

Pheasants Forever (PF) and Quail Forever (QF) announce two new Farm Bill wildlife biologists in Nebraska.

Heather Francis will cover Perkins, Chase and Dundy counties while Scott Schmidt will cover Washington, Burt, Douglas, Sarpy, Dakota and Thurston counties.

These positions were made possible through a partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC), and Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever.

Pheasants Forever now has 11 Farm Bill wildlife biologists in the state working to provide technical assistance to farmers and ranchers (through one-on-one consulting) regarding the benefits of conservation programs (such as the Conservation Reserve Program).

Francis holds an A.A. degree in production agriculture from the University of Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture at Curtis. Previously, she worked as a conservation and information specialist at the Upper Republican Nebraska Research District (NRD) for 18 years.

Included in her duties at the NRD was working with landowners planning and implementing wildlife habitat improvements on their private land.

She is passionate about seeing the local youth enjoying the outdoors and learning about wildlife, habitat and hunting.

She is a native of Nebraska, and she has lived in Imperial since 1987.

A native of Minnesota, Schmidt holds a B.S. in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology from the University of Minnesota and recently defended his Master's thesis in biology at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kan.