



Wisconsin Honey Producers Association Supports State Pollinator Protection Package

5/23/2025 - The Wisconsin Honey Producers Association (WHPA) urges the Wisconsin State Legislature to support the Wisconsin Pollinator Protection Package, a set of proposals designed to protect and promote the health of pollinators across the state.

The Wisconsin Pollinator Protection Package, sponsored by Representative Lee Snodgrass (D-Appleton) proposes efforts for improved pollinator habitat inputs and public outreach and education initiatives to include:

- Requiring state agencies and government entities to give preference to use native prairie and forage plants to benefit pollinators.
- Designating June 2025 as Pollinator Awareness Month in Wisconsin.
- Allowing a political subdivision to regulate pesticides for the purpose of protecting pollinators and pollinator habitats.
- Prohibiting people who sell plants from advertising or labeling the plants as good for pollinators if they are treated with certain insecticides.
- Establishing a “Protect Pollinators” license plate program, similar to other conservation-focused license plate programs.
- Prohibiting the DNR from using any insecticide from the neonicotinoid class near any pollinator habitat located on DNR-maintained land.
- Designating Rusty Patched Bumble Bee as the state native insect and requiring the Wisconsin Blue Book to include information concerning that designation.

Pollinators, including honey bees, native bees, butterflies, and other insects, are essential to Wisconsin agriculture, food security, and ecological health. More than one-third of the food we eat depends on honeybee pollination, and in Wisconsin, crops like cranberries, apples, cucumbers, and berries rely heavily on managed pollinator services from commercial beekeepers.

“Healthy honey bees are vital to Wisconsin’s agriculture and food economy for pollination services and honey production,” said Tracy Malterer, president of the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association. “This legislation represents a step forward in protecting all pollinators, including honey bees, from ongoing threats such as pesticide exposure, habitat loss, and disease.”

WHPA supports measures that strengthen pollinator populations and promote long-term sustainability. As a voice for Wisconsin beekeepers, WHPA supports legislation that prioritizes clean forage for honey bees and calls upon Wisconsin legislators to co-sponsor and pass the Wisconsin Pollinator Protection Package.

For more information on the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association, visit wihoney.org.



wihoney.org



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