

Honey Bee Pollinator Effort

Purpose

This effort provides technical and financial assistance to farmers in the Midwest to improve the health of honey bees. Honey bee numbers have been declining over the past 50 years. Since 2006, ~30 % of honey bee hives in the U.S. have been lost each winter to diseases, parasites, poor nutrition, pesticide exposure and other issues. Honey bees pollinate more than 130 fruits and vegetables, which is estimated to be \$15 billion worth of pollinated U.S. crops.

To address this concern, NRCS has dedicated over \$2 million in Wisconsin, through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, for practices to increase and improve honey bee food sources. These practices assist by improving preferred wild and cultivated foraging plants, developing and implementing integrated pest management, and by implementing managed intensive grazing systems that maximize high-quality honey bee forage.

Contact your local NRCS service center to sign up for this effort. Find your nearest center: <http://offices.sc.gov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

Top Five Practices

1. Forage and Biomass Planting
2. Conservation Cover
3. Fence
4. Tree/Shrub Establishment
5. Pipeline

Pollinator Signup Results

Fiscal Year	High Priority Applications (No.)	Contracts (No.)	Dollars (\$)
2014	190	71	666,338
2015 ^a	97	91	1,416,626
Total	287	162	2,082,964

^aStill in obligation period.

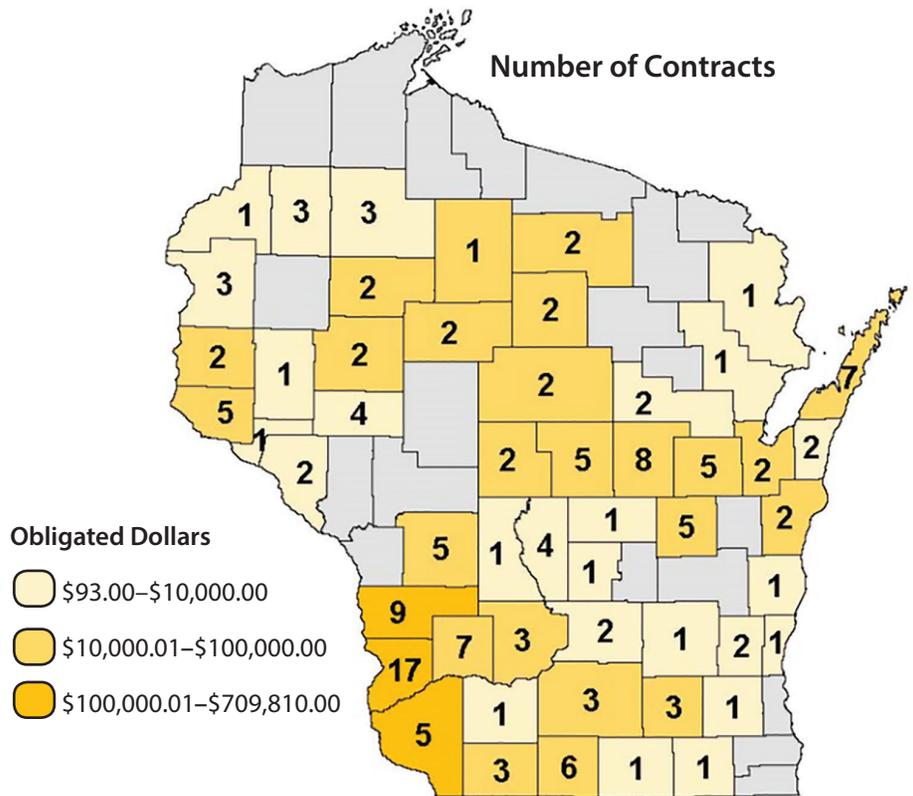
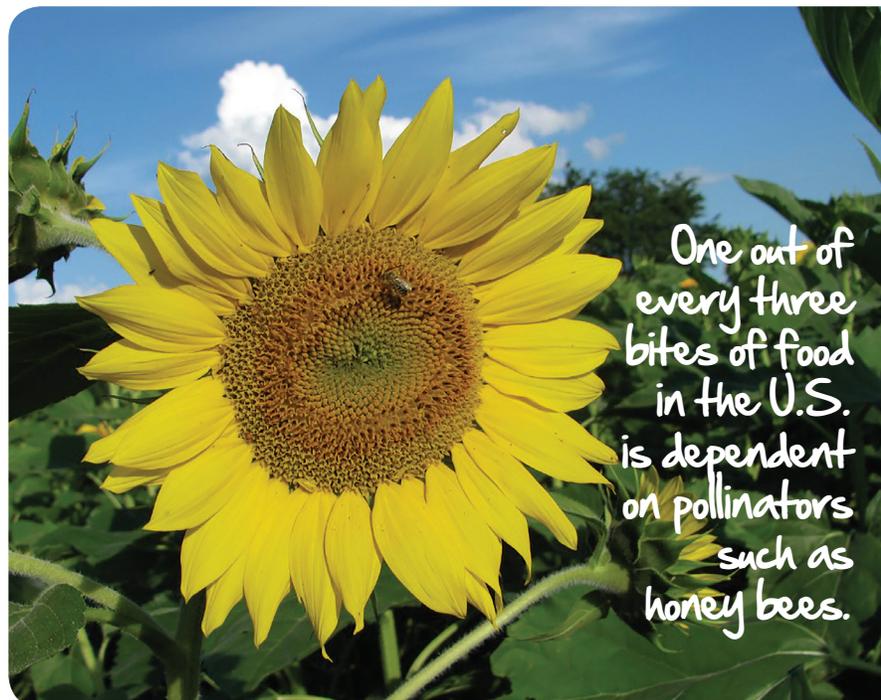


Photo by Kristin Knuteson, NRCS-Wisconsin



One out of every three bites of food in the U.S. is dependent on pollinators such as honey bees.