Critical pollinator and wildlife habitat is disappearing.

The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund
A Unique Conservation Solution.

You can help reverse this trend and make a difference.

U.S. beekeepers are facing many challenges. Habitat loss is one of the most severe threats to honey bee health and beekeeper profitability. While it is not the only issue affecting bee health, it is one that all stakeholders can agree needs focus, as access to good, clean forage is the most basic and fundamental requirement in sustaining healthy hives. In recent years, millions of acres of habitat have been repurposed. As more and more research is published about the negative effects of agricultural land use change on soil, water, wildlife, climate and pollinators, the opportunity to garner support for establishing habitat from many stakeholders continues to increase. Currently, there are other pollinator habitat efforts, but none of them are designed or suited well enough to meet the most important goals.

Our Mission

A primary purpose of The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund is to support U.S. beekeepers through a private conservation program that is designed to accomplish two primary goals. First, replace critical forage in areas where beekeepers have their hives through beekeeper-driven enrollment. Beekeepers identify land that could be used to support forage plantings, then they promote and deliver program materials to landowners with whom they have working relationships. Landowners enroll eligible acres, usually field edges orodd areas on the farm, through Pheasants Forever in a 3- to 6-year contract. The program is ground-truthed and monitored by research, and also by the beekeepers and landowners involved. The monitoring and research is designed to deliver the second goal, which is to demonstrate a better model for pollinator conservation, through the use of more cost- effective, pollinator-preferred seed mixtures, better establishment procedures and management techniques that reduce weed competition issues and boost foraging opportunity for bees. The habitat mixtures are designed to produce maximum value on every acre throughout the growing season by increasing the diversity and density of bloom.

How does it work?

Using funds donated by generous corporate sponsors and individual donors, The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund is identifying opportunities to establish specifically designed pollinator habitat to help honey bee and monarch butterfly populations thrive. We're working together to build healthy, sustainable pollinator habitat by using science-based solutions to deliver results. Our team brings together landowners, conservationists, scientists and beekeepers to precisely target pollinators' needs by engineering projects that provide appropriate floral diversity, density and bloom duration to optimize forage potential.

Biologists consult with landowners to identify potential areas within a farming and ranching operation that are suitable for pollinator habitat, then together establish NextGen Habitat Projects to maximize pollinator benefits on the land. Landowners enrolling in the program receive free seed mixtures, annual rental and planting incentive payments and flexible contract options. In our first year, we piloted the program successfully in North Dakota and South Dakota – we even have a waiting list! Now, the program expands into Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri. The average project to date is 15 acres and is enrolled for six years. We have already planted more than 6.58 million milkweed seeds to date!

How do NextGen Habitat Projects differ from others?

- Precision seed mixtures that deliver maximum benefits for pollinators
- Cost-effective plantings, designed to maximize both quality and quantity
- Superior ability to manage early weed competition
- Streamlined non-government enrollment and adaptability for landowners
- Maximum value per acre, optimizing bloom diversity and abundance throughout the growing season
- Two separate plantings on each project ensure success for multiple species
- Opportunity for beekeepers to work with landowners to improve forage near their hives
- Greater efficiency is achieved through advanced seeding specifications
- Better establishment and management flexibility

How can beekeepers get involved? Be your own advocates!
Help us spread the word. Let farmers and landowners know about the program and suggest land that might be a good fit for this program. We all benefit from your success. Use this tool to improve your business and your bees!

Give the gift of habitat!
All donations will make it possible to build and maintain critical habitats for pollinators, while simultaneously securing vital food production throughout the United States. Consider funding bee and butterfly acres in someone's honor! Anonymous, tribute, estate-gifting and corporate-matching options are also available.

Donate: Help Us Plant the Seeds of Change.

- Every donation builds NextGen Habitat Projects
- Provides essential nutrition to support honey bees vital for our food production
- Provides monarch butterfly-specific needs, to prevent them becoming endangered
- Provides ideal habitat for pheasants, quail and grassland songbirds
- Supports endangered native bees and butterflies
- Improves soil, air and water quality
- Offers tools to meet corporate sustainability and precision agriculture goals
- Enhances biodiversity and beautifies the landscape

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PO Box 26793
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Call 866-431-4230.
Donate now at BeeAndButterflyFund.org.

The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund, founded by Project Apis m., Pheasants Forever and Browning's Honey Company, is managed through Project Apis m. 2.0, a 501c3 organization.

"The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund is the bees' buzz! The effort is integrating the very best performing habitat solutions where they are most needed, by bringing landowners and beekeepers together in a program where everyone benefits. It's our goal to make every available acre the best it can be. It's truly amazing just how much difference an acre can make when the habitat is engineered for maximum productivity!" – Zac Browning, Co-owner, Browning's Honey Co., Inc.