



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

NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK

June 20–26, 2016

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS pollinators such as honey bees, native bees, birds, bats, and butterflies contribute substantially to the economy of the United States and are vital to keeping fruits, nuts, and vegetables in our diets; and

WHEREAS pollinator losses over the past few decades require immediate attention to ensure the sustainability of our food production systems, avoid additional economic impact on the agricultural sector, and protect environmental health; and

WHEREAS President Barack Obama has established a Pollinator Health Task Force to create and implement a Federal strategy to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS it is critically important to expand Federal efforts and to take new steps, including development of new public-private partnerships and increased citizen engagement, to encourage the protection of pollinators; increase the quality and amount of pollinator habitat and forage; reverse pollinator losses; and help restore pollinator populations to healthy levels;

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the vital significance of protecting pollinator health, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim June 20–26, 2016, as National Pollinator Week. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in celebrating the significance of pollinators with appropriate observances and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 5th day of April 2016, the two-hundred fortieth year of the Independence of the United States of America.


THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary