



# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



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

Oct-Dec 2018

This quarter has been a very interesting quarter with regards to wet field conditions and landowners not being able to finish harvest. The wet fall has also created some issues in some wetland designs and layout of practices because of the crops still present in the fields or three foot standing water.

I am optimistic that this wet fall may lead to more conservation on these sensitive area in the future. These last few months, I have spent a fair amount of time working with landowners on conservation planning that meets their objectives and addresses their resource concerns. Some of the recourse concerns include excessive water and undesirable trees and vegetation in existing habitat. This has led to opportunities for new EQIP and WRE applications which has kept field offices very busy as we work to meet program deadlines for planning and ranking these applications.



This photo illustrates how the excessive water made it difficult to harvest crops, design wetland, and layout this fall.

### Contacts & Conservation Plans

- ◆ Total landowner contacts = 41
- ◆ Site visits with landowners = 20
- ◆ Habitat proposals = 1
- ◆ Mid-contract management plans = 1
- ◆ Practice checkout = 1
- ◆ NRCS seed plan review = 1



Thank you to all of our partners!

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

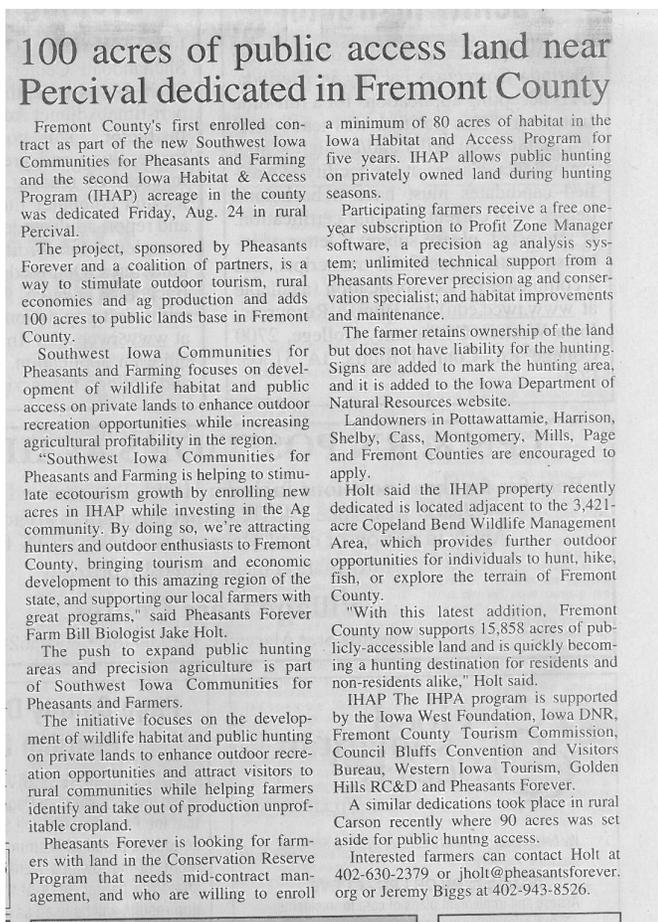
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### Outreach Opportunities

Last quarter, I highlighted the first property signed through the Southwest Iowa Communities for Pheasants and Farming Initiative in my report. Below to the left is the article that was published in The Valley News of Shenandoah, Iowa. Here is a link to the [Article](#) that you can read online. On the right is a picture of Jamie Cook, Iowa PF/QF State Coordinator, helping sign the IHAP properties open to public hunting.

Southwest Iowa Communities for Pheasants and Farming is trying to stimulate ecotourism growth while investing in the Ag community. By doing so, we're attracting hunters and outdoor enthusiasts to Southwest Iowa, bringing tourism and economic development to this amazing region of the state, while supporting our local farmers.



### Quarter Highlight — Wetland Practice in Fremont County



This picture shows an area that was enrolled in to a CP9, shallow water wetland, when CRP acres were still available for enrollment. During a discussion with the landowner talking about this particular field, the landowner told me he was sure glad for his decision to enroll into CRP. This wet weather pushed back the timeline for this project of getting the shallow water excavation completed and a diverse seeding planted in the fall. The landowner plans to start the work as soon as weather allows.

Training/Conference Type	Description
<b>Loess Hills Fire Partners Meeting</b>	This meeting was a great opportunity to learn about new programs, discuss current programs, and the implementation of common practices such as prescribed fire.
<b>512 Training/Area NRCS Meeting</b>	This training allowed staff to understand the new processes and worksheets that were released for the current year.
<b>Missouri River Ecosystem Coordination Group (MRECG) Meeting</b>	This meeting was a great opportunity to learn about several different agency updates on projects, personnel, and land management.
<b>WRE Training</b>	This training allowed staff to understand the new talk about management, restoration, and programmatic information.

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