



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

January – March 2018

It was evident that the holidays were over as foot traffic and phone calls drastically increased in the field offices this quarter. I have kept busy these last few months helping landowners who are coming in asking questions about their current conservation plans and others that are starting the process of looking at their conservation options for ground that is less productive or other resources concerns they may have. I have also assisted field offices with several EQIP and RCPP projects for wildlife habitat projects.

I spent time this quarter checking seeding plans for CRP to ensure the mixes met the standards and specifications needed for the appropriate conservation planting. By doing this, I am hopeful that it will lead to landowners having success on their new seeding as many of these mixes will be getting planted this spring. I'm definitely looking forward to the next growing season to enjoy the new habitat that will be getting established across the southwest part of the state.

Conservation Practices	Acres Impacted
CP21 Filter Strips	5.78
CP42 Pollinator Habitat	9.34
Total	15.12



This photo is of a CP27 & 28 project in Fremont County. The landowner was able to get the dirt work completed prior to the first snow but still has the seeding to finish.

Contacts & Conservation Plans

- ◆ Landowner contacts = 69
- ◆ Total site visits = 21
- ◆ Habitat proposals = 10
- ◆ Conservation plans = 5
- ◆ Practice checkout = 4
- ◆ NRCS seed plan review = 8



Thank you to all our partners!

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Outreach Opportunities

This quarter, I hosted four workshops in my coverage area about pollinators. These workshops covered the habitat needs and importance of pollinators, honey bees, and monarch butterflies. Additionally, I talked about financial assistance programs, such as EQIP and RCPP, that are currently available to help fund projects that create pollinator and monarch habitat. These events had great turnouts with over 60 attendees total. I was able to partner with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach for these workshops which was definitely value added for not only the partners but also the attendees.

I also presented at the Women Gaining Ground Conference this quarter. Topics that I covered included the importance of pollinators, their habitat requirements and how to establish and maintain pollinator and monarch habitat. A key point I talked about was that regardless of the size, backyard gardens to large acre fields, every bit of habitat can be beneficial to pollinators.



This photo is of a pasture that is being converted to pollinator habitat through RCPP-EQIP.



This picture is from the pollinator workshop in Mills County.

Outreach & Education	Amount
Presentations & Articles Delivered	12
Quarterly Partner Updates Delivered	4



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Quarter Highlight — CRP Planting in Fremont County



The project in this picture is a great example of conservation planning. By using the landowner's objectives, I able was to provide him with several options of conservations practices that would allow him to meet his goals. This allowed him to take low, wet areas out of production, and in turn, improve his overall profitability on his operation. This project was a win-win for the landowner, wildlife, soil health and water quality.

Training/Conference Type	Description
WHEG Training	This NRCS training was a refresher for conservation planners about how to use the WHEG and SVAP planning tools.
AgLearn Trainings	These trainings taught me about conservation planning. This information is extremely valuable as we can take what we have learned and apply it to deliver better conservation in the field.
TWS Workshop	This training allowed wildlife professionals to learn about the most update research projects.
Iowa Pheasants Forever Conference	This conference was a great opportunity to learn about new programs and discuss current programs and the implementation of common practices.
512 and Soil Health Training	This NRCS training was a refresher for conservation planners to better understand the contract processes. Along with this, we learn more about the economics of soil health.

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

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