



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

NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK

June 21-27, 2009

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By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

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A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** pollinator species such as birds and insects are essential partners of farmers and ranchers in producing much of our food supply, and the maintenance of healthy pollinator populations is critical to the continued economic well-being of agricultural producers; and

**WHEREAS** pollination plays a vital role in the health of our national forests and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational opportunities as well as enhanced economic development opportunities for communities; and

**WHEREAS** pollinator species provide significant environmental benefits that are necessary for maintaining healthy, biodiverse ecosystems, and the United States Department of Agriculture assists producers in promoting wise conservation stewardship, including the protection and maintenance of pollinators and their habitats on working lands and wildlands; and

**WHEREAS** the Department's participation in the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (<http://www.pollinator.org>), a public-private partnership endeavoring to increase pollinator awareness and promote pollinator-friendly practices, is an important example of cooperative conservation; and

**WHEREAS** the Department has managed wildlife habitats and public lands such as national forests and grasslands for decades, and the Department's natural resource managers, with the support of communities and local, State, and tribal governments, work hard on behalf of the American people to administer ecosystems that provide healthy habitats for pollinator species using sound, progressive land conservation and sustainable multiple-use principles;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in recognition of the importance of pollinator species to agriculture and to forest and grassland environments and other ecosystems, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim June 21-27, 2009, as National Pollinator Week. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in celebrating the vital significance of pollinators to agriculture and to public lands as well as the Department's conservation assistance to farmers and ranchers and its management of ecosystems providing valuable pollinator habitats throughout the Nation.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of June 2009, the two-hundred thirty-third year of the Independence of the United States of America.

A handwritten signature of Thomas J. Vilsack in dark ink, written in a cursive style.

THOMAS J. VILSACK  
Secretary