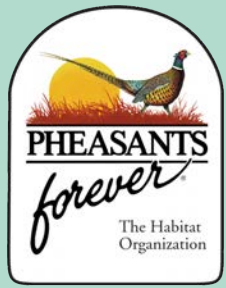




Water and Wings

HOW QUAIL HABITAT AND BUFFERS IMPROVE WATER QUALITY



CONSERVATION BUFFERS AND BENEFITS

Conservation buffers are strips of land of permanent vegetation that are designed to prevent the movement of pollutants. Buffers slow water runoff, therefore trapping sediment and increasing infiltration. Correctly placed buffers have the ability to reduce sediment movement as well as pesticide and nutrient runoff from agricultural land. Appropriately maintained buffers have the ability to remove about 50 percent of nutrients and pesticides, 60 percent of particular pathogens, and 75 percent of sediment.

Conservation buffers are environmentally beneficial as they:

- Manage soil erosion caused from both wind and water
- Enhance soil and water quality
- Improve fish and wildlife habitat
- Decrease flooding
- Sustain energy
- Protect infrastructure and livestock
- Conserve biodiversity



BUFFERS AND QUAIL HABITAT

Conservation buffers act as important habitat resources for many wildlife species, providing food, nesting cover, and shelter. Buffers also serve as habitat corridors, providing wildlife with safe passage from one habitat to another.

Buffers provide quail with much needed nesting and brood rearing-habitat, bordering both crop lands and water. Buffers that are 30 to 120 feet wide and planted in a mixture of native grasses with legumes and forbs act as beneficial quail habitat as well as water quality protection.