

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners Report



Jason Andersen - Harrison, Pottawattamie, Shelby Counties

April - June 2021

My major focus this quarter was delivering outreach events. Of course I still took care of the needs of my producers but, with nice weather and easing of COVID restrictions, I

wanted to provide some broader habitat good. I was able to present at 14 different events this quarter, including the first of my Habitat Help Hour webinar series (discussed below), several habitat booths at local farmers markets, a butterfly habitat and identification class, and a few more miscellaneous talks about prairie management and conservation programs. My rough estimate is that I talked to a little over 325 people over the course of these events. I consider that to be a pretty substantial accomplishment and a win for conservation!

Quarterly Achievements

151 Landowner contacts	16 Habitat projects
30 Site visits	14 Outreach events

Project update: Habitat Help Hour webinar series

Last quarter I discussed my plans to launch a series of conservation webinars. In April, I presented the first of this series, followed by one each month. The content is intended for both producers and conservation professionals with a focus on land management topics. I've had a good response so far and the audience is growing! People really seem to like the format. I intend on continuing the series and adding more topics as I go along.

You can view the schedule of upcoming webinars, as well as recordings of past sessions, on my website at www.jasoneandersen.com/outreach.

Canada thistle
Cirsium arvense

- Up to 4 feet tall usually in patches
- Same green on both sides of leaf
- Many bottle-shaped flowers less than 1 inch across
- Blooms June through early July

Teaching people to identify and manage Canada thistle in the June session of my Habitat Help Hour webinar series.

Conservation Faces of Iowa - Mike Ziemba

Each year, Iowa Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever recognizes farmers and landowners that have exceptional conservation ethic with the Conservation Faces of Iowa Award. This year one of my producers was given this honor, Mike Ziemba of Harrison County. Mike and I have been working on an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) project to convert his hayfield to native grass and wildflowers. This spring, we were able to get the seeds in the ground and I was there to watch it happen.



[To help tell Mike's story, I created a short video \(click to view on YouTube\).](#) One of my greatest pleasures in this job is to work with great folks like this. He is a fantastic guy, with a positive can-do attitude, and is a wonderful representative of conservation in Iowa.

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