

Conservation Reserve Program

HONEY BEE HABITAT INITIATIVE

Honey Bee Habitat | Agricultural Productivity | Wildlife Habitat



Why Choose CRP? You Benefit. Land, Water and Wildlife Benefit.

The Honey Bee Habitat Initiative enhances CRP covers by establishing cost effective sources of pollen and nectar to provide high value nutrition for honey bees. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with initiatives like this to achieve many farming and conservation goals. Whatever the conservation challenge – soil conservation, water quality protection or wildlife habitat enhancement – CRP is a proven land performance and management solution.

Why Honey Bee Habitat? And why is it important?

One-third of the food we eat requires pollinators. Honey bees are our most important agricultural pollinator, but they are in trouble. Since 2006, an average of nearly one-third of commercial honey bee hives perished each winter. A variety of factors are believed to contribute to this mortality – including disease, parasites, nutritional deficiencies, and insufficient nutritious forage. Farmers and landowners can participate in the Honey Bee Initiative while conducting mid-contract management to provide improved nutrition and habitat for honey bee populations.

In 2015, the Honey Bee Initiative is available in Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin where more than 65 percent of commercial honey bee operations summer, this enhancement will provide the nutritional resources that are critical to honey bee survival.

Affiliated Practices:

CP-1, CP-2, CP4D, CP-10, CP-25 & CP-38E

For more information about this individual practice, visit: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>



Honey Bee Initiative Benefits

High quality forage improves honey bee nutrition by establishing plants that provide pollen and nectar throughout the summer months. USDA has developed cost effective seed mixes to provide better nutrition for honey bees. Better nutrition helps hives during the winter by increasing their honey stores. Offered as a mid-contract management opportunity, the Honey Bee Initiative offers landowners and farmers incentives to reduce the out-of-pocket expense for mid-contract management. Additionally, by establishing good honey bee covers, landowners increase the opportunity to enter agreements with commercial beekeepers to locate hive on their land. Participating in this initiative will promote healthy honey bee colonies and help

Financial Benefits

- \$120 per acre Honey Bee Incentive Payment (BIP) signing incentive
- \$100 per acre for the life of the contract for a 10-year contract
- \$125 per acre cost share payment for the life of the contract for a contract in excess of 10 years

Impact

- Insect pollination is integral to food security -- honey bees support the production of more 130 fruits, vegetables, and crops in North America
- Honey bee pollination supports an estimated \$15 billion worth of agricultural production
- Plants attractive to honey bees also benefit native pollinators, and will attract beneficial insects that are predators of crop pests
- The honey bee cover promote carbon sequestration and soil health
- Conservation covers decrease wind and water erosion, and improve water quality by intercepting sediment and nutrients
- Plants that support honey bees also provide good wildlife habitat, including pheasant, quail, and other game species

For more information, contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency: <http://offices.usda.gov>