

As of: 05 OCTOBER 2009

Midwest Monarchs, LLC Farm Report:

- 1. Deer Observations & Patterns:** This past week, deer have been observed foraging on high protein plants with a more consistent feeding pattern; food sources & choices are beginning to decline with the fall season. Time deer spend in the open fields has now increased as the temperature drops. Numbers of deer on crop fields and on a particular food source have increased as well.
- 2. Food Sources:** Abundance of natural forage and plants deer prefer are diminishing in availability and quantity. White oak mast availability is diminishing. When the deer find these trees, they are still hammering the white acorns hard. Row crop is strong, although approximately 50 acres of soy beans could not be planted on our farms this year. We still plan to plant 3 food plots in winter wheat to compensate for this. Crops in and around our farms are progressing with good to excellent base yield potential. Soy Bean fields are at 85% plus bronze in color. The native grass stand is strong, still providing a good forage source to the deer. All hay fields have been cut and current re-growth is less than 12 inches. Cash crop harvest is just beginning to start in our area at less than a 5% total cut. Our farms have not been harvested yet.
- 3. Weather:** We expect more rain in our area this week. Weekly average temperatures last week have been in the low 70s to high 50s during the day, dropping into the mid 40s to mid 30s at night. On 03 October, it was the lowest temperature for this year, dropping to 36 degrees at night. Patch frost was observed the morning of 04 October. Winds last week have been shifting from the West to the NW with moderate gusts. Average wind was between 1 to 20 mph. Relative humidity last week averaged at 70%. Temperatures averaged 7 to 8 degrees below average across the State. Northwest Missouri recorded precipitation 0.79 of an inch during the week.
- 4. Farm Conditions & Improvements:** All Midwest Monarch properties are being monitored closely on a weekly basis. We have taken on an additional guide for this season to help us out. Adam comes to us with a solid hunting background and has proven his worth as we set up operations this summer.
- 5. Farm Crop Status:** All our beans and corn are progressing well. We have approximately 125 total acres planted this year, both bottom and hill ground. Anticipate harvest depending on moisture content between mid to late October. Cool, wet weather slowed maturity and kept crops from drying down rapidly which is slowing harvest progress. Topsoil moisture, statewide, is rated 8 percent short, 85 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supply is 7 percent short, 88 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. The northeast district has over 25 percent surplus

soil moisture supplies. There were 4.9 days suitable for fieldwork last month.

6. Terrain - Foliage Conditions: Foliage and undergrowth is turning dormant. Leaves are turning color and are falling. A strong, consistent north wind will accelerate this process. Deer have plentiful cover for movement and bedding. Bottom ground surface is semi-hard to semi-soft. Deer tracks & movement are easy to detect under these conditions. Ditches still hold run-off. Several low crossings still need to be re-worked and are currently impassable.

7. Confirmed Deer Quality & Status: We do not post specific details or locations of shooter buck we observe on this farm report. If you are a booked hunter and want the details of the most recent observations from a specific farm, please contact us and we will be more than happy to provide you with our latest observations and specifics. Quality shooter bucks have been spotted/observed/captured on all of our farms recently. 2 of these shooters we observed and monitored last year. Both their core areas are the same as last year as well. Signs and indications of dominance and pecking orders are starting to take place. Shooter quality buck will decoy the doe and younger deer before going out into the fields to feed; Coming out at dusk and getting into cover at dusk. Mature buck still remain elusive during daylight hours. Observations of these big racks have been within 30 minutes after dawn and 30 minutes prior to dusk. Optimal time for observing & hunting shooter buck during the day is between 6:30 am and 7:30 am and from 6:00 pm till dark. Big racked deer are using the cover of darkness and will not be in the open until light is fading/improving.

8. Improvement Status: This week, we have identified several additional stand locations based off observed deer patterns that have huge potential. We will monitor these locations for another week to confirm our observations and then emplace a few more stands to complete our stand placement. All stands will be in place at least 4.5 weeks with no disturbance before our next scheduled hunters arrive. We have over a dozen trail cams set in. We pull the cards on a weekly rotation cycle. We have emplaced just over 40 stands, covering 6 farms. 90% of our stands have shooting lanes improved and cut. All stands are in optimal areas that are between bedding and food sources, mostly set along travel corridors. Numerous active trails converge close to all of our stand locations. Midwest Monarchs has implemented a non-intrusive surveillance plan to monitor access to our properties. Farm House is ready for occupancy. Sighting range and archery practice lane are ready for use. Ground blinds are ready to be emplaced at key locations.

9. Food Plot Status: 5 of the Midwest Monarchs food plots have been planted, mowed, and maintained for this years hunting season (white clover mix). 3 additional food plots are planned for planting before mid October.

10. Early Season Archery: Our five hunters from Florida (repeat hunters) harvested 5 antlerless deer opening week. Although they observed several shooter buck during their hunt, they were just out of bow range or just after last light. Feedback they provided us is as follows: Booking next year early bow with additional bow hunters in party. Our Midwest Monarchs early bow prices are the most reasonable packages they found – Illinois and Iowa archery hunts are way too expensive. It was not uncommon to have 10 to 15 deer in the vicinity of their stands and ground blinds. Shooter buck they observed were P&Y quality; comparable to Iowa & Illinois. Terrain was more diverse and held more timber than Iowa and Illinois. They could not believe the size of the deer observed and harvested (1 doe harvested weighed in at 150lbs). We set and positioned the Florida hunters on travel corridors, funnels and pinch points. They concentrated their hunting early and late during the day. Late afternoon setup was over transition areas to food sources. Deer harvested were feeding through transition areas prior to hitting food plots and crop fields. Current Missouri Department of Conservation harvest data of deer harvested in the counties our farms are located in: total buck – 29 (4 point or better on one side), total deer – 140.

11. Fall Turkey Spot Report: Numerous turkeys have been spotted daily on all of our farms. Hatching this year seemed like a great success despite all of our moisture. Farms hold an excellent quantity & trophy quality of eastern Gobblers. There is plenty of forage for these birds to carry them through to next spring. Our flocks remain healthy and all of our guides keep regular tabs on the roost areas which we anticipate will remain consistent till next spring. Although we hold our share of predators (coyotes, fox, and bobcat), predation seems to have had a minimal impact.