



Helping Our Bees and Beekeepers: Bee Friendly Farming™ Initiative



Lack of available forage is a limiting factor both to bee health and bee populations

To encourage more forage for bees and other pollinators, beekeepers, scientists, and growers are collaborating through PFSP on the new “Bee Friendly Farming™” (BFF) initiative. BFF is open to caring citizens from all walks of life who want to help—including farmers and ranchers, school groups, local governments, nonprofits, businesses and beekeepers—and to all scales of landscapes—including farms, orchards, ranches, gardens, schools, parks and other private and public landscapes.

The BFF Initiative is an important means of raising consumer recognition and support for helping bees by:

- (1) Recognizing those producers who provide bee habitat,**
- (2) Providing cost-share assistance to growers wanting to plant for bees,**
- (3) Encouraging consumers and businesses to purchase farm products and local honey bearing the BFF logo, and**
- (4) Raising awareness about the challenge beekeepers face to properly nourish their bees.**

BFF is an inclusive term that is intended to recognize anyone who supports bees directly or indirectly— farms, ranches, businesses, schools, local governments, nonprofits, gardeners and beekeepers—at all landscape scales, from farms to backyard gardens.

Interested participants can complete the self-certification process in a few minutes online at <http://www.pfspbees.org/selfcert.htm> by answering 10 questions designed to increase awareness and recognize and encourage best management habitat practices for bees.

There is a small annual, tax deductible fee of \$25 to participate. Importantly, 100% of that fee serves a high utility purpose—augmenting cost-share assistance provided to farmers and ranchers through USDA and other programs. The Farm Bill provides cost-share assistance and incentives through programs managed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to help willing farmers and ranchers increase pollinator habitat and forage. Seldom do these programs cover all the costs of installation and management of plantings and practices.



Bee Pasture, Oak Hill Farm, Glenn Ellen, CA
~Photo by Serge Labesque

Partners for Sustainable Pollination (PFSP) is a volunteer-based nonprofit headquartered in Santa Rosa, California that is dedicated to improving the health of honey bees through a collaborative approach involving beekeepers, growers, scientists and land management agencies with a concurrent objective of contributing to restoring native pollinator populations. More information about PFSP is available at <http://www.pfspbees.org>.



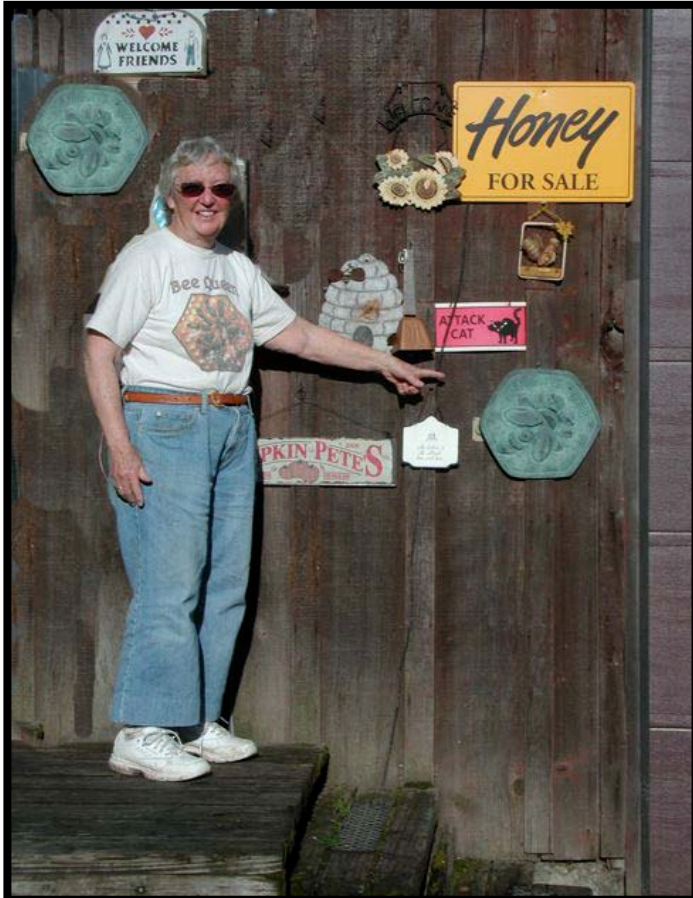
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Bee Friendly Farmer™ Ettamarie Peterson, Peterson's Farm, Petaluma, CA, Proudly Displays Her BFF Plaque
~Photo Provided by Ettamarie Peterson

Bee Friendly Farmer™ Singing Frogs Farm
~ <http://www.singingfrogsfarm.com>



Bee Friendly Farmer™ Mark Griffin, Estate Manager, Napa Valley Reserve, St, Helena, CA, Points to Buckwheat Bee Pasture in Vineyard
~Photo by Serge Labesque

Bee Pasture, Oak Hill Farm, Glenn Ellen, CA
~Photo by Serge Labesque

