

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners Report



Kayla Chau — Harrison, Pottawattamie, Shelby Counties

April-June 2025

First Full Quarter as an Iowa Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Before becoming a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist with the Iowa Pheasants Forever team, I was a Farm Bill Biologist with the Minnesota Pheasants Forever team. In Minnesota, I covered Lac qui Parle County. My roots are in Iowa, and I'm very happy to be back in the area!

My first quarter as an Iowa Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist has been a busy one. During the first week of April, I attended the Loess Hill Cooperative Burn Week. It's a week-long fire training that involved a total of 119 participants from 45 conservation agencies and organizations, volunteers, volunteer fire departments, as well as others. There is always a wealth of knowledge and ample training opportunities at this event. It never ceases to amaze me every year. I am extremely thankful to the mentor I had this year.

As soon as I returned, completing status reviews for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) projects was the next priority. I have done plenty of these while in Minnesota. Still, I was especially excited this year, as status reviews are a great way to start building my landowner network, create informative discussions with my teammates, and become familiar with the landscapes of my counties. It also served as a valuable refresher for plant identification.

In between status reviews, I was invited to present at a couple of youth events, brought up to speed on a few Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) projects, and introduced to the Iowa Habitat and Access Program (IHAP). I look forward to seeing the outcomes of using goats as a management tool on one of the EQIP projects and comparing the management techniques used in Iowa versus Minnesota on IHAP projects.

I know I mentioned that I was busy during my first quarter, but it's about to get even crazier with CRP plan writing. I am eager to dive right in!



Identifying insects with 5th graders on Earth Day.



Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*) found on IHAP.



First burn of Cooperative Burn Week 2025

Quarterly Achievements

- 21 Landowner Contacts
- 7 In-Field Landowner Contacts
- 56 Site Visits
- 1 Outreach Events/Presentations
- 2 Youth Outreach Events/Presentations
- 57 NRCS/CRP Status Reviews

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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