

**THE COVEY CALL E-NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2018
METRO & SE QF CHAPTERS
“Helping To Bring Back The Bobwhite Quail”**



Change In The Frequency Of Our Covey Call eNewsletter

We will be publishing the Covey Call eNewsletter Quarterly, rather than by-monthly

UPCOMING 2018 METRO QF BANQUET

We are asking everyone to mark their calendars for our Metro Quail Forever Banquet coming up:

Date: **Thursday, August 16, 2018.**
Place: **Tinucci's Restaurant, 396 21 Street, Newport, Mn. 55055**
Time: **5:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

Come and enjoy dinner, live auctions, games and fun at our Metro Quail Forever Annual Banquet this August. A registration form is attached to this email for your convenience and again you can register online using a debit or credit card.

Visit: <https://pheasantsforeverevents.org/event/3382>

Details and the above website are printed on the registration form. Look forward to seeing you!!

SPRING WEATHER AND QUAIL SIGHTINGS

We had a late spring this year, especially with all the April snow that we received, and the colder than average temperatures for that month. Despite the unusual late spring, we have been getting some surprising reports of quail being seen and heard in late April and May. In fact, our reports of quail sightings as of late May are a little ahead of the reports of last year at this same time. In 2017 at the end of May we received 17 sightings of quail that had been seen or heard, this year we are up to 24 sightings. In addition to an increase of quail sightings in the southeast, we have been getting reports of people seeing a good number of pheasants as well.



Houston High School Students

THANK YOU

We want to say thanks to **Marty Munson and his biology class at Houston High School** for helping our Southeast QF Chapter in getting out discarded Christmas trees to improve some quail habitat in the Houston County area. Our chapter also wants to thank the **Lion's Club** for collecting the trees from the different homes in the area for the students. This same class went on a semi-Christmas Bird Count last December. During that activity the students spent a considerable amount of time on a farm in the area that has a rich history of a variety of wildlife species. Birds seen on this outing were: black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, pheasants, and pheasant tracks in the snow.



Spring Grove High School Students

Also, our chapter wants to say thanks to **Karen Tisthammer and her Future Farmers Of America (FFA) class at Spring Grove High School, in Houston County**, for helping our chapter with seeding down some trails, to help stop erosion, and the class also helped us seed down a deer habitat area. There were more students participating but seen above are four of the group. Karen and her different classes over the years have helped our chapter work on quail habitat projects in their area.

We want to take this time to say **thanks to all of our QF Members and supporters, from both our chapters**, for supporting our efforts in helping ***“To Bring Back The Bobwhite Quail.”*** With your help we are getting more quail habitat built and enhanced each year, and the quail numbers have been increasing steadily for the last few years. Building and improving good quail habitat takes time, and dedicated people, and we are blessed to have dedicated people helping us with the different needs that we do have.

We want to keep reminding everyone, that when you are helping to build or improve good quail habitat, you are helping a lot of other wildlife species, not just bobwhite quail .



The examples below show just some of the other species that benefit from good quail habitat:

Gray catbird, towhee, indigo bunting, henslow sparrow, song sparrow, tree sparrow, rose-breasted grosebeak, American redstart, upland sandpiper, junco, the pollinators, etc.

Summer is a time of year for the different species to increase their numbers. In most locations the photo to the right, of a hen quail and her chicks, is a rare sight to see in Minnesota, and many other states in the quail range. Our two Quail Forever Chapters in Minnesota are working hard to have this type of sighting become a more regular occurrence in the southeastern part of Minnesota. This is just one of the reasons that **we need more good quail habitat. It works!**



According to the Missouri Department of Conservation quail habitat needs are:

- about 50% of the area in annual weeds, legumes, and minimum or no-till crops
- About 30% of the area in grasses
- About 20% of the area in shrubby, brushy cover.

In my opinion this shrubby, brushy cover in Minnesota can be produced by edge feathering, or hinge cutting trees.

Some examples of good quail habitat management



Disking



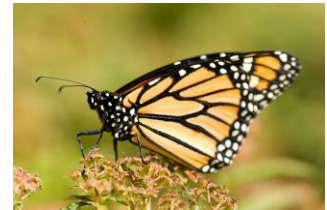
Edge feathering

A huge advantage for quail in Minnesota would be for landowners to do at least two things to improve their land for quail,

1. Edge feather a tree line close to a weedy area, and
2. Disk some of the weedy area. Edge feathering, or hinge cutting the trees is putting the tree tops on the ground, where quail and other wildlife can use them for cover, and disking is producing more bare ground for quail, which they love, and it generates a greater supply of weeds for the birds to feed on, and for dusting. **QUAIL LOVE DUSTING.** Burning works well also, but many landowners are hesitant to burn when they don't have the personnel and equipment to control the burn.



News from Eric J. Ressel, Farm Bill Biologist



I am continuing promoting our conservation programs that benefit our bees and butterflies, as well as bobwhite quail and ring-neck pheasants. These programs include our Pollinator Initiative to establish a diverse native prairie that will benefit and support an entire ecosystem, from insects and pollinators, to small mammals, song birds, upland birds, and whitetail deer. The deadline for an application for our Pollinator Initiative, available through EQIP 2019, is August 15th. Also, the Farm Bill is scheduled to expire later this Fall. A new Farm Bill draft will give us an idea of what funding will be available for our CRP practices. This summer I will do extensive field work on our expiring CRP workload to determine the eligibility for those producers who would like to reenroll those acres when a new CRP sign-up occurs and when funding becomes available. Upon the release of the new Farm Bill and CRP sign-up, I will continue to promote our CP-33 establishment of upland bird buffers for bobwhite quail, CP-25 tall-grass prairie plantings, CP-38E SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement), CP-42 development of native habitat for pollinators, CP-4D permanent wildlife habitat implementation, and other practices that will create wildlife habitat throughout southeast Minnesota. I will be

very happy and eager to talk with individuals interested in any of those options, or perhaps opportunities to work with our local SE Quail Forever chapter on implementing their own wildlife habitat project.

Eric J. Ressel, Farm Bill Biologist
Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever

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VISIT OUR QF WEBSITE

Our website is back up and running again. With things looking good for quail, and we have more youth involved with our habitat efforts, we look forward to posting some exciting information on our website. You can visit the website by going to.... <https://www.mnquailforever.org/>

2017-18 SPONSORS

We want to say thanks to our Metro QF Sponsors:

- **Vance Grannis, Jr.**
- **Minneapolis Central Church of Christ**
- **DM Law Group, LLC**
- **Paul Schutte**
- **Richfield Church of Christ**



WEEKLY FACEBOOK

Visit our Facebook Weekly for Information on Quail and Other Birds:

<https://www.facebook.com/Quail-Forever-Minnesota>

MN QUAIL FOREVER WEBSITE

The Website for our two QF Chapters is: <https://www.mnquailforever.org/>

Thurman Tucker, Metro & SE QF Chapters Coordinator