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## Happy Earth Week from Bee Better Certified

**Thank you to all the Bee Better growers, farm workers, brands, and shoppers for your continued commitment to pollinator conservation**



### **NRCS On-Farm Trials Underway: Helping Bee Better Farmers Communicate Their Regenerative Impact**

Authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill, the [On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials](#) (OFT) program was set up to support more widespread adoption of innovative approaches, practices and systems on working lands.

After being awarded a 5 year, \$2.1 million OFT grant late in 2021, the Bee Better Certified team is launching a new phase to demonstrate the multifaceted benefits of our innovative program.

The grant will accelerate real world monitoring of Bee Better Certified farms to quantify

changes to key metrics, such as soil carbon sequestration, water holding capacity of soils, and farm biodiversity.

Using novel technology such as soil carbon mapping, this project will help participating farms further tell the story of their own regenerative ag systems, providing clear talking points for consumers and brands that are sourcing certified ingredients.

## Literature Review

There is a growing body of evidence demonstrating the clear and much needed benefits of regenerative agriculture practices, from climate resilience to biodiversity conservation.

Bee Better Certified™ was developed as the only third-party verified eco-label that certifies pollinator conservation on farms as a verifiable way for growers and brands to demonstrate their commitment to regenerative agriculture and biodiversity on the ground.

### **Early season vegetative cover for reducing pest density and damage**

Rowen et. al (2021) studied corn-soy-corn and soy-corn-soy rotations at a PSU research farm over three years, and found that early season vegetative cover (both from cover crops and crop vegetation) was the most effective strategy for reducing pest density and damage in corn and soy rotations.

Seed treatments reduced some early plant damage, but had no impacts on crop yields and were ineffective against grubs or slugs. The no-seed treatment IPM blocks received one at-planting application of a pyrethroid insecticide for beetle grubs over the three years of the experiment, which did not effectively control the grubs, disrupted predator activity, and had no yield benefit.

**The authors concluded that the best management strategy for this crop rotation is encouraging biological control by planting cover crops and avoiding broad spectrum insecticides wherever possible--practices that are core to the Bee Better Certified approach!**

[Click here to read the full paper.](#)

## New Bee Better Certified Website

We're pleased to share with you that our [new website](#) is now live!

The new site includes new pages such as the habitat cost estimator, a login portal for certifying

 [beebettercertified.org](http://beebettercertified.org) » bee-better-certified

[Home](#) » [Bee Better Certified™](#)

Oct 5, 2021 - Bee Better Certified partners with innovative farmers and food companies to protect bees and other pollinators in agricultural lands. The Bee Better ...



bodies, as well as an updated theme and navigation menu to better direct site visitors.

For more information on Bee Better Certified visit [beebettercertified.org](http://beebettercertified.org) or contact us directly:

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