Native Pollinators In Agriculture Project

MD/DE Partners Workshop
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Background

- Initiated in 2006 as a special project of the National FFA Foundation
- Exploring opportunities to enhance pollination services and farm profitability
- Led by individuals who produce or support the production of food, feed and fiber.

Project Leaders

- 22 member Project Steering Committee
- Supported by a National Work Group composed of producers, partners, conservationists along with technical and scientific advisors

Leaders include:

- Rudy Rice- former President of NACD
- Richard Rominger- former Deputy Secretary of USDA
- A.G. Kawamura- former Sec. CDFA
- Ray Beck, NASCA
- Mace Vaughan- Xerces Society
- Jay Vroom- CropLife

Major Findings

- Declines in pollinator populations are a critical issue and major threat
- Native pollinators can't replace managed bees but they provide significant pollination services
- 15 % of the value of U.S. fruit, nut, vegetable and field crop production can be attributed to pollination services from native pollinators
- Many "fact gaps"
- Limited grower awareness of contributions of native pollinators

Previous Areas of Focus

- Economic Indicators
- Communications Outreach
- Enabling Policy
- Educational Programs

Fruits and Nuts

2001-2003	Average Value ($millions)
Value of Crop	$11,654.
Value from insect pollination	$ 6,065. (52% dependent)
Value from managed pollinators	$ 5,057.
Value from native pollinators	$ 1,009. (16.6%)

Apples

2001-2003	Average Value ($millions)
Value of Crop	$1,585.
Value from insect pollination	$1,585. (100% dependent)
Value from managed pollinators	$1,422.
Value from native pollinators	$ 163 (10.3%)

Vegetables

2001-2003	Average Value ($millions)
Value of Crop	$ 4,087.
Value from insect pollination	$ 3,828. (94% dependent)
Value from managed pollinators	$ 3,227.
Value from native pollinators	$ 601. (15%)

Field Crops

2001-2003	Average Value ($millions)
Value of Crop	$ 28,753.
Value from insect pollination	$ 10,191. (35% dependent)
Value from managed pollinators	$ 8,722.
Value from native pollinators	$ 1,469. (17%)

Phase III Objectives

Objective One: Widely disseminate information about success growers have achieved using native pollinators to supplement the pollination services provided by managed pollinators

a. Provide Alliance members via feature articles with information about grower experiences with conservation practices and associated native pollinator contributions to productivity and profitability (twelve articles, one per month)
b. Maintain the Native Pollinators in Agriculture website www.agpollinators.org
c. Invite corporations, government agencies and foundations to join and support the Alliance
d. Feed material to Farm Broadcasters
e. Engage ag writers to write feature stories and participate in Ag Media Summit
f. Place feature articles and opinion pieces in key ag outlets

Phase III Objectives, cont.

Objective Two: Create and strengthen programs and resources to establish pollinator habitat and increase populations of native and managed pollinators

a. Encourage State Technical Committees to develop pollinator practice recommendations and prioritize their use
b. Integrate pollinator protection and habitat enhancement goals into programs
c. Support communication outreach efforts on value and role of native pollinators
d. Work to integrate ag producers into NAPPC activities
e. Collaborate on mutually agreed upon enabling policy and funding initiatives
f. Support for “safe harbor” acts to protect growers who establish pollinator habitat

Pollinator Alliance

Vision:

Form an agricultural led pollination alliance through which farmers, ranchers, woodland owners and associated service providers and partners will work collaboratively and proactively to establish and protect native pollinator habitat and increase populations of pollinators.

Partner Activities

- Participate in the Alliance
- Disseminate information to grower members
- Sponsor native pollinator forums
- Encourage government agencies to support pollinator habitat initiatives
- Promote “safe harbor” provisions
- Encourage media contacts to report on free pollination services from native pollinators

Native Pollinators in Agriculture Project

Irrigation canal with habitat

Irrigation canal without habitat

www.agpollinators.org