

SUCCESS STORY

Wildlife Habitat and Management Program

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Situation

During the past 15 years, Spencer County has nearly tripled its population, going from 6,000 residents to nearly 19,000. As we have seen this growth, we've also encountered issues with wildlife damage to gardens and crops due to a decrease in wildlife habitat.

Target Audience and Partnership

In an effort to educate homeowners on how to deal with wildlife damage and habitat, the County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources, along with the Wildlife Biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, ...



Educational Response

...developed 2 programs to help landowners. The first session was how to properly develop wildlife food plots, which included information on how to properly amend the soils for crop production, the type of plots (grasses, flowers, etc.) wildlife like, and how to care for the plots. The second session discussed how to keep wildlife out of areas where you don't want them, including gardens.

Outcomes

Initial - After the sessions, a follow up discussion was held with each participant and 100% said that the programs had increased their knowledge on how to develop plots successfully and how to protect their land from wildlife damage. Of those attending, there was going to be a total of 45 acres developed into wildlife food plots that weren't in plots before.

Intermediate - As a follow up to the programs, a Wildlife Food Plot Field Day was held. The Biologist has received follow-up calls from several of the landowners that attended the field day and they have developed over 80 acres of native warm season grass/pollinator friendly plantings and 20 acres of winter wheat. These plantings are being made possible with the use of the KDFWR native warm season grass drill that is free for land owners to use. Until the landowners attended the workshop, they had non-agriculture fescue fields and fallow cropland.

Over the next few years, they will be growing these areas into plant communities that will increase habitat quality for quail, rabbits, deer and turkey, as well as pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies. Both of the wildlife programs and food plot field day were able to highlight the positive effects of proper seeding food plots for wildlife and we'll be able to see those results for years to come.



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