



POLLINATOR CONSERVATION PLANNING SHORT COURSE

Chanute, Kansas - July 31, 2018
Lawrence, Kansas - August 1, 2018

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Rush County Conservation District are pleased to announce two upcoming Pollinator Conservation Planning Short Courses in Kansas. These full day trainings will provide you with the latest science-based approaches to reversing the trend of pollinator declines, and will equip you with the recipes necessary to protect and manage habitat for these vital insects.

Introduction:

Pollinators are essential to our environment. The ecological service they provide is necessary for the reproduction of more than 85 percent of the world's flowering plants and is fundamental to agriculture and natural ecosystems. More than two-thirds of the world's crop species are dependent on pollination, with an annual estimated value of \$18 to \$27 billion in the United States alone. Beyond agriculture, pollinators are keystone species in most terrestrial ecosystems, since their activities are ultimately responsible for the seeds and fruits that feed everything from songbirds to black bears. Conservation of pollinating insects is critically important to preserving both wider biodiversity, as well as agriculture.

In many places, however, this essential service is at risk. In 2006, the National Academy of Sciences released the report *Status of Pollinators in North America*, which called attention to the decline of pollinators. The report urged agencies and organizations to increase awareness and protect pollinator habitat. The Pollinator Conservation Planning Short Course was developed to address this need.

Introductory topics include the principles of pollinator biology, the economics of insect pollination, basic bee field identification, and evaluating pollinator habitat. Advanced modules will cover land management practices for pollinator protection, pollinator habitat restoration, incorporating pollinator conservation into federal conservation programs, selection of plants for pollinator enhancement sites, management of natural landscapes, and financial and technical resources to support these efforts. Throughout the short course these training modules are illustrated by case studies of pollinator conservation efforts across the country.

Registrants will receive the book, *Attracting Native Pollinators. Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies*, as well as links to habitat management guidelines and relevant USDA-NRCS and extension publications.

When and Where:

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Lil' Toledo Lodge
 10600 170th Road
 Chanute, KS
 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM CDT

Wednesday, August 1, 2018

Baker Wetlands Discovery Center
 1365 N. 1250 Road
 Lawrence, KS
 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM CDT

Cost:

Registration is \$30 per person due by July 24, 2018. A grant is available to cover registration for producers, apiarists, educators, and conservation district staff.

Lunch:

You may bring a sack lunch or purchase a lunch (\$10) from the Rush County Conservation District. Please indicate your choice when making your registration.

RSVP by July 18

Rush County Conservation District
 Stephanie Royer
 785-222-2615, Ext.101



**United States
 Department of
 Agriculture**

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COURSE AGENDA

- 9:00am** **Welcome**
- 9:10 – 9:45** **Introduction**
- Module 1. Importance of Pollinators**
- Pollination economics
 - Pollination biology
 - Role and value of wild pollinators
- 9:45–10:30** **Module 2. Basic Pollinator Biology and Recognition**
- Understanding bee life cycles
 - Recognizing bees
 - Pollinator habitat needs
 - Monarch butterfly biology
- 10:30–10:45** **Morning Break**
- 10:45–11:30** **Module 3. Pollinator-Friendly Agriculture**
- The value of natural habitat
 - Protecting nesting sites
 - Reducing pesticide risk to pollinators
- 11:30–12:00pm** **Module 4. Pollinator Habitat Assessment**
- Using the Pollinator Habitat Assessment Form and Guide
- 12:00–12:45** **Lunch (Bring a sack lunch or purchase a lunch from the Rush County Conservation District)**
- 12:45–2:00** **Module 5. Field Visit (weather permitting)**
- Using the Pollinator Habitat Assessment Form and Guide in the field
 - Field observation of pollinators and plants, native plant selection, and land use discussion
- 2:00–3:00** **Module 6. Habitat Restoration and Land Management**
- Habitat design considerations and plant selection
 - Site preparation and planting techniques for wildflowers and shrubs
 - Long-term habitat management
 - Examples and case studies
- 3:00–3:15** **Afternoon Break**
- 3:15–3:30** **Module 7. NRCS Technical and Financial Support**
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- 3:30 – 4:00** **Module 8. Additional Resources and Wrap-Up**
- Course Evaluation
 - Hand out books to take home