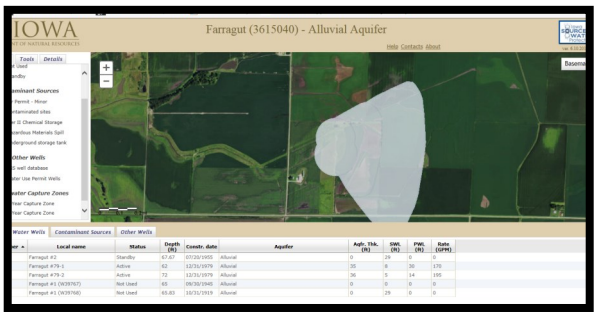
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

LHA Quarterly Partners' Report

Jake Holt— Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, & Page

January – March 2017

It was evident this last quarter that the holidays were over as USDA office foot traffic and phone calls increased dramatically. I have been busy helping landowners who are coming in asking questions about their current contracts and others that are starting the process of looking at their conservation options for ground that was less productive or other resources concerns they have. A new opportunity presented itself this quarter and that was working with the Iowa Rural Water to provide conservation options within several local wellhead areas. This started as a result of the identification of more source water issues that we have in the western part of my coverage area.



This photo is of a source water protection area for a community well.

LHA Conservation Practices	Acres Impacted
CP38 SAFE	59.61
Total	**59.61**

This photo is of a dedicated landowner frost seeding a 2.2 acre bean field back to the tallgrass prairie it once was.

LHA Contacts & Conservation Plans

- Landowner contacts =
- Total site visits = 9
- Habitat proposals = 1
- Conservation Plans = 1
- NRCS Seed plan review = 1

Thank you to all our partners!

Jake Holt
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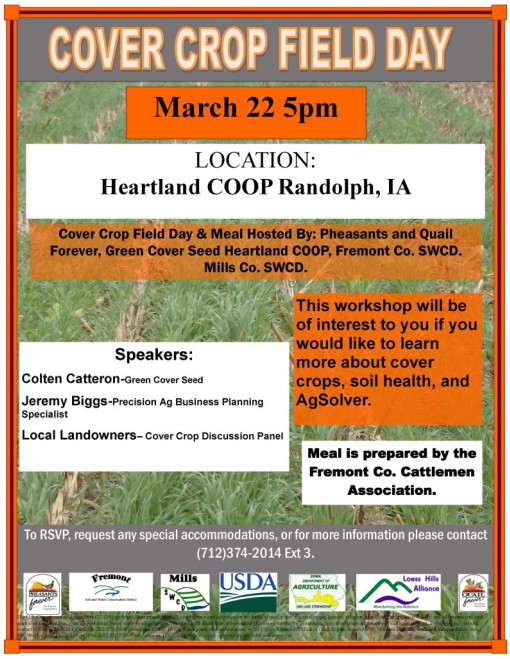
Quarterly Partners' Report

Jake Holt— Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, & Page **January – March 2017**

Outreach & Education

- Distributed flyers and was interviewed by KMA Radio to promote a Cover Crop field day.
- Developed a Cover Crop booklet for all attendees that contained a wealth of information on how to successfully implement cover crops.
- The weather was subpar but 37 producers still attended!



Outreach & Education	Amount
Presentations Delivered	4
Partner Updates	6

Other Notable Events

- I attended the 3rd Iowa Watershed Approach meeting for the east and west Nishnabotna river watersheds to learn about what opportunities are available for the area. We learned more about the 28E agreement and received an update on the formation of the east & west coalition.
- I assisted partners in the local Envirothon event.
- I worked a habitat help desk with NRCS staff and provided technical assistance to landowners interested in learning how to improve their properties for wildlife at the River City Expo. This resulted in a number of site visits in my counties.

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Quarter Highlight — Cover Crop Field day in Fremont County

The objective for this cover crop field day on March 22 was to have the local producers learn about soil health and the other benefits cover crops can provide to their operations.

Training/Conference Type	Description
Pheasants Forever State Habitat Meeting	This Conference allowed us to interact with landowners and share with them the most up-to-date conservation and habitat tools available.
NRCS 512 Training	This training taught the new staff the contracting process needed for the NRCS programs.
NRCS Wildlife EQIP Training	This training involved learning about how Area 4 was going to rank wildlife EQIP applications to ensure a consistent ranking process.

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

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