



Iowa Farm Bureau's Margin Management Webinar Series presents:

Planning Habitat for Pollinators and Profitability

Thursday, July 26, 2018
1:00 pm

Sponsored by:



Speakers:

Josh Divan and Kelsey Fleming
Pheasants Forever

Planning Habitat for Pollinators and Profitability



Josh Divan & Kelsey Fleming
Pheasants Forever
26 July 2018



Today's Agenda

- Introduction
- Pheasants and Pollinators
- Selecting a Project Location
- Project Considerations
 - ✓ Site Location
 - ✓ Seedbed Preparation
 - ✓ Seed Mix
 - ✓ Planting & Establishment
 - ✓ Management
- Technical and Financial Resources
- Questions & Answers

Pheasants Forever Inc.

The Habitat Organization

This non-profit conservation organization was founded in 1982. In 2005, Pheasants Forever formed a quail division, Quail Forever.

Mission: Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education, and land management policies and programs.



Pheasants Forever *The Habitat Organization*

- Unique chapter model
 - 100% of locally raised funds are spent by local chapter volunteers
 - More than 700 PF/QF chapters nationally
 - Over 149,000 members of PF/QF
- 4-star rating with Charity Navigator



Pheasants Forever *Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Program*



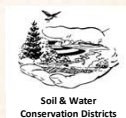
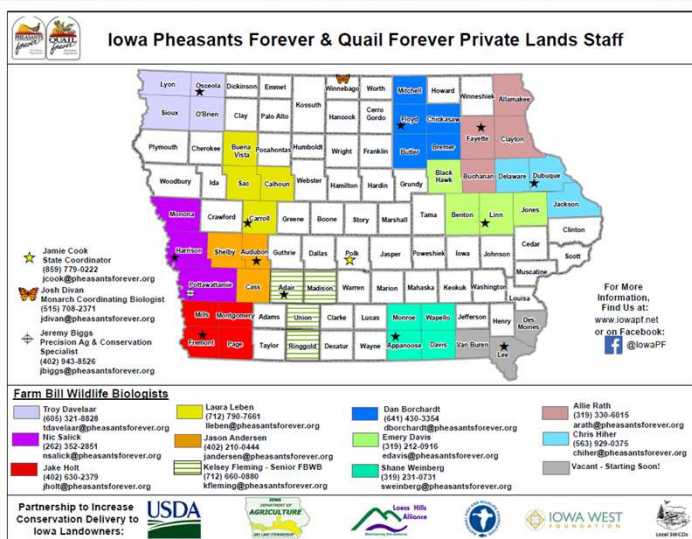
- This program was piloted in 2003 with 4 positions in South Dakota.
- Today, there are over 151 biologists working in 26 states for PF/QF.



Pheasants Forever Iowa Team Staff



Pheasants Forever Iowa Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Program

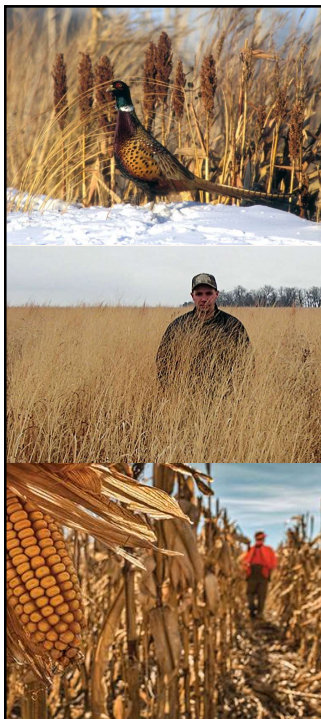


Pheasants Forever

Iowa Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Program

Since 2009, the Iowa Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Program has:

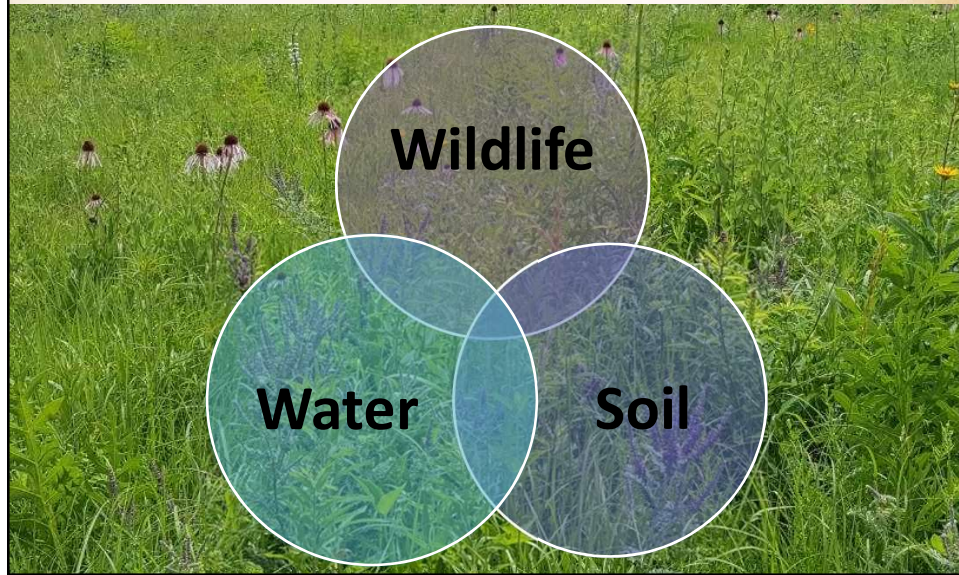
- 30,760 landowner contacts
- 209,920 acres impacted
- Conducted outreach and education events and field days



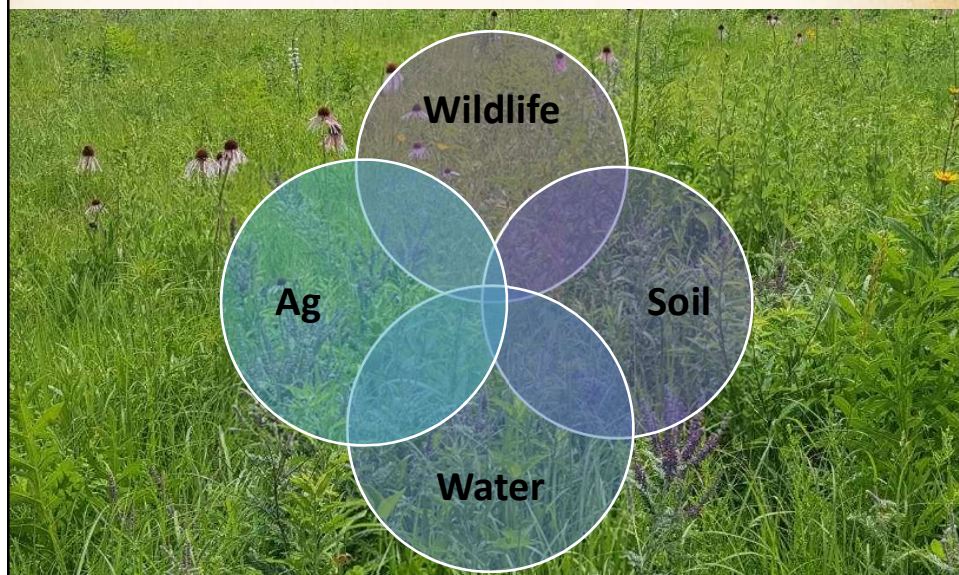
Pheasants & Pollinators?



What else benefits from diverse,
native habitat?



What else benefits from diverse,
native habitat?



Why all the press?

Iowa
launches
plan to
save
monarch
butterflies

The Global
Plight of
Pollinators



The
Monarch
Butterfly is
in Danger of
Extinction –
Here's What
You Can Do
to Help



Why are pollinators important?



Responsible for 1 in 3 bites of the food we consume!



Why are they declining?

- Loss of overwintering areas (monarchs)
- Loss of breeding habitat
- Loss of forage habitat
- Pesticide exposure
- Diseases & parasites
- Climate change



Why are they declining?

What factors are relevant and actionable within Iowa?

Loss of overwintering areas	=	INTERNATIONAL POLICY
Loss of breeding habitat	=	HABITAT
Loss of forage habitat	=	HABITAT
Pesticide exposure	=	HABITAT & BMPs
Diseases & parasites	=	HABITAT & BMPs
Climate change	=	PRAYER & HABITAT





Where can I provide habitat on my farm?

More places than you might think!



Right of Way



Repurpose Part of Mowed
Yard



Underutilized/Abandoned
Pasture



Odd Areas



Marginal/Unprofitable
Cropland



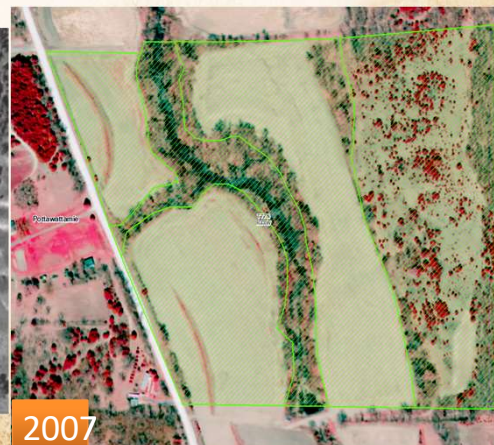
Where can I provide habitat on my farm?

Other objectives?



Where can I provide habitat on my farm?

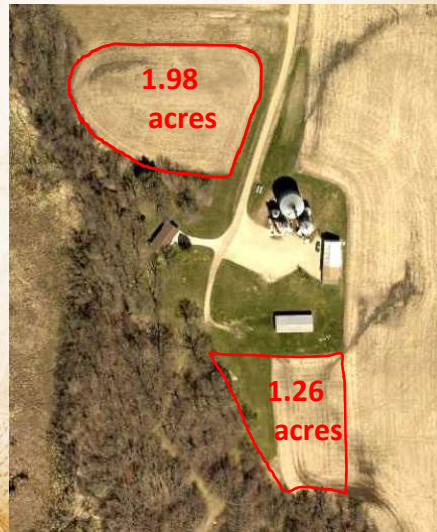
Underutilized/abandoned Pasture



Where can I provide habitat on my farm?

Odd areas

- Easy to spot but hard to define:
 - Abandoned acreages
 - Grain bin sites
 - Fallowed cropland or hay
 - Currently cropped:
 - Not necessarily marginal...



Where can I provide habitat on my farm?

Marginal/unprofitable cropland



On the average farm, regardless of location:

20%

of the farm loses money

20%

of the farm breaks even

60%

of the farm turns the total profit

Dr. Michael Swanson, Ag. Economist

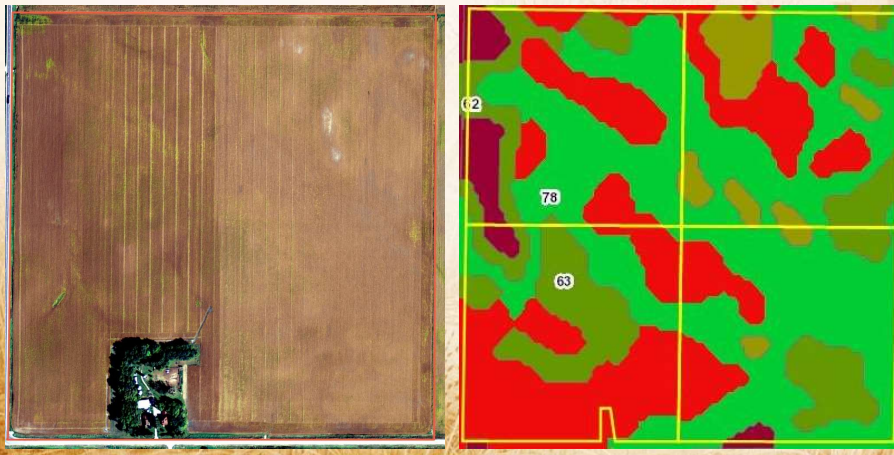


Photo by Richard Hurd

Where can I provide habitat on my farm?

Marginal/unprofitable cropland

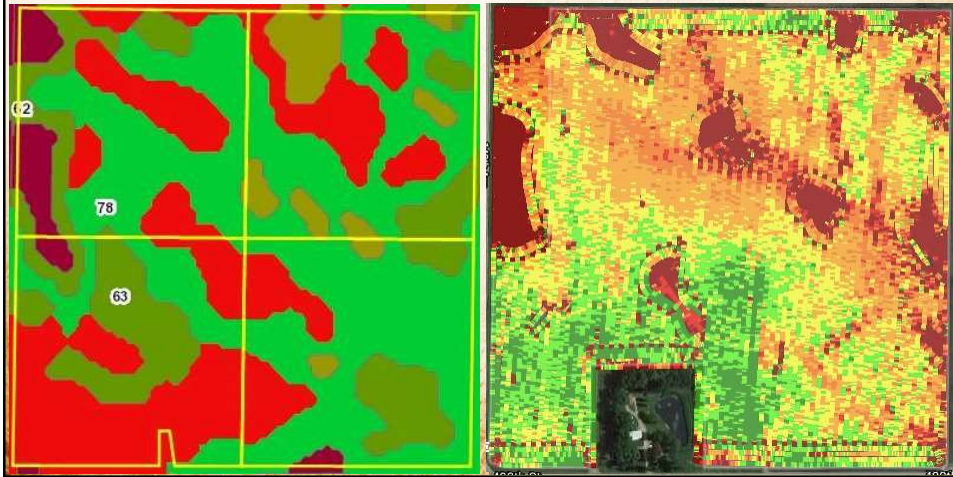
-Significant variability across fields



Where can I provide habitat on my farm?

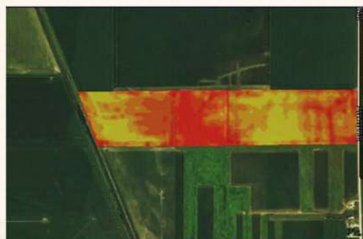
Marginal/unprofitable cropland

-Significant variability across fields



Where can I provide habitat on my farm?

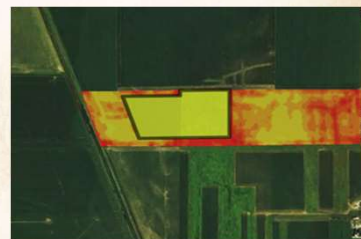
Utilizing Precision Agriculture in Iowa



Scenario: actual 2016 yield - 2016

Parameter	Value
Acreage	87.7 ac
Average Yield	160.1 bu/ac
Profit	-\$222.86 /ac
ROI	-31.7 %

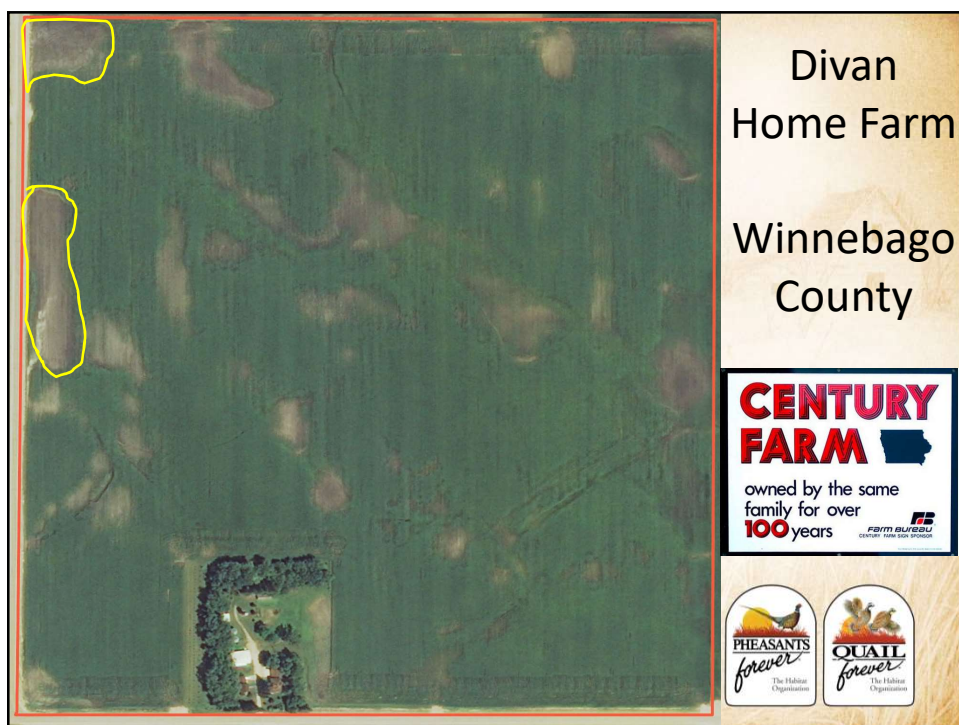
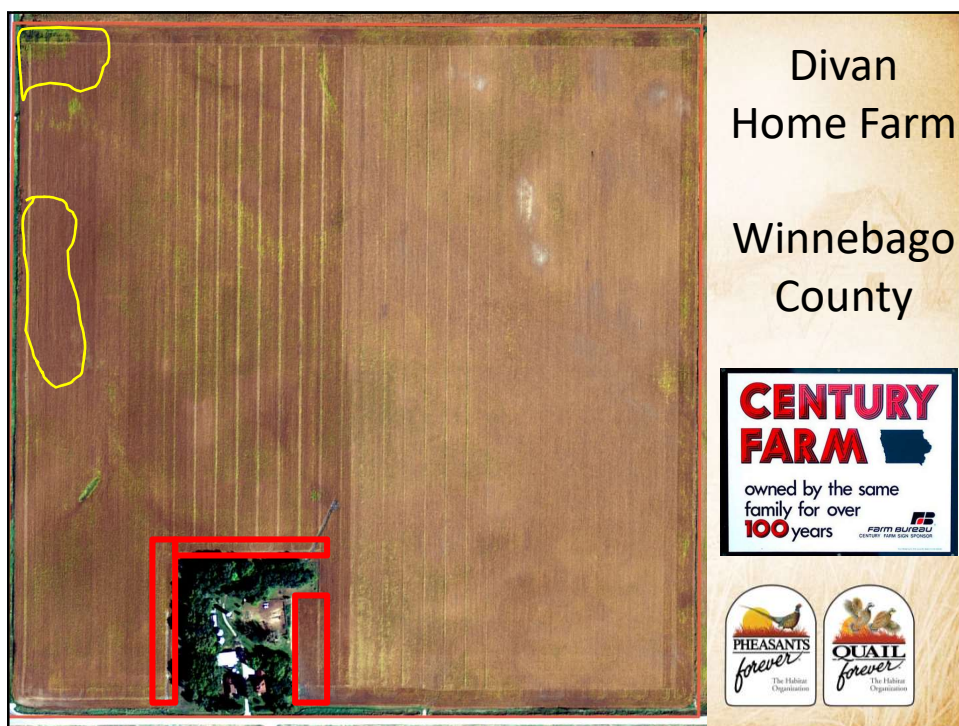
Harrison County, IA
Corn/Soybean rotation

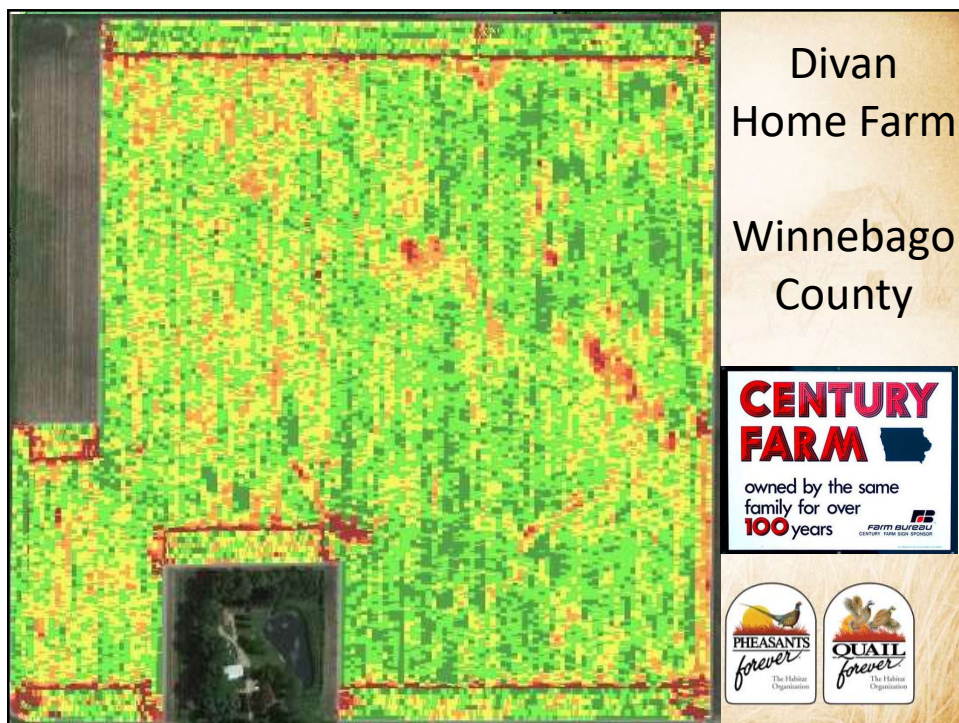


Scenario: CRP - 2016

Parameter	Value
Acreage	87.7 ac
Average Yield	177.2 bu/ac
Profit	-\$92.44 /ac
ROI	-16.1 %

Harrison County, IA
CRP-CP23







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Planning Habitat for Pollinators and Profitability

Time for a short recording break.

Speakers:

Josh Divan and Kelsey Fleming

Pheasants Forever

Now do you have an idea where to
put your pollinator habitat?



Site Considerations

Current Vegetation



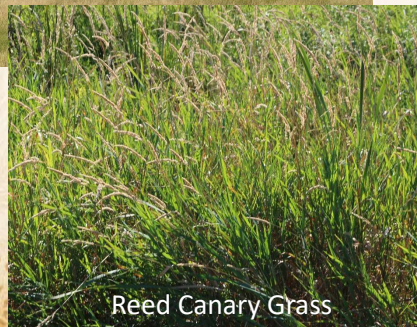
Cropland



Cool Season Grasses



Warm Season Grasses



Reed Canary Grass

Site Considerations

Characteristics



- **Location of site**
- Soil type
- Hydrology
- Topography



Site Considerations

Characteristics



- Location of site
- **Soil type**
- Hydrology
- Topography



Site Considerations

Characteristics



- Location of site
- Soil type
- **Hydrology**
- Topography



Site Considerations

Characteristics



- Location of site
- Soil type
- Hydrology
- **Topography**



NOW you have the perfect spot for
your habitat project!



Site Preparation

Determine Current Vegetation



Site Preparation

Removal of Woody Vegetation



Remove brush by mechanical, prescribed burning, and/or chemical application prior to converting grasses.

Site Preparation

Cool Season Grasses Conversion



Site Preparation

Cool Season Grasses Conversion



Step #1: Remove residue in mid to late-summer (mid-August) by either mowing, haying or grazing to trigger fresh growth in late summer.

Site Preparation

Cool Season Grasses Conversion



Step #2: Fall application of glyphosate once regrowth is 6-8" tall, late September – October.

Site Preparation

Cool Season Grasses Conversion



Optional Step: Conduct a prescribed burn to remove litter and encourage new regrowth.

Site Preparation

Cool Season Grasses Conversion



Step #3: Spring application of glyphosate once regrowth is 6-8" tall, early – mid May.



Site Preparation

Native Warm Season Grasses Conversion



*Warm season grasses have different growth patterns than cool season grasses.

Site Preparation

Native Warm Season Grasses Conversion



Step #1: Remove existing material to trigger fresh growth in the summer, July-August, by mowing, haying or grazing.

Site Preparation

Native Warm Season Grasses Conversion



Step 2: Apply glyphosate once regrowth is 6-8" tall, August – early September.

Site Preparation

Warm Season Grasses Conversion



Optional Step: Conduct a prescribed burn to remove litter and encourage new regrowth.

Site Preparation

Native Warm Season Grasses Conversion



Step 3: Apply glyphosate once regrowth is 6-8" tall,
late May – June.

*Herbicides only effective on actively growing plants.

Site Preparation

Soybean Stubble



Fall planting: You are ready to go!

Spring planting: Consider a spring application of glyphosate for
initial flush of weeds prior to seeding.

Site Preparation

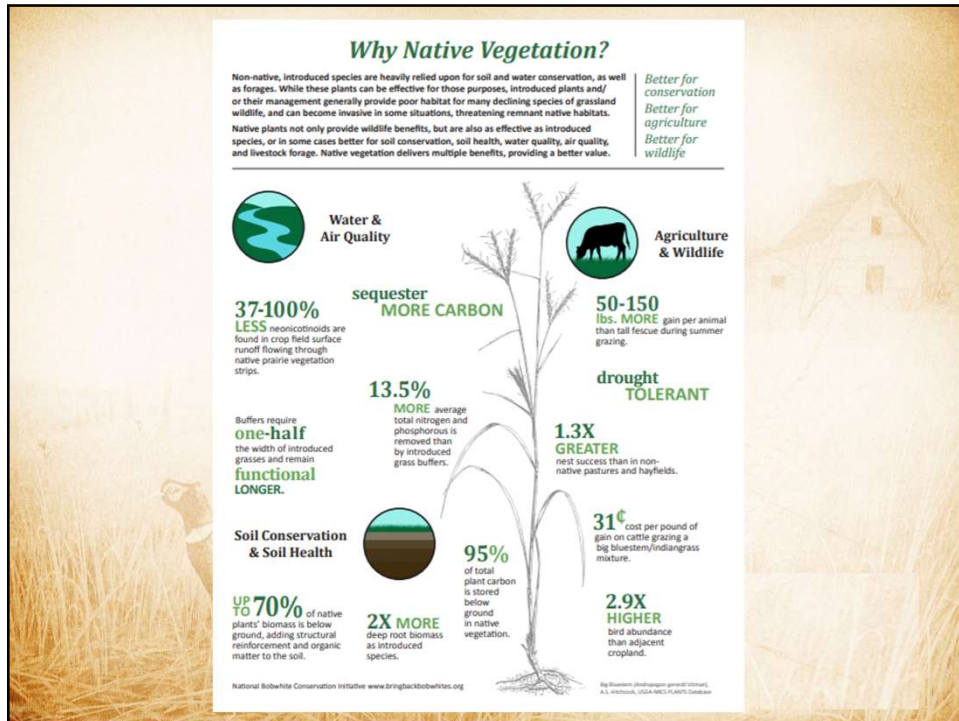
Corn Stubble



Step 1: Remove corn stalks by chopping, raking, baling or prescribed burning.

Step 2: Consider a spring application of glyphosate for initial flush of weeds prior to seeding.





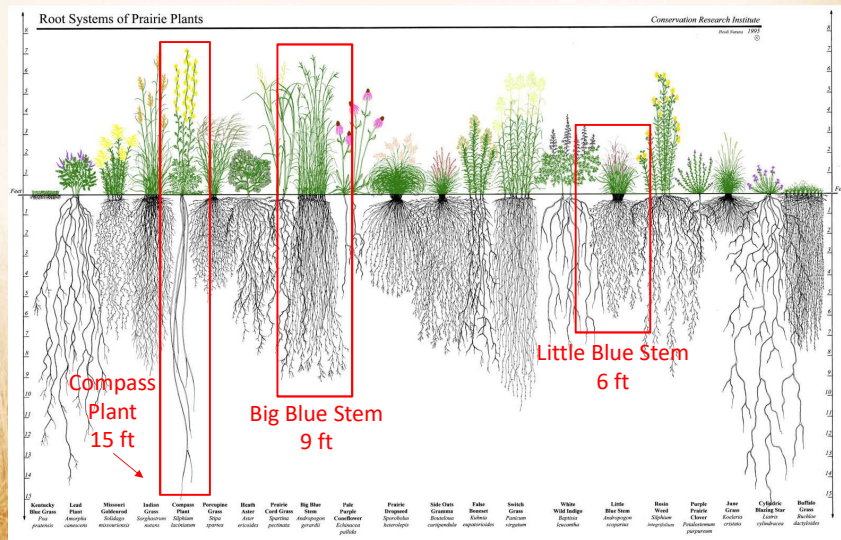
Seed Selection

Native vs. Introduced



Seed Selection

Native vs. Introduced



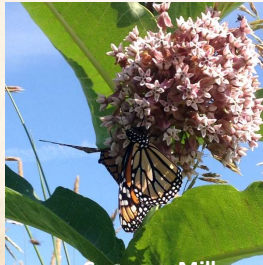
Seed Selection

Diversity of Species



Seed Selection

Milkweed Species



Common Milkweed



Butterfly Milkweed



Purple Milkweed



Whorled Milkweed



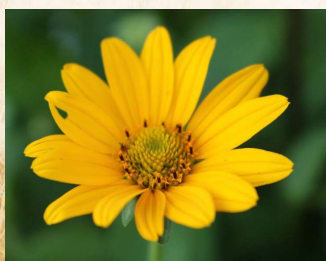
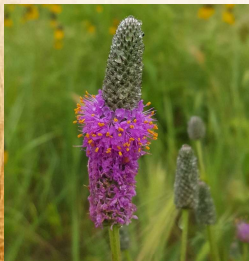
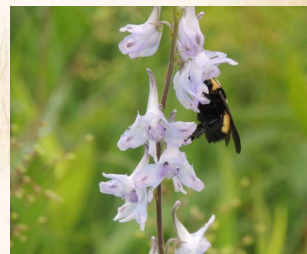
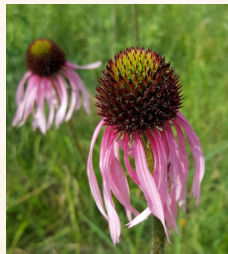
Swamp Milkweed



Monarch Caterpillar

Seed Selection

Nectaring Flower Species



Seed Selection

Bloom Periods



Seed Selection

Color, Size, and Shape



Seed Selection Bare Ground



Seed Selection Seeding Plan Example

- Adapted to site characteristics
- Local ecotype
- 40 seeds/square foot
 - 50% - 75% of flowers
 - Multiple milkweed species
 - 3+ flower per bloom period
 - No single flower species >10% of mix
 - 25+ forb species
 - 25% - not to exceed 50% of native grasses

USDA NRCS

Seedling Plan

Name: Winnick Mix - Example Date: 6/20/18

Prepared by: John C. Smith Title: Project Manager

Program: Field Area (acres) 1.000 Control No:

Seeding Mix Summary

Grasses	Scientific Name	Common Name	Seedbank #	P.L.S. Unit	P.L.S. Unit
				lb/acre	lb/acre
1	<i>Andropogon scoparius</i>	Little Bluestem	2,204	0.000	0.000
2	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Side oats Grama	2,204	1.000	1.000
3	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia Wildrye	1,400	0.000	0.000
4	<i>Desmodium illinoense</i>	Purple Prairie Clover	1,400	0.000	0.000
5	<i>Desmodium illinoense</i>	Purple Prairie Clover	1,400	0.000	0.000
6	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	Fox Sedge	1,400	0.040	0.040
7					
SUBTOTAL GRASSES			12.04	2.040	2.040
Forbs	Scientific Name	Common Name	Seedbank #	P.L.S. Unit	P.L.S. Unit
				lb/acre	lb/acre
1	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Milkweed	2,204	0.000	0.000
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SUBTOTAL FORBS			36.00	0.000	0.000
Woods	Scientific Name	Common Name	Seedbank #	P.L.S. Unit	P.L.S. Unit
				lb/acre	lb/acre
1	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Milkweed	2,204	0.000	0.000
SUBTOTAL WOODS			0.00	0.000	0.000
TOTAL			48.04	2.040	2.040



Iowa Farm Bureau's Margin Management Webinar Series presents:

Planning Habitat for Pollinators and Profitability

Time for a short recording break.

Speakers:

Josh Divan and Kelsey Fleming
Pheasants Forever

Native Habitat Planting

If you plant it, they will come!



Native Habitat Planting

Planting Methods



Broadcast & Cultipack



No-till Drill



Native Habitat Planting

Timing

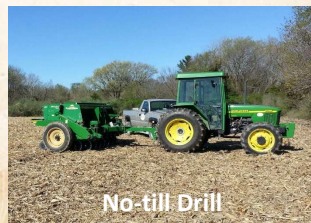
Spring Planting (April 1 – July 1)

Options:

1. No-till drill
 2. Broadcast & cultipack
 - good seed to soil contact
- Seed shall be drilled uniformly over the area no deeper than 1/8" or broadcast/rolled uniformly over the area
 - If seeded later in the spring, spraying should occur to suppress existing weeds



Broadcast & Cultipack



No-till Drill

Native Habitat Planting

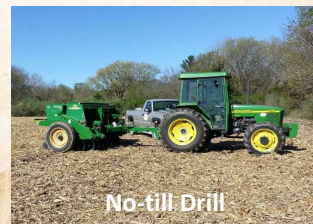
Timing

Dormant Planting (Nov. 15 – March 31)

Options:

1. No-till drill
 2. Broadcast & cultipack*
 - good seed to soil contact
- Seed shall be drilled uniformly over the area no deeper than 1/8" or broadcast/rolled uniformly over the area
 - Cannot be done until soil temperature drop below what is needed for seeds to germinate (4-inch soil temp. is less than 50°)

*Once frost is present in top 4 inches of soil, only broadcast & cultipack is an option.



Post-planting Maintenance

**Critical step*

1st Year Mowing

- Mow 3-4 times
- Every time it gets knee-high, mow in half!
- No lower than 8"!



Sleep, Creep, LEAP!

The diagram illustrates the root systems of various prairie plants, categorized into three groups: Kentucky Blue Grass (left), Prairie (middle), and White Wild Indigo (right). The vertical axis represents depth in feet, ranging from 0 to 15. The horizontal axis represents the ground surface. Three red boxes highlight specific root systems: the first box (left) shows a deep taproot reaching 15 ft; the second box (middle) shows a deep taproot reaching 9 ft; the third box (right) shows a deep taproot reaching 7 ft. The plants are labeled with their common names and scientific names.

Root Systems of Prairie Plants


Conservation Research Institute
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Plants and their root system depths:

- Kentucky Blue Grass:** *Poa pratensis* (15 ft)
- Lead Plant:** *Amorpha canescens* (15 ft)
- Minnesota Goldenrod:** *Solidago missouriensis* (15 ft)
- Indian Grass:** *Sorghastrum nutans* (15 ft)
- Common Reed:** *Phragmites australis* (15 ft)
- Partridge Pea:** *Strophostyles trifolius* (15 ft)
- Bluish Aster:** *Aster sp.* (15 ft)
- Prairie Cord Grass:** *Spartina patens* (15 ft)
- Big Blue Stem:** *Andropogon gerardii* (15 ft)
- Pink Purple:** *Geranium maculatum* (15 ft)
- Prairie Dropseed:** *Sporobolus airoides* (15 ft)
- Silk Oak:** *Grasses* (15 ft)
- False Bluestem:** *Eleusine indica* (15 ft)
- Switch Grass:** *Panicum virgatum* (15 ft)
- White Wild Indigo:** *Baptisia alba* (15 ft)
- Little Blue Stem:** *Andropogon scoparius* (15 ft)
- Bottle Wood:** *Alnus incana* (15 ft)
- Purple Prairie Clover:** *Trifolium purpureum* (15 ft)
- Green Grass:** *Trifolium repens* (15 ft)
- Collared Blue Star:** *Scilla maritima* (15 ft)
- Butterfly Grass:** *Asclepias tuberosa* (15 ft)

Light at the end of the tunnel!

- Mow 2-3 times

- # Post-planting Maintenance
- Light at the end of the tunnel!*
- 2nd Year Mowing**
- Mow 2-3 times
 - Every time it gets knee-high, mow in half!
 - No lower than 8"!
- 

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



*REQUIRES MANAGEMENT TO CONTINUE LOOKING THIS GOOD

Long-term Maintenance

Keep your eye on the prize

Scout site periodically & lookout for:

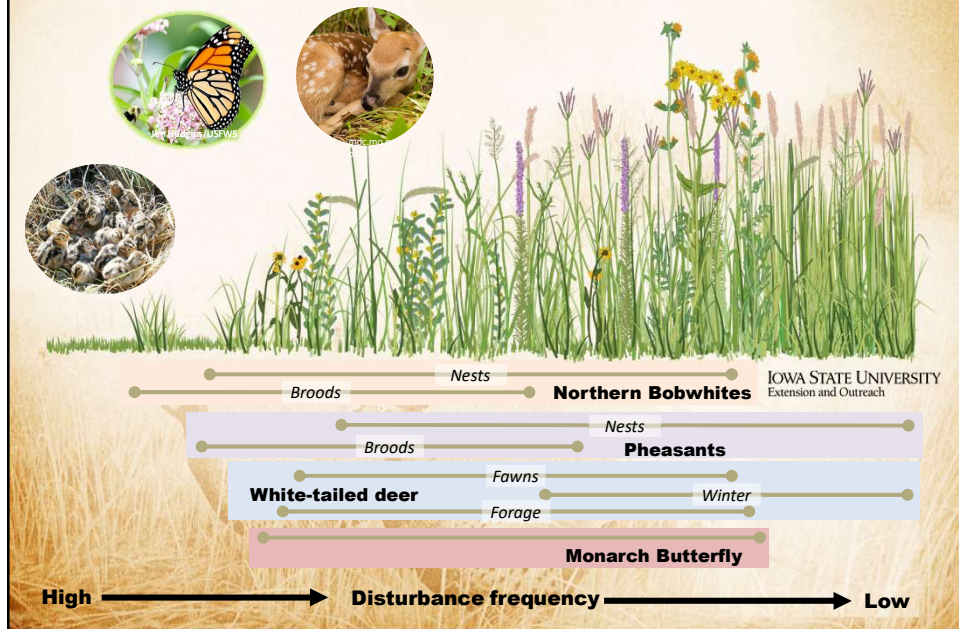
- Noxious weeds
 - e.g. Canada thistle
- Encroaching trees

If found, spot mow.

**Spot spray only if
necessary.**



Diverse, native prairie requires disturbance



Long-term Management

General prairie maintenance recommendations are to burn every 3-7 years.

Evaluate the stand to identify objective of burn.

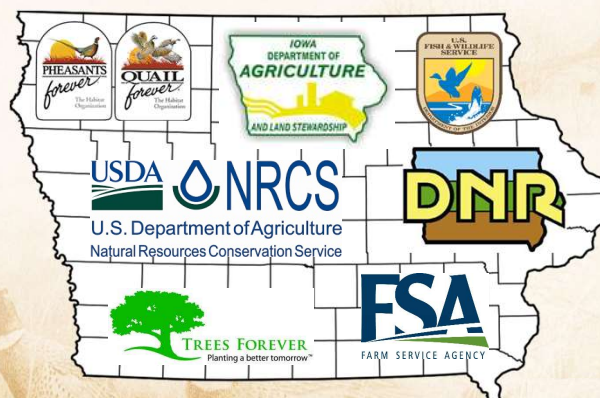
Timing of the burn is important for:

- controlling trees
- promoting grasses
- promoting forbs





Technical Assistance in Iowa



Monarch & Pollinator Habitat Tools

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE)
- Prairie Partners Program
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
- Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP)



Thank you to our partners!



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- Vacant - Starting Soon!**

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists

Partnership to Increase Conservation Delivery to Iowa Landowners:

USDA, Iowa Department of Agriculture, Loess Hills Alliance, Iowa West Foundation, Local SWCD

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Iowa Farm Bureau's Margin Management Webinar Series:

Planning Habitat for Pollinators and Profitability

Thanks for your participation!

Please fill out a brief evaluation by clicking:

<https://tinyurl.com/18Pollinate>

Recordings of this webinar and materials will be available for Farm Bureau members at www.iowafarmbureau.com