

Conservation Reserve Program

POLLINATOR HABITAT INITIATIVE

Agricultural Productivity | Plant Regeneration | Wildlife Habitat



Why Choose CRP? You Benefit. Land, Water and Wildlife Benefit.

The Pollinator Habitat Initiative enhances honey bee and native pollinator populations. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with initiatives like this to achieve many farming and conservation goals. Whatever the conservation challenge – soil conservation, water quality protection, or wildlife habitat enhancement – CRP is a proven land performance and management solution.

What are Pollinator Habitats? And why are they important?

Honey bee and native populations have experienced significant declines over the past decade. A lack of flowers and forbs to provide pollen and nectar is believed to be a major contribution factor for these declines.

The pollinator initiative is designed to provide better access to nutrition for pollinators. By establishing, managing or replacing existing cover crop vegetation with seed mixes that support distinct blooming cycles of plants benefitting pollinators, landowners, and farmers will create healthy environments for honey bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, and wasps. Together, these insects are responsible for pollinating more than one third of the foods we eat and 80 percent of plants. By assisting honey bees in particular, the pollinator initiative helps USDA continue to secure our food supply.

Affiliated Practice:

CP-42 Pollinator Habitat

For more information about this individual practice, visit: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>



Pollinator Habitat Initiative Benefits

In addition to supporting pollinators, habitat enhancements provide numerous benefits for the land, other species and environmental health. Native plant habitat attracts insects that are predators or parasitoids of crop pests, reducing the need for pesticides. They also offer vital habitat and food sources for bird species important to recreation and conservation interests, reduce wind erosion, stabilize soil, and improve water quality.

Financial Benefits

- 10 years of annual rental payments
- Payments covering 50% of the eligible costs of establishing the practice
 - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment
- Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) up to \$150/acre

Impact

- Insect pollination is integral to food security -- honey bees enable the production of more than 90 commercially grown crops in North America
- Bee pollinated commodities account for \$15 billion in annual U.S agricultural production
- Native plant habitat attractive to pollinators will also attract beneficial insects that are predators of crop pests
- Honey bee pollinated habitat vegetation promotes carbon sequestration and soil health
- Conservation covers decrease wind and water erosion, and improve water quality by intercepting sediment and nutrients
- Native plants attractive to pollinators also are good habitat for wildlife species including pheasant, quail, and other game species

For more information, contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency: <http://offices.usda.gov>