Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
Quarterly Partners Report

Kayla Chau - Harrison, Pottawattamie, Shelby Counties **July - Sept. 2026**

Planning, Training, and More Planning

It is that time of year again! Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) plan writing was in full swing this quarter. It keeps me inside the office more than I would like to be, but I love the environment that it fosters. Writing CRP plans get me working very closely with my Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) colleagues. Together with the landowner, we all tap into the areas we specialize in to work out fine details and answer any questions they can think of. Teamwork makes the dream work!



Stiff Goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*) One out of about 23 species of goldenrod in Iowa.

Fellow Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist (FBB), Logan Carter, hosted a CRP status review training in September. We discussed mid-contract management options and the effects they can have on diverse restorations. There were mixed feelings about what pairs with haying since it is an option that cannot be done on its own. I was glad this training was hosted when it was for many reasons. It got me outside, gave me a break from writing CRP plans, and warmed up my late season plant identification skills. The last one being the most relevant as we gear up to start working on next year's status reviews.



In August, I went out to check on a property that is enrolled in the Iowa Habitat and Access Program (IHAP). I was pleasantly surprised by the amount of blooming Prairie Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya).*

We started planning for our annual Iowa Pheasants Forever team meeting. I was tasked with putting together a training on landowner-led prescribed burns with a few other FBBs. I am excited to hear what conversations that topic will generate and to have the gang all together in person!

Quarterly Achievements

- 76 Landowner Contacts
- 14 Site Visits
- 74 Plans Written
- 3311.3 Planned Acres
- 41.5 Public Access Acres
- 541.66 Assessed Acres

Thank you so much for your support! Without this partnership, I wouldn't be able to provide assistance to landowners and positively impact conservation in Iowa!

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