

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners Report



Tabitha Panas — Pottawattamie, Harrison, and Shelby County

April—June 2022

Hello! If we have not yet met, my name is Tabitha Panas and I am the new Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Farm Bill Biologist covering Pottawattamie, Harrison, and Shelby counties. My home office is the Council Bluffs Service Center and I began in this role on June 1st. I was able to hit the ground running this past month, as I have been the Farm Bill Biologist previously for Crawford, Carroll, Sac and Ida counties just to the north of this area.

This past month I have met a lot of new faces, made many phone calls to folks on my predecessor Jason Andersen's list of people to call, began meeting with landowners, completed a few status reviews, and hosted a series of field days for both NRCS and private landowners during National Pollinator Week in June. Below you will find some photos from these events. Friday the 24th I hosted an agency and land manager field day with Jon Judson of Diversity Farms and Carissa Shoemaker of Whiterock Conservancy. We had 48 participants mostly from NRCS, but also with IA DNR, CDI, and even two folks from Nebraska Game and Parks. We covered Prairie Strips, creating resilient seed mixes, got a programs update from DNR, and then spent the afternoon on field tours to discuss land management of a grassland site, management on established prairie strips, and visited a remnant prairie with adjacent CRP constructed from seed harvested on the remnant site. The next day on Saturday, we hosted three field visits with landowners where we visited a site undergoing brush management through EQIP, a site with remnant prairie and adjacent CRP (same site as the day before) and visited a unique private prairie in a conservation easement. We had over 20 people stop out to these field tours throughout the day—some joining for all three sites and some just for the one they were interested in. These events were so successful and so much fun, we have vowed to make them annual events.



Left—Carissa Shoemaker discusses land management strategies at NRCS field day

Right—landowners practice plant ID on remnant adjacent to CRP



Quarterly Achievements

- 76 Landowner Contacts
- 13 Site Visits w Landowner
- 5 Wildlife Plans
- 5 Workshops Delivered
- 3 Conservation Plans
- 19 Status Reviews

Thank you so much for your support! Without this partnership, I wouldn't be able to provide assistance to landowners and positively impact conservation in Iowa!

Tabitha Panas

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

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