**Dakota Farm Talk on National Pollinator Week**

**Pam Geppert**

Pollinators affect all our lives, supporting wildlife, the environment, and our food supply. In fact, between 75 and 95 percent of all flowering plants need help with pollination. During National Pollinator Week, June 20th through the 26th, the Natural Resources Conservation Service would like everyone to do their part for pollinators. Pheasants Forever Monarch and Pollinating Wildlife Biologist Katherine Belle explains pollinators include more than just honeybees.

**Katherine Belle**

Native pollinators can range from hummingbirds to butterflies to bats. So, it's really a wide variety of species that are actually pollinators all across the world.

**Pam Geppert**

Belle states pollinators help plants produce fruit and seeds. They also support a healthy ecosystem that aids in stabilizing soil, cleaning the air, and boosting farm productivity.

**Katherine Belle**

If the environment around your cropland is unhealthy, your crops aren't going to produce as much as they could with a healthy ecosystem around them.

**Pam Geppert**

Pollinators are the tip of a very large food web that includes many plants and animals, including people. Land landowners are encouraged to plant native vegetation with flowering plants to enhance pollinator populations. Bell says this habitat can also benefit upland birds, such as pheasants.

**Katherine Belle**

When we make a broodmare for pheasants, they put in a lot of those flowering plants because it brings in those insects which are vital for those chicks to grow up healthy and strong.

**Pam Geppert**

Numerous groups, such as the NRCS, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited and others encourage pollinator plantings through cost share and technical assistance programs. To learn more on pollinator habitat, contact the NRCS at any USDA service center. I'm Pam Geppert, reporting for the Natural Resources Conservation Service helping people Help the land.