

# PHEASANTS FOREVER AND QUAIL FOREVER

*The Habitat Organization*

*JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT*

## Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania



**Application Deadline:** Open Until Filled

**Anticipated Start Date:** January 2024 (negotiable)

**Location:** Hollidaysburg, PA

**Overview:** This position will be an employee of, and supervised by Pheasants Forever, Inc. (PF), with daily instruction, quality assurance, and workload prioritization provided by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The primary work area will include Blair, Bedford, Fulton, and Huntingdon counties, with the primary duty station located in the Hollidaysburg, PA, USDA Service Center. Occasional service to counties outside the primary work areas may be required to address annual workload variance and assist teammates and partners. The biologist will work in joint capacity with NRCS, Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), and other partners to promote, accelerate enrollment in, coordinate and implement the conservation provisions of the Federal Farm Bill and other related wildlife conservation programs. Primary workload will focus on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

\*Note: The position may be filled at a I or II step level, depending on applicant qualifications and experience.

### **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, PGC, and PF.
- Complete conservation plans, job sheets, wildlife habitat evaluation guides (WHEG) and other required documentation for the conservation programs requiring biological expertise in cooperation with the listed partners.
- 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 CREP will include new enrollment, re-enrollment, mid-contract management, maintenance, and status reviews.
- Accelerate conservation program enrollment by conducting outreach such as workshops, field days, demonstration events, and habitat tours.
- Provide on-site landowner technical assistance for conservation practice implementation.
- 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.

- Knowledge of conservation and wildlife programs provided through the Farm Bill, as well as other federal, state, & local entities.
- Knowledge of agricultural landscapes, common farming and land use practices, and basic agricultural economics is desirable.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Strong organizational skills, time management, and attention to detail.
- Proficiency with 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 will be considered. 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. A successful applicant must enjoy working with private landowners to achieve their objectives. Work experience on a farm or in an agriculture related field is an asset.

**Starting Salary:** Starting salary from \$40,000 to \$45,000 commensurate with experience and qualifications + Benefits (see Benefits Summary on our Recruitment website, [www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs](http://www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs) ).

**To Apply:** Please combine your cover letter, resume and 3 references into a single Word document or PDF file before uploading to the "Resume" area of your application on our Recruitment website at: [www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs](http://www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs) (our benefits summary can also be found here).

**If you have questions, please contact:** Julia Smith, PA State Coordinator, [jsmith@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:jsmith@pheasantsforever.org) or (814) 634-5176

*Pheasants Forever, Inc and Quail Forever is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, status as a protected veteran, status as a qualified individual with disability, or any other category that may be protected by law.*