Coahoma County is located in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (Delta) and is characterized by large-scale rowcrop farming.

This case study focuses on a 6,400 acre property managed for row crops and recreational hunting.

Bobwhite are not a specific management objective, but instead are a desirable by-product of broadly applied conservation practices.

Thirty three percent of the area is maintained in conservation practices that provide early successional habitat.

The property is composed of 48% row crop (cotton, soybean, and corn), 30% hardwood reforestation, 14% forested or herbaceous wetlands, 4% conservation buffers, 2% forested, and 2% herbaceous drains.

Conservation practices include CRP CP3a hardwood trees (planted in 1999 - still in early successional stage), CP22 riparian buffers (planted in 2004 - still in early successional stage), and CP21 filter strips (planted in 2004 with native warm-season grasses).

Conservation planning was accomplished by a consultant wildlife biologist working with USDA-NRCS field office personnel. Conservation practices were implemented under the WHIP, CRP, (USDA-FSA), and U.S.F.W.S. Partners Programs.
Effects of Integrated Management

- In the absence of bobwhite management, 2007/2008 fall densities in the Delta averaged 1 covey/157 hectares or 1 bobwhite/13 hectares (assuming 12 bobwhites/covey).

- Addition of CRP CP33 field buffers almost tripled fall density to an average of 1 covey/57 hectares or 1 bobwhite/5 hectares.

- Within the Coahoma County property, NWSG upland habitat buffers and filter strips are simply one component of a more comprehensive conservation management system. On this property, farm-level fall densities were 1 covey/23 hectares or 1 bobwhite/2 hectares.

- Broadly applied conservation practices that created early successional habitat produced bird densities 7 times greater than the surrounding landscape.

Northern Bobwhite Fall Covey Densities, 2007/2008

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