

# Conservation Reserve Program

## Restoring Pollinator Habitat

Wildlife Habitat | Agricultural Productivity | Soil Health



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

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a proven land performance and management solution. Whatever the challenge—soil conservation, water quality protection, or wildlife habitat enhancement—CRP provides a range of opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and landowners.

Administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency, CRP provides financial and technical assistance to remove environmentally sensitive farmland from production and convert it to conservation cover for a 10- to 15-year contract period.

### Pollinator Habitat Restoration

European honeybee and other native pollinator populations have experienced significant decline over the past decade. The shortage of wildflowers and forbs to provide pollen and nectar is a major contributing factor to the loss of these insects that are responsible for more than one-third of the food we eat.

Pollinator habitats on agricultural land are generally blocks or strips within a field planted with diverse mixes of flowering forbs, legumes, and bushes, blooming at different times of the year to provide pollen and nectar throughout the growing season.





## Benefits of Pollinator Habitat

By replacing existing cover crop vegetation with seed mixes that support flowering plants with distinct blooming cycles, farmers and landowners can create healthy environments for vital pollinators including honeybees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, and wasps.

These insects are integral to food security: honeybees alone are necessary for more than 90% of commercially grown crops in North America, accounting for \$15 billion in annual production. Without pollinators, the agriculture industry would collapse.

In addition to the pollinators themselves, pollinator habitats provide numerous other benefits both to farmers and to the environment. Many of the non-pollinator insects they attract are natural predators of crop pests. Pollinator habitats also benefit other wildlife species, including game species such as pheasant and quail and bird species that are important to recreation and conservation interests.

Conservation covers such as pollinator habitat also decrease wind and water erosion, improve water quality by intercepting sediment and nutrients, sequester carbon, and improve overall soil health and productivity.

### Pollinator Habitat Practices

Pollinator Habitat (CP42)



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Photos by Peter Berthelsen, Courtesy of Pheasants Forever