

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners Report



Jake Holt— Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, & Page Counties

July - September 2019

This quarter has been very similar to last quarter in terms of flooding. The wetness has continued to create issues in wetland designs and the layout of practices because of the water still present in the fields (see photos below). Things are start to look up ward as the levee breeches are closed. The water has been shutoff in most of the areas. There is still some sections that aren't repaired which is still allowing water to cover the flood plain.

With that being said, the office has continued to get a lot of questions regarding what programs are available to provide financial assistance to address these flooding issues. We have also stayed busy with certifying cover crops on preventive plant acres on the flooded acres on the Missouri River bottom. I have spent a fair amount of time this quarter working with landowners on CRP re-enrollments and discussing new CRP offers. During this quarter, staff has continue working with landowners on EQIP, CSP and CRP to ensure we stay on schedule. Looking ahead I will continue to work with landowners on current projects as well as promoting future programs and providing technical assistance.

CRP Practices Used	Acres Impacted
CP8A - Grass Waterway	.09
CP9 - Shallow Water Wetland	10
CP15A - Contour Buffer Strips	9.07
CP21 - Filter Strip	120.5
CP22 - Riparian Buffer	5
CP23 - Wetland Restoration	35.81
Total	180.28

Contacts & Habitat Projects
 57 Landowner Contacts
 19 Site Visits
 3 Habitat Proposals
 21 Projects with Acres



These photos illustrate how the excessive water is still present after

the March flooding. These fields would normally have crops ready to harvest at this point in the year, but as you can see there are areas that scoured to a point that will be a challenge to make productive again.

Jake Holt

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
 Fremont, Mills, Montgomery and Page Counties

503 West St
 Sidney, IA 51651

712-374-2014
jholt@pheasantsforever.org

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners Report



Jake Holt— Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, & Page Counties

July - September 2019

Outreach Opportunities



The photo to the left is at the Iowa DNR Private Lands meeting in the northeast area of the state. One of the projects we toured was one in which the landowner removed the cedar trees along the bluff on the Mississippi River. The landowner and farm manager are waiting on the native seed bank to regrow. If that doesn't happen, they will pursue collecting native seeds from another prairie nearby with similar soils to help speed up the establishment process. We also discussed REAP and EQIP practice and program options during the meeting to address the need for more wildlife projects statewide. We will be promoting both programs as well as other wildlife programs (such as WRE) this fall and winter as we continue to plan future projects with landowners.

Project Spotlight



The quarter's project spotlight is from an EQIP contract in the Loess Hills where invasive brush started to over take the ridge line. The first step to be completed was killing of the Autumn Olive. The landowner has sprayed the Autumn Olive and will be removing the Autumn Olive and Cedar Tree's. After the woody species are removed, he will interseed the area to restore the plant diversity on the project

Outreach/Training Event	Description
Hops for Habitat	This event was about getting local like mind folks excited about habitat. The local Pheasants Forever Chapter took the time to discuss different programs that we use to improve habitat in Southwest Iowa.
Iowa DNR Private Lands Meeting	This meeting was a great opportunity to learn about new programs, discuss current programs, and the implementation of common practices such as prescribed fire.

Jake Holt

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
Fremont, Mills, Montgomery and Page Counties

503 West St
Sidney, IA 51651

712-374-2014

jholt@pheasantsforever.org