

## Insectaries for Pollinators and Farm Biodiversity: An Innovative Pilot Project

This project was a pilot effort to enhance pollinator habitat on seven working farms, including a vineyard, three organic vegetable crop farms, a cattle ranch, an orchard, and one diverse farm with grapes, vegetable crops, and livestock. We worked in close collaboration with EQIP-eligible landowners to develop and implement Farm Pollinator Plans specific to each property with a particular focus on enhancing native bee habitat, while working to improve yields and farm profits. The plans included a variety of measures such as the creation of hedgerows, field borders, nesting structures, appropriate flowering cover crop mixes, contour buffer strips and drift barriers, critical area planting, filter strips, and riparian and farm pond revegetation.



### Partners in Pollinator Conservation:

The project was a collaborative effort led by the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, including participation from Farm Stewards, Partners for Sustainable Pollination, the Xerces Society, the North Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council, and the many landowners and community members who helped to plant nearly 2 acres of pollinator habitat using over 6,100 plants.

### Project Examples:

Plantings were specifically designed to provide nesting habitat and year-round pollen and nectar sources for both native bee species and honeybees, while also supporting other pollinator species such as hummingbirds and bats. Native bees have diverse habitat needs, as many are ground nesters, cavity nesters, or stem borers. This necessitated that plans incorporated species beyond simply flowering plants, including rushes, sedges, or woody species known to house cavity nesters. Plantings also had to consider flower shapes, colors, and bloom times. A list of plant species used in the project can be found [here](#).

### Ways to Participate:

The Gold Ridge RCD is currently seeking additional funding to continue the pollinator program and is soliciting EQIP-eligible landowners for participation in the next round of plantings.

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