

# Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners Report



Jason Andersen - Harrison, Pottawattamie, Shelby Counties

October - December 2021

I've gotten to do a little bit of everything this quarter, which has made it fun. I've worked on a diversity of programs including Iowa Habitat and Access Program (IHAP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Prairie Partners, and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) projects. The bulk of my time has been devoted to planning wildlife EQIP projects (example, right) and getting those applications ready for the January ranking deadline. It's good to be busy even if it's paperwork!

Quarterly Achievements	
50 Landowner contacts	9 Habitat projects
35 Site visits	105 acres impacted



Before pictures during the planning of an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) project for cedar and invasive honeysuckle removal on a remnant prairie pasture. Soil Conservationist Rafael Gonzalez Pagan for scale.

### Added public hunting in Harrison County

For the last few months, I have been working to enroll a new property in Harrison County into the Iowa Habitat and Access Program (IHAP). In December, I was able to get a signed contract for the property, finalizing the process. This will open 180 acres of new public hunting adjacent to the existing IHAP complex northwest of Missouri Valley. The property will be open to the public on September 1, 2022 and will be listed on the [Iowa DNR Public Hunting Atlas](#). Until then, I can't give any more details, but I'm excited to finally build on the success that Harrison County has had with IHAP and help deliver some additional acres.



Wetland habitat that will provide new public hunting opportunity in Harrison County through the Iowa Habitat and Access Program.

### Urban Meadow pollinator project in Council Bluffs

I've been working with [The 712 Initiative](#) and the City of Council Bluffs to plan a project that will convert several city-owned empty lots to pollinator habitat through the Iowa DNR's Prairie Partners program. The Urban Meadow project focuses on 13 acres of vacant industrial lots under and around the West Broadway Viaduct bridge. It will convert these mowed lots to pollinator-friendly native grasses and wildflowers, which will lower mowing costs, decrease stormwater runoff, and provide needed habitat for bees, butterflies, and other wildlife.

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