UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Office of the Secretary Washington, D.C. 20250

NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK

June 21–27, 2021

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

This week we celebrate pollinators, essential partners to our Nation's food system. Pollinator species, such as birds, bats, bees, and other insects play a vital role in producing more than 100 crops grown in the United States, ensuring Americans have a variety of fruits, vegetables, and nuts to support a healthy diet. These species are critical to the continued economic wellbeing of agricultural producers.

Pollinators are also essential for healthy, biodiverse ecosystems across public and private lands, including agricultural lands and National Forests and grasslands. These lands provide forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational and economic development opportunities for communities across America. The United States Department of Agriculture assists producers in promoting wise conservation stewardship, including protecting and maintaining pollinators and their habitats on working lands and wildlands.

As USDA increases its focus on climate-smart agricultural solutions, a variety of practices to protect pollinators can often be incorporated, such as growing pollinator-attractive flowering trees and plants that also sequester carbon. Pollinator habitats can also be installed on lands alongside renewable energy installations, such as solar panel farms.

In recognition of pollinator species' importance to American food, agriculture, and critical ecosystems, I, Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby recognize June 21–27, 2021, as National Pollinator Week. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in celebrating the vital significance of pollinators and all they do to help feed our Nation and the world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 21st day of June 2021, and the two-hundred forty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

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