

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners Report



Jason Andersen - Audubon, Cass, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Shelby Counties

April - June 2020

This quarter has been a flurry of working on Farm Bill program contracts, performing status review and program eligibility site visits, and most recently, helping people manage thistles on their farms. It's been quite nice being busy!

The end of July marks the official conclusion of my tenure in Audubon and Cass Counties. Moving forward, I will be focusing on my coverage area in Harrison, Pottawattamie, and Shelby Counties. I will only be a phone call away if there are

questions, and a replacement is hot on my heels. I am grateful for all the support over the years and I look forward to still seeing everyone when I can.

And yes, Colleen, I will still come by to manage my 'weed patch' at the Audubon field office!

Post-burn evaluations

One of my passions as a biologist is promoting safe, goal-driven, and ecologically effective prescribed fire. I work with producers to identify what their stands need, set goals, and plan fires to accomplish those goals. In order to gauge the fire's effectiveness, I will often revisit the stand with the producer after the fire has been completed. Not only does this help me ensure that I am providing people with good advice, but it allows them to see the ecological effects of the fire, and solidifies why up-front planning is so important. I was able to visit and evaluate several sites where I had previously written burn plans. Seeing those projects come full circle is rewarding, especially when the fire had the desired effects!

Quarterly Achievements	
135 Landowner contacts	14 Conservation plans
71 Site visits	4 Burn plans
1 Article written	2 Habitat proposals
1 Workshop	1 Wildlife plan

Acres Impacted	
Project program	Acres
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	82.81
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	74.00
Prairie Partners	5.95
Total	162.76



Eastern red cedars are dead or doornails after a native grass burn in Harrison County



Early spring burns make wildflowers grow like crazy, like in this high-diversity planting in Shelby County



Late spring burns are smoky, but great for setting back brome and rejuvenating native grass stands (Pott County)

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