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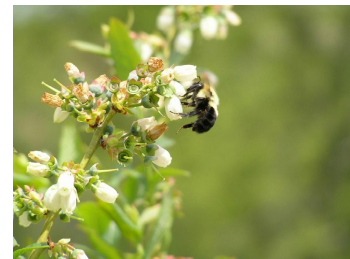


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Blueberries put the buzz back on farms this summer

With strong growth in the blueberry category Bee Better Certified looks forward to another spring and summer full of certified blueberries.



Fresh Bee Better Certified blueberries can be purchased nationally from our fantastic partners at [California Giant Berry Farms](#), [Homegrown Organic Farms](#), [Rainier Fruit](#) and [Eisele Farms](#). This spring we are also excited to add a new label, [Betterful Blueberries](#).

To stay current with this fast paced industry Bee Better Certified recently became members of the US Highbush Blueberry Council and attended their annual spring conference in San Diego, CA. The event was well attended with over 400 industry professionals.

We look forward to growing our partnership with the industry and making more blueberry farms better for bees.

Conservation Resources Wins Global Impact Fund Manager of the Year from Agri Investor Awards

Conservation Resources, an impact investment manager, was awarded Global Impact Fund Manager of the Year, Global Farmland Deal of the Year, and Americas Farmland Deal of the Year for its efforts in 2022. The Exeter, NH-based group won the farmland awards for its Moxee Valley Orchards in Moxee, WA.

Conservation Resources connected with the Xerces Society in the fall of 2022 to participate in on-farm pollinator habitat opportunities through Xerces' General Mills partnership.

Xerces Pollinator Habitat Specialist Angie Orpet teamed up with Shea Flanagan, Director of Sustainability & Strategy, and Dr. Jed Waddell, Director of Agriculture Operations, of Conservation Resources along with North Yakima Conservation District and Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to develop a plan to make Moxee Valley Orchards more pollinator and wildlife friendly.

Once the planned habitat is installed, the organic apple orchard intends to pursue Bee Better Certification. Conservation Resources plans to expand their impact in the area with future acquisitions incorporating similar habitat work.

About the land: The orchard owners and managers are excited to rehabilitate over 60 acres currently full of cheatgrass and other invasive species, planting the land back into native blooming forbs and grasses that will provide habitat and nesting resources for pollinators and other wildlife. They will also have multiple blooming hedgerows within the orchards.

The valley in which they are located has evidence of extensive fire disturbance with very little native shrub steppe remaining, and it is exciting for all parties involved to see the landscape back on the pathway to supporting invertebrates.

[Click here](#) to read the awards announcement in Business Wire.

Article Highlight: Agricultural margins could enhance landscape connectivity for pollinating insects across the Central Valley of California, U.S.A.

A [recent study](#) published in the journal PLOS ONE finds that planting the margins of agricultural fields with pollinator-friendly plants and minimizing pesticide use in the Central Valley of California could better help pollinators survive in this agricultural landscape.

Beyond allowing pollinators to move across farms, restored and enhanced field borders can also provide substantial areas of habitat. The study found that over 1 million acres of habitat could be added to the Central Valley by restoring drainage ditches, field edges and uncultivated borders.

Farmers who plant hedgerows at their field edges will see more benefits than just returning pollinators. This habitat can also attract insects that are beneficial for pest control, provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, and minimize soil erosion. Additionally, USDA offers cost share conservation programs that allow for a quicker

return on investment for a hedgerow or other type of habitat planting.

Bee Better Certified is well positioned to help achieve this goal across California and beyond, with a minimum of 1% of crop acreage maintained as permanent habitat--often a hedgerow--on certified farms.

[Click here](#) for access to the full article.

For more information on Bee Better Certified
visit beebettercertified.org
or contact us directly:

Cameron Newell
Bee Better Certified Program Coordinator
cameron.newell@xerces.org

Eric Lee-Mäder
Pollinator and Agricultural Biodiversity Program, Co-Director
eric.mader@xerces.org

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