



LHA Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Jake Holt— Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, & Page

July - Sept 2016

While spending time in newly planted CRP fields this summer the rate of establishment on new pollinator habitat is unbelievable. Heavy rains early in the year caused many spring seedings to be delayed. However, timely rains throughout summer improved the success of these early summer plantings. I've noticed quail whistling, roosters crowing, monarchs starting to find their new homes. Interest in CRP remains high as some producers are making adjustments to their operations as a result of lower markets.

Landowners continue to work with the field offices to determine their options under Continuous CRP. I have spent a significant amount of time this quarter conducting site visits with landowners



This was a pollinator seeding in it's second year. That has a lot of flowering forbs for only the second year.



This photo was of a new CRP seeding that was planted about 3 weeks prior to the photo. It has high forb diversity as well as native warm-season grasses that will provide high quality wildlife habitat!

Contacts & Conservation Plans

- 22 Landowner Contacts
- 5 Site Visits
- 5 Conservation Plans
- 7 Seed Plans Developed and reviewed
- 14 Habitat Proposals



Thank you to all our partners!

Jake Holt
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, & Page Counties

503 West St
Sidney, IA 51651

712-374-2014
jholt@pheasantsforever.org



LHA Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Jake Holt— Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, & Page

July-Sept 2016

Outreach & Education

On July 26th, I helped with the Precision Ag field day at the Heartland COOP in Randolph with 31 in attendance. We discussed weed control in crop fields, cover crops, CRP options available, and AgSolver. A tour also demonstrated how conservation practices can fit into an operation.



This photo was taken at the Precision AG field day.



This photo was taken at the Precision AG field day during the discussion of using precision ag tools to identify where conservation practices can be used to increase their farming operation's profitability.



This photo of Cardinal Flower was taken during a site-visit on a WRP site in Fremont Co.

Other Notable Events

- I attended a cover crop field day in Montgomery county to learn about the benefits of different mixtures.
- I attended an ISU field day where they talked about the benefits of Prairie Strips integrated in to row-crop operation and other useful topics.
- I attended the Iowa PF staff meeting where we discussed conservation opportunities for Iowa.
- I attended the HUD meeting in Malvern about the city well water concerns and was able to provide details about conservation programs that may assist the city in improving the city drinking water around the wells.
- I attended a Iowa Watershed Approach meeting for the east and west Nishnabotna river watershed meeting to learn about what opportunities are available for the area.

Outreach & Education	Amount
Presentations Delivered	1
Meetings Attended	7
Total	8

CRP Practices	Acres Impacted
CP25 Rare and declining habitat Establishment	14.09
CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds	4.29
CP42 Pollinator Habitat	15.48
Cover Crops WQI IDALS	68.5
Total	33.16



Project Spotlight—Shallow Water Wetland in Fremont County



The objectives for this wetland restoration on a CP9 were to control excess water, reduce sheet and rill erosion, restore hydrology, and create high-quality wildlife habitat.





During



After

Training/Conference Type	Outcome
NRCS T&E training	This training covered the processes needed to ensure that we are meeting the F&W agreement for the practice completed in the field.
NRCS AREA 4 Staff Meeting	This annual meeting allowed NRCS staff to discuss topics such as new programs coming, needs for training, new Toolkit changes and updates.
National Bobwhite Conference	This training involved learning about how other states are using different programs to improve quail habitat throughout the bobwhite quail range. Attended the field tour portion of the conference to see the results of intense quail management and how quail had responded to those activities.

**If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.*