



Pheasants Forever

Farm Bill Biologist

Quarterly Partner's Report

Name: Jake Holt

Counties: Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, and Page

Timeframe: April 2016 to June 2016

Current Progress

- **CRP** – Three of the offices I cover had a very low acceptance rate for the General CRP signup which has resulted in a lot of interest in CCRP practices to keep those acres in conservation cover. In addition to new CRP planning, I am also providing TA to landowners on conducting MCM and proper weed control for new seedings.

Below are some photos of a CP33 showing the results of MCM. I met with the landowner to discuss MCM options to improve his wildlife habitat. The recommendation was to conduct a late spring burn followed by disking to setback the bromegrass. The pictures on the right demonstrate the value MCM can have to wildlife.



May 1st

June 1st

June 1st

EQIP – Assisted a landowner who was interested in wildlife and utilized forestry EQIP for his project. Met with a few landowners interested in pollinator habitat that may work for RCPP projects if they choose to go that route. Also certified some EQIP practices from past contracts. (Picture to the right)



Figure 1-EQIP TSI in the Loess Hills

Iowa Habitat and Access Program (IHAP) — I was able to assist this landowner by providing information on programs that would help improve the economics of this farm. It had some wet areas along with some sandy areas following the 2011 flood which resulted in unproductive cropland acres. I was also able to introduce this landowner to the IHAP program which seemed like a win-win situation for them and the public. This project has three different practices CP42, CP21 & CP9 that have been seeded and shallow water excavation is completed. (Figure 2)



Figure 2- Shallow Water Excavation for CP9

Outreach

- **Miscellaneous –**

- I was invited to the Fremont-Mills School to talk to 30 teachers at their end of the year trainings about conservation programs and wildlife habitat.
- Earth Day - Fremont SWCD held a field day for 42 students- I assisted with the fishing station which was one of the five station that the kids were able to enjoy during Earth day. We discussed the Iowa fishing regulations, fish Id, and the importance of water quality.
- 5th grader field day for 95 students- I assisted with the Archery portion of the field day where student where able to learn bow safety and the North America Model of Wildlife Conservation.



Future Projects

PRECISION AG BUSINESS PLANNING PARTNERSHIP FIELD DAY – I will be presenting information on conservation program options, CRP basics, and management of those cover types to producers in attendance at this event to learn more about using precision conservation to increase their farming operation's profitability.

Accomplishments

Customer Interactions

Interaction Type	Count
Phone call or email	2
Meeting (walk-in)	1
Meeting (scheduled)	2
Site visit with landowner	3
Total	8 interactions

Projects

Interaction Type	Count
Habitat Proposals	5
Site visits without landowner	4
Meetings/Events held	3

CRP

CRP Practice	Acres
CP21	20.01 acres
CP33	36.80 acres
CP42	3.05 acres
Total	59.86 acres

Trainings/Conferences

Training Type	Outcome
Foundational Training – Grazing	Attended a daylong training and received instruction on how to fill out the pasture ranking index and grazing practices.

Other Notable Events

Event Description	Outcomes
Pheasants Forever Regional Staff meeting	Learn what other states and regions were doing with similar programs. Lot of discussions about how to get more out of the programs currently available.

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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