Pollinators on the Farm

Thank a pollinator today!

Pollinators are crucial to our world. Without them, 85% of all flowering plants, including food crops, trees, and shrubs, would not be able to reproduce. Pollinators make this happen by fertilizing a plant's seeds with pollen from another flower of the same plant species. These plants, and even the pollinators themselves, provide food for birds, fish, and other wildlife!

Honeybees were brought from Europe to pollinate our food crops, and of course, make honey! One hive can have thousands of bees - the daughters and sisters of the queen!

Bumble bees are the only bee that uses 'buzz pollination' to release pollen from a flower's anthers. They are excellent pollinators of tomatoes, peppers, and many native plants.

Hoverflies are excellent pollinators, the best after bees! With the added bonus that their tiny larvae consume lots of aphids, they are favorites of farmers!

Long horned Bees, just one of Oregon's 500+ native bee species, emerge as adults in summer. Named for their long antennae, they specialize in pollinating sunflowers and native wildflowers.

Wasps visit flowers for nectar, a carbohydrate, but instead of pollen for protein, they eat other insects and their larvae. Wasps - even yellow jackets! - are important for a balanced ecosystem on a farm.

Beetles are one of the oldest pollinators - they were around when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. They rely on their sense of smell and enjoy spicy, sweet, musky, or fermented scents like overripe fruit.

Hummingbirds are generally not pollinators of food crops, but we need them to pollinate flowers! And they eat LOTS of tiny insects, even mosquitoes! *photo by Gary Mark Roberts*

Butterflies prefer flowers shaped like large landing pads, although some, like this swallow tail butterfly, can nectar in rapid flight like hummingbirds. *Remember-- grow milkweed for monarchs!*

Complete the Pollinator Scavenger Hunt, post it to Facebook, and enter for a chancer to win a Gift Basket!

Pollinator Scavenger Hunt

On your visit today, keep an eye out for the hardworking pollinators! They are busy--just like the farmer! Keep track of the ones you see and at which farm!

From honey bees to beetles, insects help farmers' grow our food-- apples, cucumbers, carrots, tomatoes, blueberries, and more. Some even provide pest services, eating aphids and other unwanted insects. Farmers help pollinators by not using pesticides and creating places for them to live year round.

Write the names of the farms you visit in the top row and mark the box of the pollinators you see

	Farm #1	Farm #2	Farm #3	Farm #4
Honey Bee				
Hoverfly				
Wasp				
Hummingbird				
Bumble Bee				
Long Horned Bee				
Beetle				
Butterfly				
Other				

Ask the Farmer:
"What are you doing to help pollinators?"

Farm #1

Farm #2

Farm #3

Farm #4

In 2014 a citizen initiative vote banned the cultivation of GMO crops in Jackson County. Did you know that you live in a GMO Free Seed Sanctuary?

Yes   No

Learn more at www.OurFamilyFarms.org

Bee a Pollinator Protector
Plant a Pollinator-friendly garden
Use native plants
Minimize the use of pesticides
Provide a water source
Build a bee house
Leave your leaves
Spread the word

Enter For a Chance to Win
The Rogue Valley Farm Tour Gift Basket!

- Visit 4 farms on the tour and complete the Pollinator Scavenger Hunt
- Enter by completing the sheet, taking a photo of this page and tagging #ROGUEVALLEYFARMTOUR and #OurFamilyFarms
- Post to Facebook by Monday, July 19 to be entered in the drawing

For more details see the Rogue Valley Farm Tour Facebook page

Pollinator Project Rogue Valley
www.pollinatorprojectroguevalley.org
Provided pollinator info and photos

Rogue Valley FARM TOUR
https://www.roguevalleyfarmtour.com/
Facebook: @RogueValleyFarmTour
Instagram: @roguevalleyfarmtour

Our Family Farms
www.OurFamilyFarms.org