



Photo courtesy of Jim Hudgins/USFWS

Best management practices for pollinators help to support healthy farms and ranches. We offer financial and technical assistance to help you employ these practices to conserve monarchs and other pollinators through our Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, www.fws.gov/midwest/partners. We are leaders in promoting voluntary stewardship for fish and wildlife conservation. We recognize the importance of meeting the needs of landowners and the fish and wildlife that depend on their lands.

Conservation practices that benefit monarchs and other pollinators can also provide higher quality forage for livestock and make agricultural operations more resilient and productive. A diverse stand of native plants can increase resistance to pests, control the spread of invasive plants, rejuvenate soil, and reduce erosion.

To help this iconic insect we want to partner with corporations, non-profit organizations, state agencies, tribes, academia, and YOU! It's going to take all of us - from national organizations to individuals - to ensure a future filled with monarchs.

The decline of monarchs is driven by habitat loss and degradation. Our goal from this collaborative network is for monarch populations to rebound and flourish across the landscape.



Site Eligibility:

- Land privately owned by an individual(s)
- In key locations to support monarchs and native pollinators
- One acre or greater
- No cropping history required

Cost-Share Rate:

- Flexible to keep out-of-pocket expenses low
- Project funding for materials and/or installation of practices

Commitment:

- Landowner agreement to maintain habitat for 10 years

Landowner Use:

- Follow an agreed management plan prepared by a biologist
- Technical assistance is available throughout the life of the agreement
- Land can be used for hunt/lease, bird watching, quiet enjoyment and landowner controls access

Feeding Pollinators: Working Together to Ensure A Future Filled with Monarchs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program



Photo courtesy of Jim Hudgins/USFWS

For more information,
visit www.fws.gov/midwest/partners

Future Filled with Monarchs

Farmers and ranchers are unsung heroes that feed the world every day. Also unsung is the major assistance producers get from pollinators, many of which are disappearing from the landscape. One pollinator in particular, the monarch butterfly, has declined significantly in the last two decades and is in trouble. Let's work together to help feed these hardworking pollinators by providing habitat for them. With your help monarchs and declining pollinators can flourish and can continue to provide services for you.

As an agricultural producer, you bring us valuable crops, while providing clean air, clean water, and open spaces that Americans value. Your stewardship plays a crucial role in the relationship between native pollinators, native plants, and food production.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with partners to increase native milkweed and nectar sources wherever monarchs are found and to monitor monarch populations. Join us in taking action to ensure a future filled with monarchs.



Photo courtesy of Jim Hudgins/USFWS

Habitat is the Key and Everyone Can Help

You can play a significant role in helping monarchs in your backyard, to your back forty, and every back road in between.



Photo courtesy of Frank Oberle

What you can do:

Team up with one of our staff who will engage with our collaborative habitat network through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. Through our technical assistance and expertise we will navigate ways to share funding, materials, equipment, and labor, to get things done on your land and keep more dollars in your pocket.

- Plant pollinator habitat on less productive lands, buffers, field edges, around ponds and streams
- Employ precision farming techniques
- Add native milkweed to pollinator habitat – monarchs cannot survive without milkweed
- Adjust mowing times to minimize impacts to wildlife nesting and raising young

More than Monarchs

The state of monarch butterflies in the Midwest reflects the health of America's heartland.

The monarch's iconic migration is linked to grasslands. Healthy grasslands are filled with milkweed and diverse nectar-rich native flowers and shrubs that support monarchs and other critical pollinators, like bees. This insect-rich habitat is the foundation for a vibrant patchwork of cropland, rangeland, and grasses that support upland game birds, grassland songbirds, and other wildlife. Diverse pollinator populations signal a healthy system.

Farmers and ranchers benefit even further. Native grasses and flowers filter water, control erosion, and aid in groundwater recharge, which improves the moisture holding capacity of soil during drought. Native flowers beautify your landscapes. Diverse grasslands also provide places for recreation ranging from hunting to bird watching.

Aldo Leopold, the father of wildlife conservation, presented the idea that wildlife and agriculture can and should co-exist. In the 1930s, he suggested to landowners that knowing their wildlife helped them read the land and celebrate the interconnectedness of its uses. Embarking on monarch stewardship also means helping your operations and the people you feed for generations.



Photo courtesy of Mike Budd/USFWS

We can help you make your idea a reality.

Web link: www.fws.gov/midwest/partners