

**THE COVEY CALL E-NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2017
METRO & SE QF CHAPTERS
“Helping To Bring Back The Bobwhite Quail”**



In this issue:

- **Quail friendly Habitat**
- **Ranking Minnesota bobwhite quail Habit**
- **Wildlife Biologist**
- **Youth Update**
- **Quail Focus Area**
- **Quail Sightings**
- **Weather**

Quail Friendly Habitat For Minnesota

Quail friendly habitat is good habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. The make up should consist of:

About 40% of the area in annual weeds, legumes, and minimum or no-till row crops

About 30% of the area in warm season grasses

About 20% of the area in shrubby, brushy cover, and 10% conifers

Covey Headquarters



Rating Minnesota Bobwhite Quail Habitat

A+ Habitat:

1. Four or more covey headquarters (1,500 sq. feet of brush) within a 40 acre area
2. An acre or more of ragweed, or other annual weeds, or an acre or more of a CP-33 field, close to each covey headquarters
3. Seven or more low branch conifers* (Balsam Fir, red cedar, or white cedar trees) close to each covey headquarters
4. An acre or more of a food plot that consist of milo and sunflowers close to the covey headquarters

A Habitat:

1. Three covey headquarters within a 40 acre area
2. An acre of ragweed, other annual weeds, or an acre of a CP-33 field, close to the covey headquarters
3. Three or more low branch conifers close to the covey headquarters

4. An acre or more of a food plot that consist of milo and sunflowers close to a covey headquarters

B Habitat:

1. Two covey headquarters within a 40 acre area
2. Some annual weeds, or CRP field close to the covey headquarters
3. A food plot that consist of milo

C Habitat:

1. One covey headquarters in the area
2. Some annual weeds, or CRP field in the area

D Habitat:

1. A CRP field in the area

*After decades of observing quail in Minnesota during deep snowy winters, quail are often found in and around low branch coniferous trees



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist For The Southeast

Quail update – Our Southeast QF Chapter is working with Quail Forever National in hiring a full time Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist that will be working closely with landowners/farmers in improving their land in a way that quail and other wildlife may reside on their properties. Our chapter is very excited about getting this person hired to help improve quail habitat in southeastern Minnesota.

Adults And Youth



Some of our Metro Youth have had a good summer by going on a fishing trip that was put on by two groups; namely, “**Fishing for Life**” and our “**Metro QF Chapter**”. Also, some youth attended, and helped out during our Metro QF Banquet.

Our Metro Chapter has a list of outdoor activities lined up for the youth in this area for the coming fall and winter.

Our Southeast QF Chapter is looking forward to working with the youth at Caledonia, Spring Grove, and Houston High Schools this coming fall in improving habitat for quail in their areas.

Quail Focus Area For Houston County

Our Southeast Chapter will start putting together a first ever “Quail Focus Area” in Houston County this coming fall. This “Quail Focus Area” will be established around some existing bobwhite quail in the county. Other states where quail are more numerous than in Minnesota, have “Quail Focus Areas” set up to help increase the quail population in those states. Typically a “Quail Focus Area” is an area where a group of landowners have come together to improve their habitat for quail on their properties.

A **Quail Focus Area** should have at least 60,000 acres in a selected area. The properties don't have to be contiguous, but that would be the best for quail.

GOALS FOR THE QUAIL FOCUS AREA:

- We would have a simple monitoring system in place to better see how the bird's numbers are doing.
- We would set some simple habitat goals to establish on each property, like developing a covey headquarters on each property, establishing a weedy/forb site close to the covey headquarters, and establishing a winter food source(s) close to the covey headquarters.



Quail Sightings

At this time last year the quail count in Houston County is running a little less than this time a year ago. January – August last year were 41 sightings reported to us, this year the same period of time, the quail sighting is at 30. The brood count is the same as last year's, which is three sightings that have been reported to us so far.

Rainfall May- August 2017

Weather: The main nesting season for ground nesting birds in Houston County, has been a bit on the plus side when it comes to rain fall. Almost all nesting seasons experience some periods of heavy rain during the spring and summer months. That being said, I think the nesting season was about average, probably some nests were washed out, but I believe the gains were greater than the losses. Examples of rainfall at La Crosse, Wi. which represents Houston County Mn:

May: 7.20", a + 3.82"

June: 5.38", a + 1.38"

July: 7.63", a +3.38"

Aug: (as of 8/27/17) 1.06", a – 2.91"

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We want to say thanks to our Metro QF Sponsors:

- **Vance Grannis, Jr.**
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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 in Minnesota has been hacked. We are looking for someone, preferably a volunteer that has the skills to rebuild the site.

<http://www.mnquailforever.com/>

Thurman Tucker, Metro & SE QF Chapters Coordinator

