perry, OK teaching kids about the importance of pollinators and the monarch migration. Soon after this event Wilburton, OK had my attention and it was here I was able to execute two successful wildlife outreach events with several partners. In addition, I gave presentations on "Pollinator and Monarch Opportunities in OK" at the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) Annual Meeting along with Pheasants and Quail Forever's State Habitat Meeting.

I also had the opportunity to attend the NW NRCS Zone meeting in Woodward, OK to discuss and explain revisions that were made to NRCS' Pollinator Technical Note. There is also a new seed mix calculator I was able to demonstrate and talk about ways to create quality site-specific seed mixes.

A Growing Covey!!

Another big highlight from this past quarter was Pheasants and Quail Forever Staff in Oklahoma held their 4th Annual State Habitat Meeting in Oklahoma City. This was the 2nd year Oklahoma has split from Texas to host their very own event and it was one for the record books. This years State Meeting set all-time attendance records for all parts of the meeting. Thanks to everyone who attended and made this the best meeting to date. There were great speakers, food, entertainment and attendees walked away with a quarter pound of pollinator seed.



Photo: Carolina anemone (*Anemone caroliniana*), one of the first native species to bloom in the spring!

Conservation Planning

- 22 Landowner Contacts
- 4 Site Visits
- 2 Management Plans

Programs & CTA	Acres Impacted
CTA Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	1,000
CSP Monarch Enhancement (seed mix)	1.0
Total	1,001



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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January – March 2019

Outreach & Education

- Gave presentation on “**Pollinators and the Monarch Migration**,” to a 4H group in Perry, OK. Group interested in pollinator activities and a potential Youth Pollinator Project.
- Presented some basic wildlife information to the Plainsmen Chapter and answered questions. Primary topic of discussion was predators and their influence on quail.
- Coordinated two wildlife outreach meetings with a landowner and partners in Wilburton, OK. “**Quail & Pollinators in SE OK.**” Created flyers, conducted radio spots, social media plugs, NRCS, local Conservation Districts, OSU, ODWC and NWTF. This was a two-day outreach event with two locations to inspire and educate landowners in SE OK. These exceeded expectations and we will be hosting a follow-up field day in the Wilburton area.
- Attended the NW NRCS Zone Meeting to discuss changes to the **revised Pollinator Technical Note**, demonstrate new seed mix calculator and talk about the revised Monarch Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG).
- I also **had the opportunity to take a work colleagues’ son quail hunting for the very first time.** While he missed his opportunities at quail he did bag two cottontail rabbits. The excitement on his face was what made the entire day for me.

Pollinator & Monarch Opportunities



Photo: Carpenter bee nectaring on green antelope horn milkweed. This was also my cover slide for several presentations this quarter!

- Gave a “**Pollinator & Monarch Opportunities in Oklahoma**” presentation at Pheasant and Quail Forever’s State Habitat Meeting in Oklahoma City, OK.
- Gave a presentation at the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) Annual Meeting in OKC. Topic was “**Pollinator & Monarch Opportunities in Oklahoma.**” Great way to disburse information to conservation districts, landowners and the various landowner groups of OK.

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	8
Total	8

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	215

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January – March 2019

Pheasants and Quail Forever's State Habitat Meeting!



This photo was taken as things got underway at Pheasants and Quail Forever's State Habitat Meeting. Chapter members, partners, landowners and volunteers gathered in Oklahoma City to learn about quail, pheasants, wildlife, habitat management, women in the outdoors, dog training, legislative update and monarchs/pollinators. The bar has now been raised for future State Meetings!

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Wilburton Wildlife Outreach Meeting	Coordinated with multiple groups to organize a wildlife outreach meeting. Very successful at drawing landowners to listen to talks about quail, pollinators, habitat management and ways they can help and get involved. Follow-up field day in spring.
NW NRCS Zone Meeting	Talked to the zone about the newly revised Pollinator Technical Note, the new seed mix calculator and revisions to the Monarch Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG). Offered tips and tricks for creating quality seed mixes for their area.
Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference	Multi-day event with presentations and the latest information on Oklahoma's natural resources, management and research. Great opportunity to learn new information, network with other professionals and students and sharpen skills on other disciplines.
OACD Annual Meeting	Gave a presentation on "Monarch and Pollinator Opportunities in Oklahoma and what landowners can do to get involved. Also, assisted in giving participants at OACD a 1/4lb. of pollinator seed to plant at their own homes.
Pheasants & Quail Forever's State Habitat Meeting	Chapter volunteers, landowners, and partners gathered in OKC to hear quail research, wildlife legislation, pollinators and habitat management. I gave a Monarch and Pollinator Opportunities in OK presentation. Participants were given 1/4lb. pollinator seed to plant.
Role of Honeybees in Natural Areas	This was an interesting webinar/training on honey bees in natural areas. Primarily focused on interaction of native bees and honey bees and what limitations/challenges have been identified through the current research. Bottom line, ample floral resources!!!

Looking Forward

- Tribal Alliance for Pollinators Conference April 10-12, 2019.
- Field day at Spavinaw WMA May 3, 2019.
- Field Day at Groendyke's Property near Enid, May 4, 2019.
- Pheasants & Quail Forever's National Team Meeting May 20-23, 2019 in Iowa.
- June will be a busy month assisting NRCS Field Offices with Monarch WHEG's and conservation planning assistance.

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

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Elizabeth Elliott– Craig, Nowata, Osage, Rogers, Washington

January- March 2019

The question is not what you look at, but what you see. ~ Henry David Thoreau

Where have the last three months gone? I blinked and it's Spring; the sun is out and the days are getting longer. I've been especially fortunate to spend time training with the best, and now, I get to venture out on my own. I have completed Prescribed Burn Plans, Range Health Assessments and Grazing Plans. This March I had the opportunity to participate on my first prescribed burn. The burn was conducted to help control broomsedge bluestem in a rangeland site. In the morning I helped use the torch for the back fire and then strip head fires. In the afternoon I was on cleanup crew manning the flapper. This was a great learning experience working with the landowner and the team to conduct a safe burn.



"Making new friends"
Photo was taken in Jan 19' during a CTA pasture and range inventory.

This March was the 4th Annual Oklahoma PF/QF State Habitat Convention in Oklahoma City. What a crazy, busy, amazing weekend it was. I got to meet people from around the state that share a common love for quail and conservation. At the convention I moderated and participated in a Women in Ag and the Outdoors panel.



Helping to conduct a burn in Vinita County

This quarter I have had the opportunity to attend a number of conferences. One of the common themes was Oklahoma Forest Management. I learned a lot of what is now a forest was once a grassland/savannah ecosystem. Here in Eastern OK there is great potential for grassland restoration in forested units; especially for wildlife habitat.

As spring arrives and the flowers start to bloom I look forward to putting what I have learned into action. I am ready to help put fire on the ground, plant pollinator habitat, and share my knowledge and passion with others around me. I also can't wait to experiment with my own balcony garden. I've planted a native pollinator mix and a variety of vegetables. We'll have to see how that one goes...

- Conservation Planning**
- 13 Landowner Contacts
 - 22 Site Visits
 - 6 Management Plans

Programs & CTA	Acres Impacted
CTA	
Grazing Plan and Prescribed Burn Plan	560
EQIP	
Prescribed Burn Plan	150
EQIP-HFRP	
Prescribed Burn Plan	667
Total	1377



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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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Elizabeth Elliott– Craig, Nowata, Osage, Rogers, Washington

January- March 2019

Outreach & Education

- **“Women in Ag and the Outdoors”** panel at the 2019 PF/QF State Conference. At the convention I moderated and participated in a Women in Ag and the Outdoors panel. This was an open conversation about how we got into our careers and the experiences we’ve had along the way. The most rewarding part was the crowd engagement. Speaking with Pheasants and Quail Forever Chapters and brainstorming about ways in getting more women involved.



This photo was taken during the Women in Ag and the Outdoor Panel at the 2019 OK PF/QF State Convention.

- On March 27, 2019 I helped with **Nowata and Washington County Schools Land Judging Contest**. I had the opportunity to lead a team for the event and was tasked with grading papers to finish things up.

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Given	1
Youth Event	1
Total	2



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Elizabeth Elliott– Craig, Nowata, Osage, Rogers, Washington

January- March 2019

Running with the Horses in Craig County



This photo was taken while in the field conducting a range health inventory for a potential EQIP contract.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Quail & Pollinators in SE OK	In February, I attended the Wilburton Workshop. Here I had the opportunity to learn about pollinators, quail and forest management. This was a great opportunity to gain exposure to new ideas that are applicable to my part of Oklahoma.
Oklahoma Natural Resource Conference	During OK NRC I attended the Women in Natural Resources session. Which was a great primer for my Women in Ag and the Outdoors panel for the PF/QF State Meeting. This session helped me formulate ideas on discussion topics for the panel.
PF/QF OK State Habitat Convention	PF/QF staff and volunteers put on the 2019 State Convention to record numbers! What a great weekend filled with sessions ranging from government affairs, 2018 Farm Bill updates, Southeastern Grassland restoration for Bobwhites, and so much more.
Craig County Prescribe Burn Association Startup	On March 6, I attended a OK PBA startup meeting in Vinita, OK. Here I learned about how a PBA works and the community benefits they provide.
PF/QF New Employee Orientation	January 14 -16 was our new employee orientation in Saint Paul, MN. I had a great time meeting everyone from across the country and learning about our organization.
Monarch WHEG Training	Attended a field training day in Stillwater, OK with Dustin Lamoreaux on Monarch WHEGS. We discussed monarch habitat and how to break down each specific field site.

Looking Forward

- Northeast OK Trade Show & Conference on April 11; where I will have a booth for PF/QF.
- Earth Day Event with third graders in Craig County on April 23.
- PF/QF National Team Meeting May 20-23 in my home state of Iowa. Getting to meet the whole team!
- Conservation planning course with NRCS are being scheduled and will occur in June.
- Working with the Big Hill CSC Chapter on a Habitat Project.
- Spring! Flowers blooming and field work starting.

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

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Tanner Swank - Blaine, Dewey, Ellis, Major, Woodward

January – March 2019

Position Update

Since the New Year, I have been out in the field much of the time. I have been assisting in conducting Cedar inventories for EQIP applications, as well as for EQIP Monarch applications. I have also been assisting in conducting range plant inventories for grazing plans. Now that it is warming up and we have received good amounts of moisture, people are wanting to get fire on their properties. Meeting with landowners, about fire, is a big portion of my agenda at the moment and will continue to be a major part of my upcoming schedule

Light it Up!!

As the air warms up, that means one thing. For many landowners, prescribed burn season is upon us once again! We have had ample moisture this winter and so far this spring. Therefore, landowners are eager to get fire on the ground to produce beneficial results. Some folks have seen the effects fire has on Eastern Red Cedar as well as the healthy plant response as areas recover from recent years' wildfires. These folks are realizing all the benefits that come along with burning.

Whether it is to get rid of cedars, control undesirables and invasives, setback encroaching vegetation, prepare in the event of another wildfire, better grazing production or quality wildlife habitat landowners are eager to get fire and habitat management on the ground. I will be working right alongside these great individuals, to ensure they get the desired product, as well as the best desired outcome for their property. I will be assisting with various aspects of prescribed fire throughout the rest of the growing season as landowners are learning the benefits of growing season burns.



This photo was taken in July '18 of a Dead Cedar burning prior to a Prescribed Burn during the growing season.

Conservation Planning

- 38 Landowner Contacts
- 27 Site Visits
- 7 Management Plans

Programs & CTA	Acres Assessed	Acres Impacted
EQIP Prescribed Burning	10	299
CTA Prescribed Burning		127
EQIP Brush Management	5742.1	
CTA (Monarch/Pollinator) Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgt.		2
Total	5752.1	428



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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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Tanner Swank - Blaine, Dewey, Ellis, Major, Woodward

January-March 2019

Outreach & Education

- On February 26th, while attending an **Ornithology class** field trip with **Oklahoma State students in Stillwater**, I gave a brief, impromptu talk about what I do as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist. I also briefly touched on what students could do to prepare themselves to be more competitive in their upcoming endeavors when entering a competitive job market, post graduation.
- On February 21st-23rd, I attended the **Oklahoma Natural Resource Conference** in Tulsa. This was an excellent education and outreach event for all those who attended. I met and visited with many employees from several different agencies and organizations, as well as with many current students who will be potential prospective employees in the near future.
- On March 8th-9th, I attended our **2019 Quail Forever State Habitat Convention**, in Oklahoma City. Here, various local Quail Forever chapter members, individuals from the public, students, and various agencies such as ODWC and NRCS, got together to talk habitat, dogs, legislature, and of course, quail. I gave a presentation on **Pheasants and Producers in Oklahoma**, talking about the biology, habitat needs, concerns, and potential for pheasants here in Oklahoma.
- I wrote several different **outreach articles** this quarter, mainly utilizing social media, and specifically, our **Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever in Oklahoma** Facebook page. One article was an advertisement for the 2019 State Habitat Meeting. Another article was for **NRCS**, advertising a new Cross Timbers Initiative signup Period through the EQIP program.



This photo was taken in February, while conducting Cedar-canopy inventories for EQIP and EQIP Monarch applications. Controlling encroaching Eastern Red Cedar is critical to maintaining and/or restoring our native prairie communities

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	3
Newsletter/social media	4
Total	7



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Tanner Swank - Blaine, Dewey, Ellis, Major, Woodward

January-March 2019



This photo was taken out in Texas County, while conducting range plant inventories and health assessments for grazing plans for ranches in CRP Grasslands. These shortgrass and midgrass prairie landscapes are not only breathtaking, but are also important to not only wildlife, but the ranchers who rely on these fragile ecosystems to produce quality forage for their livestock, and in turn, their livelihoods.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
NRCS West Zone Meeting	We discussed pollinators and monarch plant seeding, and new policy revolving around watering sources.
Oklahoma Natural Resource Conference	In this meeting I met with other agencies, as well as many students, and listened to presentations about different research with wildlife and habitat that is going on around the state.
Woodward County Flood Plain Board Meeting	The discussion was mainly about funding and who will be taking over as president in the future.
Woodward County Conservation District Board Mtg.	Discussion was focused around recourse concern rankings, as well as the State OACD meeting that was held at the end of February.
Oklahoma State Habitat Meeting	I gave a presentation about Producers and Pheasants in Oklahoma, talking about how we can work together to achieve better habitat and more birds here.
Woodward County Prescribed Burn Association Mtg.	At this meeting, we mainly discussed upcoming burns, minutes from the past years annual meeting, and what the process was for a landowner to have the PBA burn their properties.

Looking Forward

- I will be attending the NRCS Northwest Zone meeting on April 17th, to meet with my coworkers on whatever gets put on the table for us.
- In April, I will be assisting with, and writing management plans for Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative Applications.
- I will be giving a presentation at an Outdoor

Classroom Youth Event in May.

- In May, I'll be attending an "all employee" Pheasants Forever national meeting in Iowa, to get with fellow biologists and talk habitat.
- Additionally, in June, I'll be attending a week long NRCS Conservation Planning course.

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

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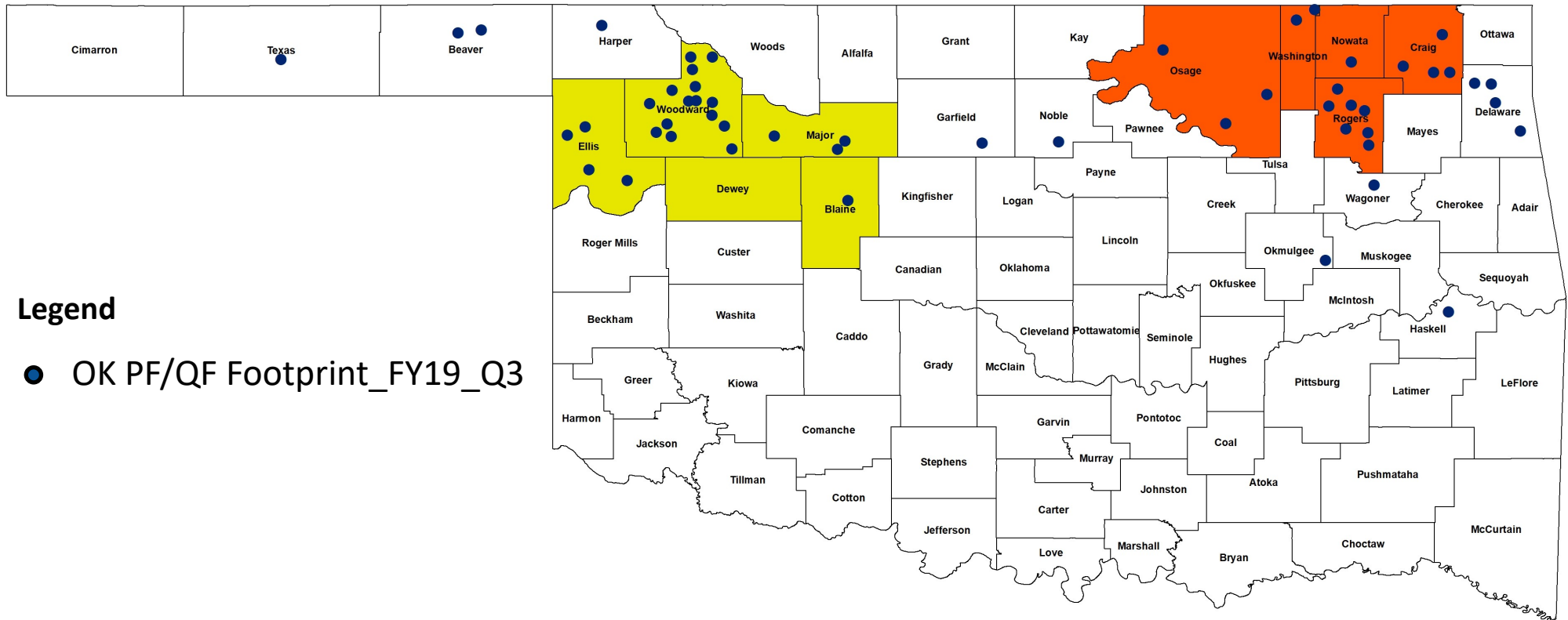
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FY19 Oklahoma PF/QF Biologist Footprint Map January 2019—March 2019



FY19_Q3 Visit Total: 53



Oklahoma Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists are funded in partnership cooperation with the Oklahoma Department Of Wildlife Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Oklahoma Biologists Quarter 3 FY2019 Summary



Dustin Lamoreaux, Elizabeth Elliott, Tanner Swank

January 2019 – March 2019

Oklahoma Accomplishments:

March 31st marked the end of Pheasants & Quail Forever’s Q3 of Fiscal Year 2019. What an exciting quarter it has been; State Meeting in the books, several outreach events and our new biologists are getting in the field and assisting NRCS Field Offices with resource inventories and conservation planning assistance. Tables below are a summary of the work performed by Oklahoma Biologists over the past quarter.

Conservation Planning

- 73 Landowner Contacts
- 53 Site Visits
- 15 Habitat Plans/Proposals

Programs & CTA	Acres Impacted
EQIP	1,116
CSP	1.0
CTA	1,689
Total	2,806

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	12
Articles, information booth	4
Youth Events	1
Total	17