



Department of Conservation's New Deer Regulations: Positive or Negative for ?

April 21, 2016



List course(s) in which instruction occurred including the number of students involved in the instruction of the issue.

The agricultural issues presentation was prepared in the Food Science Class (12 members) and the Agricultural Construction Class (12 members). Students were challenged to identify an agricultural issue that not only affected them personally, but also impacted a vast majority of the people in the United States. As the Ag Construction class was sampling the deer jerky made by the Food Science class, a classmate said, "Killing deer is wrong." From that moment the debate was on.

Why is the issue important now?

Just weeks before deer bow season opened in 2015, the Missouri Department of Conservation announced the dates and regulations for the 2016-17 season (Jerek, 2015). These regulations will affect not only hunters in Monroe County but also the 511,182 hunters across the state (Flinn & Summer, 2015). According to the Missouri Deer Season Summary and Population Status, deer numbers have decreased over the past five years because of liberal doe restrictions and hemorrhagic diseases (Flinn & Summer, 2015). Some would argue that the new regulations would create more traffic collisions. Currently, traffic accidents nationwide involving deer cause over four billion dollars in vehicle damage annually (Insurance Journal, 2012).

What is the nature of the issue?

Increase in Deer Population

- "The Goal of the Missouri Department of Conservation is to achieve and maintain the deer populations at desired levels throughout Missouri" (Flinn & Summer, 2015).
- Deer Population has decreased an estimated 300,000 since 2009 (Flinn & Summer, 2015).

Decrease in Deer Population

- Eighty-seven percent of all deer-vehicle wrecks occurred on state maintained roads. These roads are the most traveled highways for the majority of Missouri residents (Missouri State Highway Patrol, 2012).
- One deer, feeding twice a day, eats up to four pounds of corn from crop fields. Over two-weeks, that's 56 pounds. (Peirce & Wiggers, 1997). That is roughly six dollars per deer per month.

Who is involved in the issue?

All 4,295,224 Missouri licensed drivers and the thousands of visitors passing through are only seconds away from being directly involved in the deer debate as they drive on Missouri roads (The Statistics Portal, 2016). From the suburbs of St. Louis to the county roads of Monroe County to I-29 leading into Kansas City, it only takes the turn of a doe's head and she is coming directly in your path. The 511,182 Missouri deer hunters in 2015 will have to follow MDC regulations of shortened seasons and deer harvest restrictions or face fines (Jerek, 2015). Farmers and landowners can also be expected to see an increase of deer populations feeding on their land from new regulations. More deer mean more food needed for the deer and this food comes straight from the farmer's fields (Pierce & Wiggers, 1997).

How can the issue be defined?

The Missouri Department of Conservation 2016-17 Deer Hunting Regulations aimed at increasing the Missouri deer populations are conflicted with those Missouri citizens who want to control the increase of Missouri deer population. An increase in the deer population means more deer/vehicle accidents and wrecks, and the destruction of more agricultural crops. On the other hand, more deer will mean additional work for mechanics and an increase population of quality deer to hunt.

What is the historical background of the issue?

Early 1900's: Token laws restricting the killing of deer were passed, but went largely unenforced.

1925: Missouri's deer herd estimated to only be 400 deer (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2016).

1936: Voters passed an amendment to the state constitution to establish the Missouri Department of Conservation by more than a two-to-one margin (Aldermans, 2011).

1987: Deer hunters were first allowed to tag a "bonus (doe)" deer, because the deer population had reached sustainable numbers (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2016).

2012: A deadly outbreak of EHD devastated the whitetail population in some parts of the state.

2013: Hunters took lowest total in last 10 years, 251,924. (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2016).

2015: Wildlife officials with the Missouri Department of Conservation aren't in panic mode, but they know something has to be done (Frazee, 2013).

2015: The 2016-17 Missouri Department of Conservation regulations were introduced showing a restriction in days to hunt and number of deer that can be killed (Jerek, 2015).

What caused the issue?

The issue of control of the deer population is caused by the community having two different perspectives. There are those that have to pay the national average of over \$4,000 per deer-vehicle collision, and there are those that watch deer eat their profits right out of their fields and see them as a nuisance (Insurance Journal, 2012). Members of the Conservation Department and local hunters view the deer as a delicacy and a vital part of society and want to increase their number at a 20 year low of 1.4 million deer (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2016).

What are the risks?

If deer numbers increase there is a higher risk for accidents, over 3,500 wrecks were reported during 2011, and four people lost their lives because of these deer (Missouri Highway Patrol, 2012). Secondly, increasing the population will continue to increase the potential for the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). From the opposite view point, if deer numbers are not managed and decrease, deer populations will continue to fall as they have from 2007-2015, dropping 150,000 deer (Flinn & Summers, 2015). This will decrease the potential for deer to be killed and cause less interest in hunting.

What are the benefits?

Increasing the deer population by reducing the number of days to hunt will help to guarantee that there will be deer to hunt for future generations. Over 20,000 hunters are ages fifteen and younger (Flinn & Summers, 2015); for these hunters to have deer to hunt when they are in their fifties they must be managed now. Currently Missourians outnumber deer three to one. With the new push to increase population, deer will continue to be more available to hunt and continue to attract more Missouri residents and hunters into the woods (Populations Demographics, 2016).

Is there strong disagreement on the issue?

Pro: "Local hunters understand that to have quality deer you must regulate the number harvested and support the new regulations (Willingham, 2016)." Conservation Agent McCorkell supports the conservation departments push to increase the deer population (McCorkell, 2016).

Con: "Local farmers are against the new regulations because they are going to increase the number of deer that will potentially destroy crops (Dye, 2016)." "MDC allowing the use of crossbows for use in archery season is a joke; crossbows today are guns made from string and should be only allowed in gun season (Graupman, 2016)."

Bibliography

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Group	Date	Time	Interest in Missouri Deer Regulations	Location	Number & Description of Attendance
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Clarence Cannon Dam & Mark Twain Lake	3/8/2016	1:00 p.m.	- 13 Hunters - 3 Wildlife Biologist - 15 Mark Twain Lake State Park Rangers	M.W. Boudreaux Visitor Center	<u>15</u> U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Mark Twain Quail Forever Chapter	3/10/2016	6:50 p.m.	- Wildlife Biologist - Missouri Department of Conservation Private Land Conservationist - 16 Hunters and Landowners	Monroe County NRCS Office	<u>16</u> Quail Forever Members
2nd Annual Monroe City Whitetail Classic	3/20/2016	10:00 a.m.	- 90+ Hunters - 5 Missouri Department of Conservation Agents - 8 Hunting Store Owners	Monroe City Knights of Columbus	<u>95</u> Deer Hunting Enthusiasts
Northeast Missouri Conservation Agent Training Day	3/23/2016	9:30 a.m.	- Agents who serve as both the enforcement and the voice of the Missouri Department of Conservation on new Deer Regulations	Day's Inn Conference Center, Kirksville, MO	<u>23</u> Conservation Agents and District Supervisors
Monroe County AG Night	3/24/2016	7:00 p.m.	- 40 Hunters - 35 Landowners	Paris High School Gym	<u>101</u> Monroe County Farmers and Landowners
Paris Rotary Club	3/31/2016	12:00 p.m.	- Deer Hunting Economic Impact on local Community	Paris Senior Center	<u>21</u> Rotary Members (2 Monroe County Commissioners, 2 Monroe County Judges)
USDA Monroe County Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Field Staff	4/8/2016	12:00 p.m.	- Oversee CRP and Wetland ground in Monroe County - Manage over 30,000 acres of CRP	Monroe County NRCS Building	<u>16</u> Wildlife Biologist Private Land Conservationists
Eager Beavers 4-H	2/23/2016	7:00 p.m.	- 17 Deer Hunter - 16 Landowners	Public Library (Paris)	<u>32</u> Members/Parents
Monroe County Young Farmers	3/10/2016	7:00 p.m.	- 4 Hunters, 3 Future Hunters	Paris FFA AG ED Building	<u>9</u> Monroe County Landowners and Farmers

Forum Summary:

Quantity

- Nine Forums
- 328 Combined Audience Members

Audiences included:

- Age range from six years -75 years
- 27 MDC Conservation Agents
- 175+ Landowners

Quality

- Five Different Counties/Towns
- 65% Rural, 35% Town Residents
- 2 MDC Private Land Conservationists
- 210+ Deer Hunters

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Clarence Cannon Dam & Mark Twain Lake Project

3/8/2016



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. LOUIS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
MARK TWAIN LAKE PROJECT OFFICE
20642 HIGHWAY J
MONROE CITY, MISSOURI 63466-9359

March 14, 2016

Administration

Josh Bondy
Paris FFA Advisor
740 Cleveland St
Paris Mo, 65275

Dear Mr. Bondy,

I would like to thank you and your students for presenting the Paris RII School District Career Development Event (CDE) Agriculture Issues demonstration to the Mark Twain Lake staff on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at the M.W. Boudreaux Memorial Visitors Center. The Agricultural Issues Team you have assembled did an excellent job presenting the debate on Missouri Department of Conservation deer management regulations.

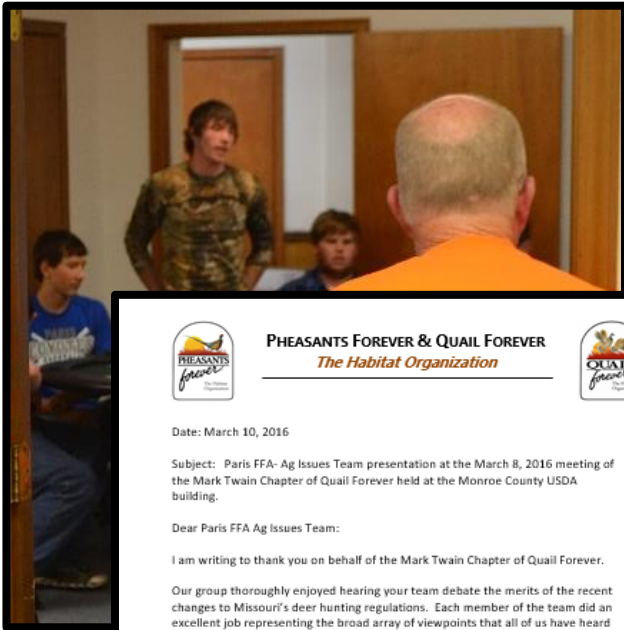
The professional manner in which your team conducted their mock debate provided a captivating look into a relevant topic for Missouri citizens. The team successfully created an atmosphere stimulating the audience into conversations between characters and made the discussion surrounding deer management regulations genuine and thought provoking.

It is great to see community youth motivated and interested in these current agricultural and natural resource related issues. If we can be of further assistance to you or the Paris RII School District FFA Program, you may contact Mr. Lonnie Forrest at 573-735-4097.

Sincerely,

Sandra J. Spence
Operations Manager





Mark Twain Quail Forever

Chapter

3/10/2016



PHEASANTS FOREVER & QUAIL FOREVER
The Habitat Organization



Date: March 10, 2016

Subject: Paris FFA- Ag Issues Team presentation at the March 8, 2016 meeting of the Mark Twain Chapter of Quail Forever held at the Monroe County USDA building.

Dear Paris FFA Ag Issues Team:

I am writing to thank you on behalf of the Mark Twain Chapter of Quail Forever.

Our group thoroughly enjoyed hearing your team debate the merits of the recent changes to Missouri's deer hunting regulations. Each member of the team did an excellent job representing the broad array of viewpoints that all of us have heard expressed from Missouri's citizens. Members of our chapter are avid hunters, conservationists and professional biologists with well-formed opinions on this subject. Our members felt that your team made well thought out arguments that were clear and well defended.

Your props were an excellent addition to the presentation and brought a theatrical element to the debate that entertained and engaged our members.

As a wildlife biologist and the 2000-2001 Vice President of the Paris FFA Chapter, I am very proud to see how far Paris FFA has come since it's re-start. I can confidently say that the Mark Twain Chapter of Quail Forever shares my opinion.

Please let us know if our club can support the Paris FFA in new ways as we move forward. Thank you and best of luck with this year's competitions.

Sincerely,

Casey Bergthold

Casey Bergthold
Habitat Chair
Mark Twain Quail Forever

Quail Forever is dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs



2nd Annual Monroe

City Whitetail Classic

3/20/2016



3/20/2016

Dear Paris FFA Ag Issues Team,

I was really excited to see that you all were presenting at the 2nd Annual Monroe City Whitetail Classic. I have been hunting for the past twenty-five years, and have four kids that I can't wait to take hunting in the future. I am concerned with the new deer hunting regulations, and I am not in favor of the exemption to allow the use of cross bows. To me, a cross bow is basically a gun and even though it is powered by string it shouldn't be allowed to fall in the same class as archery. I wish Missouri Department of Conservation would look to neighboring states like Illinois and Iowa when considering deer management, because those state have proven year in and year out to produce large quality deer.

I am excited to see that you have taken the Ag Issues opportunity to not only improve yourselves but to educate the public on the new rules. I know there were many people at the Whitetail Classic that had no idea that the rules had even changed. This to me is alarming and I applaud you that you are spreading the word for the conservation department.

Thanks for all you are doing to promote agriculture and Missouri wildlife. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely

Chris Willingham

Chris Willingham
Avid Deer Hunter & Whitetail



Northeast Missouri Conservation Agent Training Day

3/23/2016



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Headquarters
2901 West Truman Boulevard, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0180
Telephone: 573-751-4115 www.MissouriConservation.org

ROBERT L. ZIEHMER, Director

Date: 3/23/2016

Paris FFA Ag Team,

Thank you for taking the time to attend our training in Kirksville, MO. The 21 Conservation Agents in attendance for your presentation were very impressed. The research and preparation into your topic really showed throughout the program. Your topic choice is perfect in that it affects every person in the state in some way. I am glad that the NE Region Agents were able to answer your questions and hopefully give some further insight. I wish you all the best in the State competition, and hopefully Nationals as well.

Dave McCorkell

David McCorkell
Conservation Agent
Monroe County

Monroe County Ag Night

3/24/2016



March 28, 2016

Mr. Josh Bondy
Paris FFA Chapter
725 Cleveland
Paris, MO 65275

Dear Josh:

Congratulations on the making of an exceptionally talented 2016 Agricultural Issues team representing the Paris FFA Chapter and the selection of a topic that is at the forefront of agricultural discussions around the country. I enjoyed watching your team present the pro's and con's on Missouri's deer population at the Monroe County Ag Night, Thursday, March 24th.

As I listened to team members defend their positions, I was thinking of the popularity of the Conservation Reserve Program in Monroe County and its contribution to the deer population in our area. We currently have approximately 30,000 acres of CRP in the county, much of which is managed for wildlife habitat by both absentee and local landowners. A considerable amount of money has been invested by private landowners and the taxpayers over the course of the last thirty years. Of course, on the converse side of that equation comes the row crop producers of the county who are planting some 80,000 acres of soybeans and 55,000 acres of corn annually and doing their part in feeding what they consider to be an unwanted and overpopulated visitor. Much like your Ag Issues team, depending on which side of the fence you are on determines your rebuttal on the issue.

Best of luck at State Contest later this month. I will look forward to seeing the Paris Ag Issues team on stage in Columbia later in April!

Regards,


Tony Francis, CED
Monroe County Farm Service Agency



Paris Rotary Club

3/31/2016



Paris Rotary Club
C/o Jo Reynolds, President 2015-2016
301 North Main Street
Paris, MO 65275

April 1, 2016

Mr. Josh Bondy,
Ag Instructor
Paris RII Schools
Paris, MO 65275

Dear Mr. Bondy:

On behalf of the Paris Rotary Club, I would like to express our appreciation for the presentation by the Issues Team on Thursday, March 31.

The students offered a presentation that not only informed, but entertained and kept the attention of the audience.

Your teams have consistently done an excellent job, both in content and presentation. It never ceases to amaze me at the talent these young people possess. We appreciate the energy and effort you put into working with the student. The best of luck to you and your team as you move forward.

Sincerely,

To Reynolds

Jo Reynolds, President
Paris Rotary Club

USDA Monroe County NRCS

Field Office

4/8/2016



United States Department of Agriculture

April 08, 2016

Mr. Josh Bondy
Paris FFA Chapter
725 Cleveland
Paris, MO 65275

Dear Josh:

I wanted to thank your 2016 Agricultural Issues team from the Paris FFA Chapter for coming to the USDA office and presenting the Pro's and Con's on the Missouri deer population. The team presented some vivid points that were very thought provoking. Discussion around the office in regards to the deer population has lasted all week among those that heard the presentation. As with most debated issues there is always good points to be made no matter what side of the issue you find yourself on. Your team should be commended for making it to the State Contest, but hopefully their sites are higher. I have fond memories of the FFA Judging and contest teams as well as creed speaking competitions. Continue to push your team and make sure they set high, attainable goals for the future, rather it is the State FFA Contest or life in general. Above all have fun doing whatever they chose.

Sincerely,

Darren Hoffman
Resource Conservationist

Eager Beavers 4-H Club

2/23/2016



March 1, 2016

Mr. Bondy and the Paris FFA Ag Issues Team:

On behalf of the Eager Beavers 4-H Club, I would like to thank you for coming to our regularly scheduled meeting, on February 23, 2016, to present your Ag Issues presentation on the new Missouri Deer Hunting Regulations.

We found your group to be very informative and professional. You did an excellent job of presenting the pros and cons of your topic, and open the eyes of many future hunters to the new changes in regulations. Many of our members have continued to ask very good questions over the past few days.

In addition to learning about Missouri Conservation regulations, our members and parents were able to see first-hand the importance of your learning to speak in front of a group. The timeliness of your presentation was outstanding, as our local achievement day is early next month.

You willingness to share your talents with our young 4-H club is very much appreciated. Your FFA Chapter provides many great role models for our kids. You should be proud of the fact that many of our young people look up to you and aspire to do great things because of your influence.

Sincerely,

Laura Long

Laura Long
Divisional Seed Manager, CPS
(Eager Beavers 4-H Club Leader)
West Central IL/MO Division
Officer 573-231-0707
Cell 217-248-7769



Monroe County Young Farmers

3/10/2016



Monroe County Young Farmers (Farm Bureau)
Clint and Lisa Youse
25868 Route KK
Paris, MO



Date: 3/10/2016

Dear Paris FFA Ag Issues Team,

Thank you for presenting at our March Board Meeting. We were very sorry that there wasn't a larger crowd to hear your great presentation. I know each of us in the room have a personal and business perception on the deer populations.

We discussed after you left that it was such a timely topic as we had received a notice Farm Bureau this winter asking our opinion on the current deer population, and we had taken the time to reply on our opinion. We believe that Farm Bureau had lobbied against the new Missouri Deer hunting Regulations.

Thanks again for a great presentation!! Keep up the good work.

Clint and Lisa Youse

Monroe County Young Farmers Presidents