

# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners Report



**Jason Andersen - Harrison, Pottawattamie, Shelby Counties**

**October - December 2020**

Fall is the time to go to the field - nice weather, few annoying bugs, and lots of plants and wildlife to look at! I was able to get out in the field quite a bit this quarter, to meet with producers and evaluate seedings. It was also a good opportunity to work on my dormant plant identification skills! Unfortunately, my fun was rudely interrupted by winter.

Quarterly Achievements	
104 Landowner contacts	11 Habitat projects
57 Site visits	1 Outreach event



Rattlesnake master (one of my favorite plants) pokes out of a native grass stand.

Sometimes plants are befuddling and I have to take pictures to consult with experts, like this candle anemone for example. Thanks for the help, Michelle!

Plants get significantly harder to identify with snow and ice piled on them.

### Down with cedars! Literally!

Like most prairie enthusiasts, I just love cutting cedars and then setting them on fire. I certified the completion of my first brush management project for cedar cutting in the Loess Hills this fall. Exciting! Reclaiming remnant prairies from cedar invasion is one of my passions and priorities.



Steve (pictured left) and family spent their summer cutting cedars off their remnant prairie in Pottawattamie County. They plan on burning it this spring and doing more cutting in the near future!

### Prairie harvest event

For the past several years, my wife (Michelle) and I have invited friends over to our home prairie to dig up plants for their own backyard plantings. This year we decided to open it up to the public under the banner of Pheasants Forever and Iowa Prairie Network. We had a great turnout of around 25 people who were interested in having their own prairies in town or on the farm. We look forward to expanding next year!



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