

Pheasants Forever

Farm Bill Biologist

Quarterly Partner's Report



Name: Jake Holt

Counties: Mills, Montgomery, Fremont, and Page

Timeframe: January 2016 to March 2016

Current Progress

- **CRP** - Most of the offices are continuing to see a large amount of incoming interest in continuous CRP. There has been several landowners within the Loess Hills that have shown interest in conservation practices. Also, I started working through the planning process to produce conservation plans.
- **EQIP** - I assisted a few landowners interested in some wildlife and forestry EQIP Projects. Work through the ranking and application process. Also certified some EQIP practices from past contracts.(photo)



**EQIP burn
certification in
the Loess Hills**

- **CSP** - Certified practices from past contracts.
Conducted site visits to verify correct installation of cover crop and no-till enhancements.
- **Iowa Habitat and Access Program (IHAP)** — We can report the first property enrolled into the Iowa DNR's public access program in Fremont County. This project has three different practices CP42, CP21 & CP9 and is adjacent to a large Wildlife Management Area.
- **Miscellaneous** –
 - Learned how to survey wetland practices with the RX-8 for design and check outs.
 - This will allow me to assist my offices out in the field
 - Familiarized myself with the ranking process on Wildlife and Forestry EQIP applications.
 - I am hopeful that with the new Iowa Regional Conservation Partnership programs now available; I will be able to assist in more ways in the future throughout the processes.
 - Attended the Pheasants Forever State Convention.
 - There were lots of informative presentations held during the convention that I was able to attend.

Outreach

- Held two CRP landowner informational meetings to cover all four counties in my coverage area with one in the Loess hills.
 - This was a great opportunity to build better relationships with all the partners that I work with as well as providing technical assistance to landowners who attended.
- River City Expo
 - The Pottawattamie County Pheasants Forever Chapter recently held their annual River City Expo in Council Bluffs. I worked with NRCS staff member Dale DuVal. The experience was very beneficial and I managed to make several good landowner contacts at the event.
- Envirothon
 - It was a great time working with high school students that have studied about the different subjects for the testing that has improved the knowledge about conservation.



**Envirothon
students with
their awards!**

Future Projects

- Conservation planning
 - Continuing to assist landowners with planning on their properties and producing conservation plans that create or restore wildlife habitat, soil health, and water quality.
- I will be working on a few EQIP conservation plans to address landowner's resource concerns.
- Start working on the backlog of CRP re-enrollment contracts that need to be evaluated and planned. This should help ensure that Iowa has acres in place to improve soil health and water quality.
- Earth Day student activities such as Archery, Fishing, Trail maintenance, and there no new water.
- Assisting with a 5th graders field day at Waubonsie State Park.

Accomplishments

Customer Interactions

Interaction Type	Count
Phone call or email	2
Meeting (walk-in)	0
Meeting (scheduled)	2
Site visit without landowner	5
Site visit with landowner	0
Total	9 interactions

CRP

CRP Practice	Acres
CP42	108.88 acres
Total	108.88 acres

Trainings/Conferences

Training Type	Outcome
Foundational Training – Concentrated Flow	Attended a daylong training and received instruction on how to identify different resource concerns and apply the 9-step conservation planning process
Toolkit Training	Learned the step process of using Toolkit.

Other Notable Events

Event Description	Outcomes
River City Expo	Worked habitat help desk with NRCS staff and provided technical assistance to landowners interested in learning how to improve their properties for wildlife.
CRP Informational workshops	Presented CRP and conservation practice information to landowners in attendance.
Envirothon	Assisting students that have an interest in conservation.
Radio interviews	Had two radio interviews, one to promote the CRP workshops and the other to promote the Farm Bill Biologist positions and partnership.

Contact Information

If you would like to speak with me to discuss wildlife or conservation projects, please contact me using the following information.

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