

## **You are cordially invited to a CRP and Ecosystem Services Webinar**

The Webinar will be held Thursday February 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm Eastern time. Dr. Victoria Wojcik of Pollinator Partnership will be presenting “**Measuring and Assessing Pollinator Dynamics and Benefits in CRP Systems**”.

To join the meeting: <http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/pollinators/>

The phone call connection is provided for those of you who **do not have a microphone with their computer**. **If you use this connection please turn off your computer microphone** or you will produce feedback that disrupts the webinar. The call-in number is 888-858-2144 and access code is 1174195

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers the 27.1 million acre Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a program that improves enhances wildlife populations, water quality, sequesters carbon, reduces erosion, and provides other environmental benefits. The CRP does this by working with producers and landowners to identify and protect fragile croplands by placing them into conserving covers. FSA’s Economic and Policy Analysis Staff (EPAS) has established a Monitoring, Assessment, and Evaluation project to quantify and document the multiple benefits generated when lands are placed into the CRP, and to identify successful innovative practices.

EPAS, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and our partners are collaborating to present a series of webinars. The series will highlight the monitoring and assessment activities of FSA and how partnerships within and outside USDA are working together to fill critical gaps and develop tools to better inform policy and management decisions. You are cordially invited to the webinar, ***Measuring and Assessing Pollinator Dynamics and Benefits in CRP Systems***, which will be presented by Pollinator Partnership Scientist, Dr. Victoria Wojcik, on February 28, 2013 at 2:00 PM (Eastern Time). Pollinators play an important role in our lives providing pollination services essential for food production and ecological health. The CRP has

adopted practices that are designed to benefit pollinators and this study along with others studies being conducted will therefore provide key information to drive conservation and policy decisions.

New pollinator conservation provisions in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), resulting from 2008 Farm Bill additions, aim to increase populations of native bees and the ecosystem services they provide. With pollinators supporting the reproduction of over 75% of flowering plants and over 80% of commodity crops, their promotion in conservation and working landscapes is paramount. Participation in conservation programs is often determined by balancing the economic benefits of growing commodity crops with the environmental benefits and incentives available from participating in conservation programs. Shifts in commodity prices can effect CRP reenrollment and impact conservation goals. The Pollinator Partnership is working with FSA and NRCS to evaluate both the ecological and economic benefits of current pollinator conservation programs and CRP-pollinator landscapes. The goal of this work is to measure the outputs of these systems and to develop metrics for assessing the true value of targeted seeding programs.

The monthly webinars are designed to present the results of the projects that identify and quantify the environmental services generated by CRP. The webinars provide conservationists, decision makers, scientists, and policy analysts with the opportunity to review preliminary results and talk with the scientists conducting the monitoring and assessments. EPAS's goal is to engage in an open dialogue on how to measure benefits from the CRP and to better administer the program.