Agriculture is dependent on healthy pollinators. They are crucial to natural habitats, critical for successful crop production and pack a mighty punch by helping turn pollen into food. We all have a role to play when it comes to protecting the health and survival of pollinators.

Learn more about why pollinators and beneficial insects matter.

Honey bees must fly around 90,000 miles to make one pound of honey. More than 100,000 different species aid in pollination, including flying foxes, lemurs and geckos. Bee population decline is due to inadequate diets, natural habitat loss, parasites and diseases, loss of genetic diversity, and changes in agricultural practices. Collaboration across the value chain is essential. Our partnership with Project Apis m. increases forage habitat for honey bees during almond pollination season in California.

Bats are responsible for pollinating more than 300 types of fruits. There are 2.7 million honey bee colonies in the U.S. A productive hive can make and store up to 2 pounds each day. Cross-pollination allows for diversity in the species and produces stronger plants, often resulting in increased disease resistance and higher yields. Flowering plants are pollinated through two means: self-pollination and cross-pollination. Specialty crops, including apples, melons and broccoli, rely on cross-pollination from pollinators.

Power of Pollination

1 out of 3 mouthfuls of food and beverages we enjoy is produced through pollination to the value of U.S. agriculture. Pollination by managed honey bee colonies adds at least $15 billion to the bottom line of farmers and the U.S. economy. The supply of many fruits, vegetables and spices would be dramatically impacted if it were not for pollinators. Millions of bees are transported across the U.S. each year to provide pollination service for fruit and vegetable crops.

Tips of the Trade

Be responsible
- Understand the product being used, optimal conditions and best practices.
- Cover treated seed spills, use advanced seed flow lubricants and clean planters in non-sensitive areas.
- Follow storage, use and disposal guidelines.
- Spray away from lower plants, follow buffer zones and drift rules, and properly calibrate equipment.

Communicate with your neighbors
- FieldWatch®, BeeCheck® and DriftWatch® help improve transparency and preserve land.

Reach out to local departments of agriculture or extension offices with any questions.

A World Without Pollinators?

Many crops, including almonds, avocados, broccoli, cherries, cucumbers, melons and squash, rely on pollinators to set fruit and produce a quality product. The variety of these fruits, vegetables and spices would be dramatically impacted if it were not for pollinators.

To learn more about the power of pollinators, visit BeeHealth.org.