



Photo courtesy of Liz Newton/USFWS

Financial Benefits

The CP-42 is designed to provide habitat for honey bees and native pollinator species. To encourage producers to sign up their most environmentally valuable acres, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) may provide Signing Incentive Payments (SIPs) of \$150 per acre. The incentive is offered on CP-42 enrolled in the Continuous CRP (CP-42 enrolled during general signup CRP is not eligible to receive a SIP).

Participants of newly enrolled pollinator habitat practices are eligible to receive:

- Annual rental payments
- Cost share payment covering up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of establishing the pollinator practice
- FSA may provide a one-time \$150 per acre SIP for CP-42 enrollment in the Continuous CRP



For more information,
Contact your local FSA office for forms needed to enroll in this program. Phone numbers for county offices can be found online at www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateOffices?area=stoffice&subject=landing&topic=landing

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Pollinator Habitat Planting: CP42

United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency



Photo courtesy of Mara Koenig/USFWS

The Importance of Pollinators

Agricultural productivity is directly dependent on pollinators, especially bees, for producing more than one-third of our food products. In fact, bee-pollinated commodities account for \$20 billion in annual U.S. agricultural production and \$217 billion worldwide. In addition to bees, other pollinators, including butterflies and moths, beetles, flies, wasps, birds and bats are necessary for pollinating more than 80 percent of plants. Without pollinators providing pollen, many plants could not set seed and reproduce; and consequently many animal populations and species would die out. This has serious economic implications for humans and for native eco-system diversity and stability.

Pollinator Habitat Initiative and the Conservation Reserve Program

Pollinators have declined worldwide as a result of habitat loss and other factors; however, the Conservation Reserve Initiative (CP-42), offers landowners a way to create longer-lasting meadows of high-quality native wildflowers that support pollinators and other wildlife populations throughout the growing season while increasing the percentage of fast-blooming forage legumes and other wildflowers that have traditionally been apart of CRP plant mixes.

For more than 25 years, CRP has provided millions of acres of habitat for honey bees and other pollinators. With abundant acres of legume-rich forage or diverse wildflower plantings, CRP lands offer hives (bee colonies) large-scale sources of pollen and nectar that keep pollinators and their habitat healthy. CP-42 practices are comprised of native plant species although exceptions are made if diverse native seed mixes are unavailable. The species mix should include a variety of plants that flower at different times throughout the growing seasons providing a diversity of pollen sources that are critical for honey bee and native bee health. These plants can be an integral part of the conservation practices that landowners, farmers, and ranchers install as part of their conservation plan. Combined, these efforts will increase pollinator habitat across the U.S. and contribute substantially to crop pollination on farms where their habitat needs are met.



Photo courtesy of Peter Berthelsen, Conservation Blueprint, LLC.

Eligible Land

To be eligible to enroll in CRP, the land must:

- Be cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the previous six crop years.
- Be physically and legally capable of being planted (no planting restrictions due to an easement or other legally binding instrument) in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

Enrollment Eligibility

Owners and operators are eligible if they:

- Meet the adjusted gross income rules
- Have land that meets CRP land ownership eligibility requirements (see CRP Fact Sheet at www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA_FILE/crp_facsheet0213.pdf)
- Are in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland provisions
- Have a 10-year or longer lease with a landowner.

Practice Requirements

- The CP-42 practice is open for enrollment on both a general and continuous sign-up basis, as long as acres are available and the National acreage cap is not exceeded.
- The contract term is 10 years.
- CP-42 practice must be included in an approved conservation plan that addresses CRP resource concerns.
- Acres selected for pollinator habitat must be at least 0.5 acres. Planting in blocks is preferred over strip plantings, but if planted in strips, each strip must be a minimum of 20 feet wide.
- Grasses seeded in this practice must be native. Although native species are encouraged, beneficial introduced flowering plants (e.g., alfalfa and clover) may be part of the seeding mix if approved by USDA conservation planners.
- Seeding mixes generally require a minimum of nine species of pollinator-friendly wildflowers, legume and/or shrubs, but states with arid areas may submit alternative standards.
- The pollinator practice must be maintained for the duration of the contract.

Management Requirements

All Pollinator Habitat contracts:

- Must have mid-contract management activities scheduled that are site-specific.
- Help maintain plant diversity, wildlife habitat, and protection of soil and water resources.

Other Requirements and Conditions

- Landowners may not take land that is being leased by an operator in order to enroll the land in CRP.
- All landowners must sign a CRP-I contract.
- Enrollment is limited under continuous sign-up on a first come, first serve basis.
- FSA will determine producer eligibility.