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

NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK
June 17–23, 2013

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS pollinator species such as birds and insects are essential partners of farmers and ranchers in producing much of our food supply, and healthy pollinator populations are critical to the continued economic well-being of agricultural producers; and

WHEREAS pollination plays a vital role in the health of our National Forests and Grasslands, which provide forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational and economic development opportunities for communities; and

WHEREAS pollinator species provide significant environmental benefits necessary for healthy, biodiverse ecosystems, and the United States Department of Agriculture assists producers in promoting wise conservation stewardship, including the protection and maintenance of pollinators and their habitats on working lands and wildlands; and

WHEREAS the Department's participation in the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (http://www.pollinator.org), a public-private partnership, is an important example of cooperative conservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of pollinator species' importance to agriculture and to forest and grassland environments and other ecosystems, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim June 17–23, 2013, as National Pollinator Week. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in celebrating the vital significance of pollinators with appropriate observances and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of March 2013, the two-hundred thirty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary