**PHEASANTS FOREVER AND QUAIL FOREVER**

*The Habitat Organization*

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist (I or II)

2 Positions: Cambridge, IL and Normal, IL

**Application Deadline:** August 13, 2021

**Anticipated Start Date:** August/September 2021

**Overview:** This position will be an employee of and supervised by Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever (PFQF), with daily instruction, quality assurance, training, and workload prioritization provided by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the PF Senior Farm Bill Biologist. Two vacancies are available. The primary duty stations will be located in the Normal USDA Service Center and Cambridge USDA Service Center. Occasional service to counties outside the primary 5-6 county work area may be required to address annual workload variance and assist teammates and partners. The biologist will work in joint capacity with NRCS, IDNR, and other partners to promote, accelerate enrollment, coordinate, and implement the conservation provisions of the Federal Farm Bill and other related wildlife conservation programs. This position will also meet with local chapters of Pheasants Forever and other local partners to influence habitat management efforts and participate in statewide habitat meetings.

**Job Duties:**

- Provide technical assistance (wildlife habitat focus) and guidance to private landowners, government agencies, non-government organizations and other groups primarily through federal Farm Bill programs. Training provided jointly by NRCS, IDNR, and PFQF.
- Communicate program requirements, complete site visits to determine eligibility, and develop contract documents for applicants and participants of Farm Bill conservation programs and other local and state programs.
- Review plans and specifications for feasibility for implementation under Farm Bill program contract rules, etc.
- Specific activities for CRP may include evaluations and conservation planning for new and re-enrolled contracts, mid-contract management and maintenance evaluations and recommendations, and status reviews.
- Provide on-site landowner technical assistance for conservation practice implementation.
- Coordinate and conduct training sessions which include workshops and tours for landowners and resource professionals.
- Work with local PF/QF chapters to assist with habitat program education and outreach and provide technical assistance for habitat projects.

**Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:**

- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with landowners and partner agency staff.
- Ability to work independently with little supervision and with diverse clientele.
- Knowledge of wildlife ecology, grassland, wetland and early succession habitat management including the ability to utilize various habitat management tools in the development of management plans. Specific knowledge of grassland/farmland associated wildlife species’ habitat requirements is desirable.
- Strong background in prescribed fire, both implementation and education.

- Knowledge of conservation and wildlife programs provided by federal Farm Bill (WRP, CRP, SAFE, EQIP, CSP, etc.), other state, & local entities. In addition, knowledge of how these programs are implemented in an agricultural landscape is desired.
• Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
• Strong organizational skills, time management, and attention to detail.
• Proficiency with Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and ArcGIS is required.
• Valid driver’s license required; use of personal vehicle required with a mileage reimbursement provided.
• Must be able to obtain USDA Federal Security Clearance.

**Education and Experience Preferred:** Any combination of training and/or experience that will enable the applicant to possess the required knowledge, skills and abilities. A Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Management or closely related natural resources field is required. Proven experience working with USDA Farm Bill programs is preferred. The ideal candidate will exhibit a balance of technical knowledge and interpersonal skills required to implement voluntary conservation programs on private lands. Practical and/or professional experience in farming and agricultural disciplines is highly beneficial. The successful applicant must enjoy working with private landowners and producers to achieve their conservation objectives.

**Salary:** Salary Range: $35,000-$37,000 + Benefits

**Application Requirements:** Please combine your cover letter, resume and 3 references as a single Microsoft Word document or Adobe Acrobat PDF file before uploading to the “Resume” section of your application on our Recruitment website: www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs If you have questions, contact: Katie Kauzlarich-Stockman, Illinois State Coordinator, kkauzlarich@pheasantsforever.org or (309) 264-1678

*Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are an EEO Employer/Vet/Disabled*