

Forever Illinois Newsletter

June 2009



ATTEND A DISTRICT MEETING

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- District Meetings
- State Meeting set for Jan 23, 2010
- FFA State Convention
- Grants Signed, go to work
- On-Line Membership Reporting is Here!
- The New Banquet Package is Here!

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend one of the three 2009 IL District Meetings.

Meeting Dates:

- **Mon, July 27—DeKalb Best Western**
- **Tues, July 28—East Peoria Par-A-Dice Casino**
- **Wed, July 29—Decatur Hotel and Conference Center**

Banquet package preview begins at 5:30 with the official meeting running from 6:00-8:00pm.

One gun will be given away at each meeting.

This is your best opportunity to view the banquet package and

encore merchandise for your upcoming event.

This year has a new smaller, less expensive core banquet package with the opportunity to customize it to your event with a wide variety of encore prints and merchandise. We know chapters will be excited for this new system.

We only have a limited quantity of many of these items so chapters should plan on ordering at the meeting so they don't lose out.

Each chapter will receive a 3-ring binder with index tabs that includes underwriting booklets, pass thru programs, fundraising ideas, information on grants and

much more!

Tim, Matt and Aaron will be at each meeting to answer your questions and give you ideas on how to maximize your bottom line for habitat.

In addition to the gun drawing, we will also be providing a variety of **chapter incentives** as well as committee incentives for ordering at the event.

We can't wait to see you at this year's district meetings—where you are sure to get a lot of information and have a lot of fun!

Think Habitat!

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DNR Grants - Signed, sealed and delivered

After a long delay from a multitude of factors, the DNR executed the final signature on grant contracts to Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever on May 27.

Chapters were notified via email and with a letter to chapter presidents indicating they could begin to spend grant funding. Also included were the new grant policies outlining DNR and

PF/QF requirements.

Please report activities as soon as possible—we are trying to spend out 2008 funds before tapping into 2009 dollars.

Fiscal Year Ends June 30, 2009—Reporting time

The PF/QF fiscal year ends at the end of this month. Chapters must report grant-related activities no later than **July 15th** or they will not be reimbursed for those expenses.

Reporting should include any previously unreported grant activities since July 1, 2008.

Chapters should also submit their Chapter Habitat Summary

which lists total projects and acres by category along with youth events. This document is important in reporting our accomplishments in Illinois. If you need help—contact your RWB. Thanks.

Become a Fan of Illinois Pheasants / Quail Forever on Facebook!



Fundraising

OMR—Oh NO, Not another acronym!

Online Membership Reporting (OMR) is here! OMR is a web based membership process site exclusively developed for PF & QF Chapters. This user friendly web site works with DSL, high speed or dial up internet. Some of the many benefits of using OMR are below.

Environmentally Friendly - no paper necessary - save a tree!

There is nothing to mail to national so your chapter **saves money on postage**.

There are **no checks to write** because you can have the funds transferred directly from your CMS account.

Events processed in OMR will allow you to **display and print your own roster** so you can easily send thank-you's to sponsors or see who attended past events and

target them for a future event.

You can also **print your own list and labels**. Choose a current or 3 year past member list and export it directly to an excel spreadsheet on your computer.

OMR will **speed the process** considerably. Chapters could key in the pre-registrations before your event and add the walk-ins and be done with your membership report, the night of your banquet! No more sending in a report that **sits in a drawer** waiting for someone else to rekey your list into a database.

Your members will get their membership information shortly after you submit your OMR. **No more banquet attendees asking where there magazine is!**

This program will greatly reduce process-

ing time, saving money for the organization and freeing time to deliver more services to chapters.

Our goal is to have all PF & QF membership events recorded and processed within 24 hours of the event. Much of the work can be done prior to the banquet or event with pre-registrations. Enter that information leading up to the banquet. Once the banquet or event is completed, all you would need to do is add the remaining memberships, such as walk-ins and sponsors and click the submit button.

Look for more information on OMR at the three District Meetings across the State held in late July or contact your Regional Biologist.

This year's banquet package - build to suit your event!

It gets harder every year for us to put together a package that **everyone** loves, so this year you guys get to do it yourselves. That's right; you get to pick and choose what you want in your own banquet package.

We have put together a nice smaller core package of a dozen great items, and you get to choose from over 200 other optional items to build and round out the

rest of your package. We have knives, sculptures, light fixtures, hunting trips, seed mixes, a huge variety of prints, and even unique raffle packages.

You know best the likes of your local crowd, and now you can gear your package toward them. If there is something missing that you think should be in this year's package, than please let us know, the best ideas come from you!

Just remember that shopping with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever puts dollars in the ground for habitat and youth education. We appreciate your business and support!



Pull..... BANG!



The Southern Illinois Claybird Chapter of Quail Forever is having their second annual shoot at Brittany Shooting Park in Bunker Hill Illinois on July 11th.

Grab your shooting buddies and put a team together or sponsor your local SCTP Shooting Team and show your support. Everyone is welcome.

Last year we had around a 100 shooters, and we would really like to double that number this year! So mark the

date on your calendar and give your buddies a call.

Guaranteed to be a good time! All proceeds go towards youth shooting sports and hunter education.

A registration form was sent via email along with this newsletter, or get one from

tcaughran@pheasantsforever.org



Youth & Education

Dustin Childers receives award from Pheasants Forever



Aaron Kuehl presents award to Dustin Childers of Goreville during the FFA Convention.

Springfield - June 9th - During the awards presentation at the 2009 IL State FFA Con-

vention, Dustin Childers of Goreville was presented with the Wildlife Management Award by Pheasants / Quail Forever. The award is sponsored by the IL State Council.

Dustin's project involved trapping, primarily raccoons, in southern Illinois, skinning them and marketing them directly through the internet.

Dustin's interest in trapping stemmed from an article he read in an outdoor magazine which sparked an inquiry to his grandfather who found him a trapping mentor.

"Introducing youth to hunting,, trapping and

other outdoor activities is critical if we are to continue an outdoor heritage that has a strong land ethic," stated Aaron Kuehl, Director of Conservation Programs for Pheasants Forever in Illinois.

Pheasants Forever is the only group who presents an award at the state convention and after presenting the award received recognition by the IL State FFA Association.



Tim Talks Habitat in FFA Breakout

Tim Caughran, Regional Wildlife Biologist for Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever in Southern Illinois gave 2 break-out sessions at the FFA state convention in mid-June.

While his talk focused on the life cycle, ecology and habitat of bobwhite quail, he adeptly fielded questions about predators, stocking, white-tailed deer management and other various wildlife topics.

"It's a great opportunity to get in front of such inquisitive minds, many of whom will be our future land stewards," commented

Tim, "my goal is to provide them a background on how wildlife management can be part of a healthy farm."

The tail end of his afternoon session started an interactive discussion about the field border program (CP-33) and after a side conversation he had a landowner convinced to enroll a good portion of his farm's field borders into the program.

"Sure it's great to talk to a landowner and end the conversation with him excited about enrolling his farm, but we can't forget that many of the



Tim Caughran during his afternoon presentation on Quail Management at the FFA Convention.

seeds we planted today we probably won't see right away and in some cases years, but if they result in more habitat, it's good for us all," said Tim.

47 Schools Show interest in Classroom Habitat



Chuck Quarnstromm talks to FFA students about the classroom habitat competition.

Prior to the IL FFA State Convention, we had a slow start with 7 schools signed up to participate in the Classroom Habitat Competition hosted by the IL State Council.

During the convention, an additional 40

schools signed up for the program and "We now have a real competition," declared Chuck Quarnstromm Youth Coordinator for the Council.

In total we have 47 schools in 37 different counties across the state and 51 advisors interested in participating in the program.

"That's more than my wildest dreams for the first year of the competition," said Chuck

Over the next couple months, there will be a flurry of communication between FFA chapter advisors, PF and QF chapter leaders and staff to ensure that this program is a success.

One of the big benefits of this program is introducing the future land stewards to con-

servation projects, particularly to native grasses and their benefits. Also a spin off is providing Sand County Almanac's to each class for advisors to use to plan some ecological lessons.

A Sand County Almanac was written by Aldo Leopold, the father of conservation who was years ahead and truly understood and inspired a land ethic.

Congratulations to Chuck and the state council for developing this successful program. We're looking forward to many classroom projects to talk about in the future issues of this newsletter!



Grants

New Grant Policies - Know what is required...

The below policies have been sent to each Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever chapter in Illinois. They were designed so that chapters can fully understand what is required by the state DNR and PF/QF

for Pheasant Fund and Habitat Fund Grants.

Chapters will be required to sign the below grant policies PRIOR to receiving

any advance payment or reimbursement of grant related activities.

If you have questions, please contact Aaron.

PF/QF IL Pheasant and Habitat Grant Policies

Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever have a strong partnership with the IL Department of Natural Resources Pheasant and Habitat Fund Grants and the IL hunters who have contributed to those accounts. This partnership results in thousands of acres of quality wildlife habitat every year, stretching state dollars collected by sportsmen with local chapter dollars raised at annual events. We owe it to every IL sportsmen to make the most of these dollars and accurately report our accomplishments.

The state has set forth reporting requirements that aim to ensure that the dollars collected from IL sportsmen are put to good use. The policies below were developed to meet the state requirements and provide clarification to chapters on what those requirements entail. Further, it provides clear consequences to chapters who fail to meet these policies so that delinquent chapter reporting does not jeopardize future grants to other chapters.

Each chapter must return a signed copy of these policies to the Director of Conservation prior to receiving any reimbursements or advance payments for grant related activities. Payments will not be made until the chapter has acknowledged they understand the policies and agree to abide by them.

Reporting Requirements – the following information is required for each grant-related project. Chapters who fail to provide all the necessary information will NOT be reimbursed for their activities. The DNR has several forms available for reporting, or if chapters prefer they may use the streamlined, all inclusive PF/QF form.

Chapter info – chapter name, chapter contact name, phone and email

Cooperator Name and Address

County, Township, Range, Section Information

Map (highlighted aerial photo or alternative GIS info)

Date of Activity

Description of Activity

Cost Detail (federal, grant, chapter, other)

Supporting documentation (invoices) must include name and address of vendor, date, detailed item description (for example seed mix by species and rates), quantity and date the item was purchased. Further, include a copy of the chapter check(s) or at least the check numbers and dates.

How to determine eligible costs – eligible costs are that cost which is allowed by the grant. It is NOT what a chapter receives. The eligible costs include both the grant reimbursement and the chapter or landowner match. It is also important to note that while costs may be eligible, that does not assure reimbursement as it depends on chapter earmarks, available funds and proper reporting.

Only costs that occur within the grant period are eligible.

Total project costs are LESS THAN allowed limitations and project will NOT receive federal cost share. 100% of total costs are eligible.

Total project costs are LESS THAN allowed limitations; and project will receive federal cost share. Only the difference between the total cost and federal cost share is eligible.

Total project costs EXCEED allowed limitations and project will not receive federal cost share. Only expenses to the allowed limit are eligible.

Total project costs EXCEED allowed limitations and project will receive federal cost share. This is the most complicated situation to determine eligible cost share.

First, determine what the allowable limitation for the practice is (i.e. \$75/ac for WSG establishment).

Second, multiply the allowed limit by the federal cost share percentage and subtract from the allowed limit ($\$75 \times 90\%$ federal cost share = $\$67.5$; $\$75 - \$67.5 = \$7.50$). This is the eligible per acre cost of the project.



Grants

PF/QF IL Pheasant and Habitat Grant Policies - Continued

Reimbursements / Advances:

Chapters will receive a reimbursement of 80% of the grant portion of their eligible habitat projects after providing all required reporting documentation to the Director of Conservation. The DNR holds the final 20% until the final report for the block grant is completed and approved. Once the DNR makes this final payment to the PF/QF state office, the final payments will be made to chapters.

Chapters who cannot afford to complete habitat projects due to lack of local funding, may request an 80% advance payment from the Director of Conservation. Reporting history, documentation, nature of the project and chapter balances will be considered in granting advances.

Equipment Advances – chapters who lack sufficient funding to purchase approved equipment may request up to 95% of the grant portion for equipment purchases over \$5,000 and up to 100% of the grant portion for equipment purchases less than \$5,000.

Deadlines for Reporting – there are 2 reporting deadlines for chapter grant related activities. Reporting can be completed more frequently, but it is required at least biannually.

July 15 – June 30th is the end of the fiscal year for the state of Illinois and for Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever. Chapters who do not report their grant related activities for the past fiscal year prior to July 15th, will NOT receive those reimbursements. This report should include all grant related activities between January 1 and June 30.

January 15 – the DNR grants expire at the end of the calendar year. They require reports for grant activities be completed in January.

5 Year Equipment Reporting – The DNR requires 5 years of reporting for equipment purchased through state grants. A handful of chapters have demonstrated very poor equipment reporting leading to significant delays in grants to other chapters. To eliminate further delays we are instituting the following policy.

Chapters will receive a notice from the DOC at the end of the year reminding them that their equipment reports are due by January 15. Chapters will submit equipment reports annually to the Director of Conservation. The DOC will complete the block equipment reports and turn them into the state to meet requirements.

Further, staff will identify and work with chapters who are not adequately utilizing their equipment to identify how to put the equipment to better use which may include moving the equipment to a different chapter.

Delinquent Chapters – a delinquent chapter is any chapter who does not complete the required report(s) before the relevant deadlines.

Chapters who are delinquent are **NOT** eligible to receive or apply for **ANY** grant funding while delinquent. Delinquent chapters will be removed from any ongoing grant application. This includes not only state Pheasant and Habitat Fund grants, but other grants from private foundations and federal grants such as NAWCA.

Chapters delinquent on equipment grant reporting will face confiscation.

Grant Reporting Made Simple???

We appreciate your time as volunteers for Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever and we want to make it simple for you to provide us the required information.

The above grant policies provide what is required for reporting. We hope to make reporting easy by designing a **Grant Report Spreadsheet** that summarizes the necessary project information in a standard format. Chapters may still choose to report using the traditional DNR forms or the Individual Project Report.

In addition to the reporting above, each project must include the financial details (invoices) and a map.

There isn't much we can do to simplify the invoices requirement, but we do have a couple alternatives for chapters to provide us the required map information.

- 1) Collect a USDA aerial photo of the section and highlight where the activity occurred.
- 2) Provide GPS coordinates (UTM) for the

corners where the activity occurred as described on the Individual Project Report. Some GPS models may allow you to save a boundary route which could be emailed to staff—more info coming.

- 3) **Google Earth** can be used to create polygons where activity occurred. These polygons can be emailed.

Look for additional documentation on using these tools for easy reporting coming soon to your inbox.

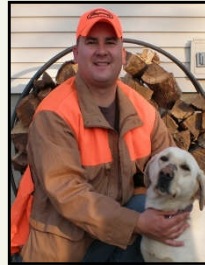
WE'RE HERE TO HELP



AARON K. KUEHL

DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION

PO Box 50, 206 S Lake St
Oakford, IL 62673
Phone: (217) 635-5207
Cell: (217) 341-7171



MATT BRADSHAW

NORTHERN REGIONAL BIOLOGIST

101 Blackfoot Dr.
Loda, IL 60948
Phone: (217) 386-4324



KIM STERLING

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

401 Burberry Lane
Rochester, IL 62563
Phone: (217) 498-6806



TIM CAUGHRAN

S REGIONAL BIOLOGIST

1806 Montview Ave
Godfrey, IL 62035
Phone: (618) 467-2586



ALISON BRENTZEL

REGIONAL YOUTH SPECIALIST

14 N 405 Rt. 25
Dundee, IL 60118
Phone: (217) 553-6073
abrentzel@pheasantsforever.org

UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR

Does your chapter have an event for our calendar. Please get your upcoming banquet, youth and other events to your regional wildlife biologist for inclusion in our monthly newsletter and on the state web site. Thanks.

Description	Location	Time	Date
IL Claybird PF/QF Shoot	Brittney Shooting Park, Bunker Hill	10:00 am	7-11-2009
Focus on Forever Workshop	Nebraska		7/17-7/18, 2009
District Meeting	Dekalb Best Western	6pm-8pm	Mon 7/28/09
District Meetings	Par-A-Dice Casino, E. Peoria	6pm-8pm	Tues 7/29/09
District Meetings	Decatur Hotel and Conf Center	6pm-8pm	Wed 7/30/09
PFN Merchandise Inventory	NO ORDERS WILL SHIP		June 26-July 5
2010 State Meeting Social	Par-A-Dice, Peoria	5pm-11pm	1/22/2010
2010 State Meeting & Banquet	Par-A-Dice, Peoria	9am-10pm	1/23/2010
2010 Pheasant Fest	Des Moines, IA		Feb 26-28

Does your chapter have an article for our monthly newsletter? Are you willing to share the success of a recent chapter event (youth day, seed giveaway, banquet, habitat project, etc) with the other chapters in Illinois? If so, please send your article and photo(s) to akuehl@pheasantsforever.org.