

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

ASSISTANCE FOR BOBWHITE QUAIL HABITAT



Background: Northern Bobwhite

The northern bobwhite, commonly referred to as bobwhite quail, is an iconic and highly valued species that was once common throughout eastern North America.

With the decline of suitable habitat, populations have decreased by more than 80% over the last 60 years. Changes in agricultural practices, changes in land use, and lack of forest management have led to fragmentation of high quality habitat and loss of quality early successional habitat.

How Can You Help?

Bobwhites depend on early successional habitat grasslands, shrubby areas, and pine or oak savannahs found across the East. These habitats have the forbs, legumes and insects that bobwhite need for food and the heavy or brushy cover for nesting, brooding and safety.

To help reverse bobwhite declines, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is looking for private landowners to manage for nesting cover, brood-rearing habitat, forage habitat and escape cover.

Eligible landowners can receive technical and financial assistance to implement a variety of conservation practices to restore northern bobwhite quail habitat.

See back page for full practices list.



Priority Areas

Delaware NRCS is targeting priority areas throughout the state that have the greatest benefit to bobwhite quail habitat based on known populations through partnership restoration efforts.

How to Apply

Interested landowners with property in the priority areas should contact their local NRCS Office to learn more about opportunities available for assistance.

In Sussex County, call 302-856-3990, ext. 3; in Kent County, call 302-741-2600, ext. 3; and in New Castle County, call 302-832-3100, ext. 3



Partnership Effort

The northern bobwhite is a state-identified target species of the Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) partnership, a collaborative approach to conserve habitat on working lands.

Delaware NRCS is partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Delaware Department of Agriculture, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), Quail Forever and the National Bobwhite & Grassland Initiative to enhance and conserve working agricultural lands and improve bobwhite quail populations.



Photo Credit: USFWS



Photo Credit: USFWS

WILDLIFE RELATED NRCS CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Practice Name		Brief Description
314	Brush Management	Management or removal of woody (non-herbaceous or succulent) plants including those that are invasive and noxious.
315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment	The removal or control of herbaceous weeds including invasive, noxious and prohibited plants.
327	Conservation Cover	Establishing/maintaining permanent herbaceous cover.
338	Prescribed Burning	Prescribed burning is applying controlled fire to a predetermined area of land.
386	Field Border	A band or strip of perennial vegetation established on the edge of a cropland field.
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt	Establish single or multiple rows of trees and/or shrubs in a linear configuration to enhance wildlife habitat.
393	Filter Strip	A strip or area of vegetation for removing sediment, organic matter, and other pollutants from runoff and wastewater.
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting	Establish wildlife habitat by planting herbaceous vegetation or shrubs.
422	Hedgerow Planting	Establishing strips of dense vegetation (typically woody).
490	Tree/Shrub Site Prep	Treatment of areas to improve site conditions for establishing trees and/or shrubs.
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	Involves planting seedlings or cuttings, seeding, or creating conditions that promote natural regeneration.
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Manage food, cover, and/or shelter in proper amounts, location and times to sustain wild animals that inhabit uplands.
647	Early Successional Habitat Management	Involves manipulating a stand of plants to create and maintain early successional attributes that benefit desired wildlife.
666	Forest Stand Improvement	Manipulate forest species composition, stand structure, or stand density to improve wildlife habitat.

Delaware

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