

Landowner Spotlight

Barry Bollenbach Named 2015 Landowner of the Year

By Michael Bergin, Senior Information Specialist



The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation presented its 2015 Landowner of the Year Award to Kingfisher County ranch owner Barry

Bollenbach. The award acknowledges outstanding conservation efforts on Oklahoma private lands.

Bollenbach is the owner and operator of Paradise Valley Ranch, a 4,000-acre property west of Hennessey. The mixed grass prairie ranch includes about 1,000 acres of cropland, 2,500 acres of native rangeland and 500 acres of introduced grasses. In addition to making the ranch profitable, Bollenbach has focused on improving wildlife habitat for quail and other wildlife as well as providing hunting and fishing opportunity for family and friends.

Habitat improvement efforts at Paradise Valley Ranch have included cedar removal projects, prescribed burning programs, leaving agricultural crops for wildlife and involvement in landowner programs such as the Department's Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program.

The overall management plan at Paradise Valley Ranch promotes native vegetation. The ranch

provides wildlife feeders through winter and early spring, and areas are left standing within about 100 acres of hay fields to help wildlife. Wildlife has ample water sources with the ranch's 20 ponds.

In addition, Paradise Valley Ranch has supported the Grand National Quail Hunt since its inception 47 years ago. The ranch has hosted the Grand National hunters for lunch.



The Wildlife Department's 2015 Landowner of the Year Award is presented to Barry Bollenbach (center) by Doug Schoeling, private lands biologist (left) and Alan Peoples, Wildlife Division chief.

