

## USDA Satellite Features Feed

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### **FEATURE – USDA WORKS TO INCREASE POLLINATOR POPULATION**

INTRO: With the honeybee population decreasing, U-S-D-A is working with private groups and farmers to build up the numbers of other pollinators. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more. (1:38)

IN RECENT YEARS U-S HONEYBEE KEEPERS HAVE LOST ROUGHLY THIRTY PERCENT OF THEIR BEES ANNUALLY BECAUSE OF PARASITES, DISEASES AND THE PHENOMENON OF COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER. THIS IS BAD NEWS FOR FARMERS WHO COUNT ON HONEYBEE POLLINATION TO HELP GROW MANY FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CROPS. TO ADDRESS THIS DECLINE, THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE IS WORKING WITH THE NON-PROFIT XERCES SOCIETY AND FARMERS.

Tom Moore USDA, NRCS: So all of the different plants that you see here in this demonstration hedge row were developed through a collaborative effort between NRCS, Ag Wildlife Conservation Center, NRCS California and the Xerces Society so that we can provide the appropriate habitat for pollinators.

Gio Ferrendelli, Yolo Co., CA Farmer: We're trying to create habitats around the edges of our farmland to attract these pollinators and give them places to live, give them places to forage so that they're not a migrant pollinator, that they are actual native pollinators to our farm.

THE XERCES SOCIETY IS AN INTERNATIONAL, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT PROTECTS WILDLIFE THROUGH THE CONSERVATION OF INVERTEBRATES...THAT INCLUDES BENEFICIAL INSECTS...AND THEIR HABITATS. THE XERCES SOCIETY AND N-R-C-S HELP FARMERS GET MORE POLLINATORS...ESPECIALLY NATIVE BEES...ON THEIR LAND.

Mace Vaughan, Xerces Society: What this project aims to do is to see about bringing habitat into the landscape that can increase the percentage of crop pollination that comes from other pollinators, so mostly other bees that are living wild in the landscape.

Bruce Rominger, Yolo Co., CA. Farmer: We think the diversity of having more pollinators out here is going to benefit us in the long run.

NON-HONEYBEE POLLINATORS INCLUDE BUMBLEBEES, BUTTERFLIES AND SOME BEETLES. FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, I'M BOB ELLISON.

*Note to broadcasters*: The Pollinator Partnership is proud to announce that **June 24-30**, has been designated National Pollinator Week by the U.S. Senate (S.Res. 580) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.