

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners Report



Jason Andersen - Harrison, Pottawattamie, Shelby Counties

July - September 2021

Everyone in the field offices have been incredibly busy with programs over the summer, especially with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up. I have been

focusing on assisting customers plan their CRP practices and also helping field offices navigate the changes and new initiatives in the latest sign-up. It's been fun to learn new things!

I am particularly happy with a new resource I created for the field offices. It is an online repository of documents and guides that staff can use to plan conservation practices. It's being used by several offices, a few which are well outside my area. I'm glad it's been helpful!

Quarterly Achievements

89 Landowner contacts	12 Habitat projects
37 Site visits	4 Outreach events

Ridgetop prairie restorations

Over the summer, I worked with landowners to implement four brush management projects through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). These projects work on removing invading woody vegetation from remnant ridgetop prairies in the Loess Hills. I take a holistic approach when planning these projects, using programs like EQIP to set back the brush and then following-up with management, such as prescribed fire, to keep the prairie system healthy in the long term. Helping landowners create a management regimen like this allows them to effectively manage land and build on their success in the future.



This Loess Hills ridgetop prairie has had aggressive dogwood and sumac removed by a forestry mower (left). Next spring, a prescribed fire will be conducted to kill resprouts (right), followed by spraying for any survivors. This will promote health of the natural system and allow the prairie to thrive!

Claim to conservation fame

Last quarter I uploaded recordings of some conservation webinars I held to [YouTube](#). I'm proud to say that my webinars on [Canada thistle control](#) and [converting cool-season grass to native prairie](#) were picked up by the NRCS state office and distributed statewide as training materials. That's a pretty cool compliment. This must be what success is like!

Stone Arch Prairie

A new and exciting project is with the City of Shelby on a prairie remnant northeast of town. The prairie lies along the Stone Arch Trail and the city is interested in managing it to be used as an attraction and for education. All credit goes to my conservation cohort, Tabitha Panas, for finding this hidden prairie gem and helping the city to appreciate it.

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