



Help Pollinators Prosper

More than three-fourths of the world's flowering plants rely on the help of pollinators to reproduce. One out of three bites of food can be attributed to these important creatures – such as bees, butterflies, moths, birds, beetles, bats, and a few other small mammals. But as you may know, pollinators are in trouble. Many are seeing decreasing populations because of habitat loss, disease, parasites and pesticide use.

Pollinators provide crucial assistance to fruit, vegetable and seed crops. For many plants, without the help of pollinators, they would be unable to reproduce. The honey bee and its pollinator allies are responsible for pollinating billions of dollars' worth of American crops each year.

If you operate a farm or ranch, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service can help you create habitat for pollinators. This not only benefits pollinators, but also provides ample perks for the farmers and ranchers, too. More pollinators can increase crop yields.

Habitats used by pollinators also attract beneficial insects (insects that eat crop pests), and they may provide habitat for other wildlife, reduce soil erosion, and improve water quality. As you can see, pollinators and healthy habitat for pollinators help keep the ecosystem healthy.

If you'd like to learn more about pollinators and the technical and financial assistance available to you, contact the Long Prairie NRCS field office at 732-6618 ext. 3.

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