

# NRCS **NEWS RELEASE**

United States Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation Service  
607 9<sup>TH</sup> ST NE Long Prairie MN 56347 • (320) 732-6618 ext. 3  
Web: <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov> & [http://www.co.todd.mn.us/departments/soil\\_water/nrcs](http://www.co.todd.mn.us/departments/soil_water/nrcs)

---

## The Birds and the Bees.

Let's talk about the birds and the bees. Todd County is a popular place for bees and bee keepers. Drive a few miles of nearly any gravel road and you are likely to find a hive. On that same drive you may also see a bobolink, meadowlark, sedge wren or a pheasant. These birds and bees, like many of us, call Todd County home.

The bees are hungry and in trouble. With increased herbicide use, and more and more acres being converted to crop production, there are not enough blooming flowers on the landscape to support them. Many of our birds are also dependent upon a flowering ecosystem to provide them with insects, seeds, cover and nesting habitat.

By restoring flowering grassland habitat back to the landscape we can get more than two birds and some bees with one stone. If we apply this habitat to the correct place, such as bordering a water body, or on highly erodible acres we can achieve even greater conservation benefits. Through USDA's EQIP Honey Bee Program eligible land owners can receive technical and possibly financial assistance to provide habitat for both the birds and the bees. If you would like to protect water and soil quality and provide habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, contact the Long Prairie NRCS office located at 607 9<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Long Prairie or call 320-732-6618 ext. 3.