SYNGENTA & SAND COUNTY FOUNDATION: PROTECTING POLLINATOR POPULATIONS

What species comes to mind when you hear the word "pollinator"? While you may immediately think of honey bees, they're only one part of the big picture. In fact, more than 100,000 different species aid in pollination, including bats, beetles, lemurs and geckos.

Agriculture is dependent on pollinators for successful crop production. They are also essential to maintain natural habitats and plant biodiversity. However, pollinator populations continue to face challenges due to a combination of factors: habitat loss and fragmentation, non-sustainable practices, environmental pollution and lack of genetic diversity.

The partnership between Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC ("Syngenta") and Sand County Foundation emerged from a shared commitment to spread awareness of the importance of pollinators and to help safeguard populations.

For over fifty years, Sand County Foundation has worked with private landowners, organizations and communities to support the conservation of land, water and wildlife. With a goal of inspiring future agriculture leaders, the organization encourages conservation education through hands-on native habitat plantings for insect pollinators on rural lands.

Through Sand County Foundation's competitive Pollinator Habitat Grant Program, agriculture and science teachers can apply for grants and partner with local landowners to create or enhance habitat for pollinators. Selected schools receive native wildflower seed and seedlings, a training webinar and consultation and a $1,000 grant for the school district or FFA chapter for project expenses.

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Since the grant program was launched in the fall of 2017, **103 high schools** have been awarded across:

MINNESOTA IOWA WISCONSIN MICHIGAN ILLINOIS TEXAS

ENGAGING
11,000
STUDENTS

TO PLANT OVER
64,000
WILDFLOWER PLUGS

Thanks to the support of sponsors like Syngenta

"Syngenta's repeated and growing financial support over the past four years has helped Sand County Foundation continue our program in three states and expand the program into two new states in 2022. We aspire to grow the program further in the future to include additional states in the Midwest and beyond."

Craig Ficenec
Sand County Foundation program director

In 2022, Sand County Foundation surveyed students who had recently completed projects supported by the pollinator habitat grant program. **Over 95% of 115 surveyed students** reported that the experience raised their awareness of how important pollinators are to the health of our agricultural system and ecosystem.

SAND COUNTY FOUNDATION

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