



Bobwhite Quail
INITIATIVE

Wildlife Resources Division
Game Management Section

BOBWHITE QUAIL INITIATIVE

*Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Division
Private Lands Program*



The Bobwhite Quail Initiative (BQI) provides financial & technical assistance to private landowners, on a voluntary basis, to increase quail populations through habitat restoration. Georgia's quail population has declined by more than 70% since the early 1960s primarily due to loss of quality early succession habitat. Restoring this habitat type also benefits certain songbirds & other wildlife, improves water quality, reduces soil erosion, & can economically enhance local communities by stimulating quail hunting & wildlife viewing. Important BQI components include:

- ❖ Focus on enhancing row crop agriculture & pine forests of 15 counties of Upper Coastal Plain.
- ❖ Technical assistance is available to everyone.
- ❖ Financial incentives provided to landowners on a competitive basis for approved practices.
- ❖ Monies from the sale of the BQI wildlife tag help support this important program.

Preliminary Financial Incentive Eligibility: If your property does not meet the following requirements, call any private lands program wildlife biologist to learn about similar opportunities. BQI properties must: [1] be located in counties of the East Focus Area (Burke, Jenkins, Screven, Bulloch), Central Focus Area (Bleckley, Dodge, Emanuel, Laurens), or Southwest Focus Area (Colquitt, Crisp, Dougherty, Lee, Mitchell, Sumter, Terrell), [2] be at least 50 contiguous acres in size, & [3] include commercial row crop agriculture, or be within the Conservation Reserve Program Conservation Priority Area Longleaf Pine, or include pine forests adjacent to row crop agriculture.

Management Available: Within row crop areas, practices include establishing & maintaining field borders, hedgerows, center pivot corners, fallow patches, conservation tillage; & within pine forests, practices include thinning, prescribed burning & establishing fallow openings.

Technical/Financial Assistance: Habitat management plans are available to anyone regardless of property type or size. Applications are accepted throughout the year with rankings & selections being made in fall & early winter. Financial incentives are allocated under three-year contracts at the annual rates per acre of \$60 for dry land practices, \$120 for irrigated field borders & hedgerows, \$15 for conservation tillage, \$5 for prescribed burning, & \$15 for heavy thinning of pine forests. The maximum payment during any three-year contract is \$15,000. Funds are distributed annually to cooperators contingent upon successful implementation of habitat practices as determined during annual compliance checks.

How to get started: Call a professional wildlife biologist within BQI's East Focus Area (706-554-3745), Central Focus Area (478-296-6176), or Southwest Focus Area (229-420-1212). If your property does not meet the BQI eligibility requirements you can learn about other financial & technical assistance opportunities to restore early succession habitat by calling any private lands program wildlife biologist.

