

## Spring Workshops

One of the best ways to promote conservation is to give people a firsthand look. This spring I helped with several workshops to do just that.

In May, I worked with the Iowa Prairie Network to tour the Larson Farm. The sidehill remnant prairie on this property used to be covered with Eastern Red Cedars. Financial assistance through the US Fish and Wildlife Service helped this landowner clear the invasive brush. With snow still on the ground, the producer burned piles of cedars, clearing the way for the prairie plants. On the tour we discussed brush management, prescribed fire, and the intricacies of managing a remnant prairie.

In June, Pheasants Forever teamed up with Practical Farmers of Iowa to host a workshop. The June 18<sup>th</sup> field day, On-Farm Habitat Management for Wildlife and Water Quality, was hosted in Pottawattamie county by SWCD Chairman Bob Zimmerman. Despite heavy rains that day over 15 people attended. Discussions focused on sediment control basins, water control structures, native seeding establishment, and prescribed fire. The open atmosphere of the tour provided people with lots of opportunities to ask questions and was a great environment for landowners to discuss conservation on their farm with one another. 🦋



**Wetland CRP Site Visits**



**Above:** Working with a Harrison County producer to determine the boundary for a new CRP CP23 offer. Enrolling this area into CRP will help reduce nutrients leaching away in flood water, reduce sediment runoff in the field, and build organic matter. Removing unprofitable acres like this will help improve the producer’s return on investment and increase his bottom line.

**Below :** Monarch caterpillar on Whorled Milkweed in a CP23 next to a new offer.



**By the Numbers...**

Interaction Type	FY19 Qtr. 4
Landowner Contacts	108
Site Visits w/ Landowners	19
Habitat Proposals	7
Habitat Projects	1
MCM Plan	2
Burn Plans Written	8
Seeding Plans Reviewed	1



**Thank you to all our partners!**