Food Plot Research Project Criteria Altered to Increase Member Participation!

Last month QDMA contacted its membership via email searching for landowners interested in participating in a ground-breaking food plot research project spearheaded by researchers at the University of Georgia. However, the project requirements prevented several interested members from being eligible to participate. Good news, these criteria have been altered to expand member participation.

In particular, researchers have: 1) expanded the northern study area to include northern West Virginia, northern Virginia and western Maryland; 2) reduced the minimum food plot size from 2 acres to 1 acre; 3) altered the forage component criteria; and 4) will now consider study sites closer than 2 miles apart. If you are interested in being considered for this study, please review the amended project overview and participation requirements below.

Study Overview:

The QDMA's REACH Program recently secured $54,000 for a landmark research project to investigate the impact of food plots on non-game species throughout the eastern United States. The research will take place in two focus areas – one in the North (Pennsylvania, New York, northern West Virginia, northern Virginia and western Maryland) and one in the South (Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee). Approximately 20 study sites will be established in each focus area across a mixture of public and private lands. The goal is to cluster study sites where possible to maximize efficiency and to minimize cost. Populations of birds and small mammals will be surveyed on each study site during the summers of 2008 and 2009.

Here's how you can participate. If you or someone you know have a property featuring a perennial clover food plot in one of the two focus areas and are interested in participating, please review the specific project criteria below to see if you may qualify.

Project Participation Criteria:

Study Sites:
Established perennial clover food plots 1 to 5 acres in size in deciduous hardwood forest landscapes. A clover/chicory mix will be acceptable, as well as other forbs/legumes (no grass plots). Forests must be over 20 years in age. While hardwoods must dominate the site, up to a 25% evergreen component is acceptable. Sites must be in the mountain regions of the state with an elevation of at least 1,000 feet. Food plots must have been planted no later than fall of 2007 and be available for sampling during the summers of 2008 and 2009.

Additional Guidelines:
Since clustering study sites will increase research efficiency, please let us know of any other potential study sites in your area. While previous guidelines required sites to be at least 2 miles apart, researchers will now consider sites slightly closer to each other. Onsite or nearby lodging for researchers would be a plus. A property map showing the food plots and forest cover also would increase odds of being selected.

If you or someone you know has a property meeting these criteria and is interested in participating in this exciting project, please contact Will Ricks by MARCH 26, 2008. Email contact is preferred.

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Thanks, and we'll keep you posted on the progress of the project in *Quality Whitetails*.

The Site Candidate Form is below.

Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at The University of Georgia

Site Candidate Form

Name:

Email:

Address:

Phone:

Location of property (County, State, and nearest city/town) and address if available:

What is the total acreage of your property?

Is your property on at least 1,000 feet elevation?

How many 1-5 acre food plots with clover or clover/chicory are on your property?

Do hardwoods that are 20 years old or older dominate the surrounding forests of the clover or clover/chicory food plots (can be 25% evergreen)?

When were the clover or clover/chicory food plots planted?

Can you submit a map of your property via mail or email?

Can lodging be provided on or near the property?

Do your neighbors have food plots that would fit the requirements?

Any Additional Comments: