



*Aerial view of a Bee Better Certified hedgerow supporting an apiary and almond crop in California's Central Valley.  
Xerces Society / Cameron Newell*



## Rainier Fruit Is Now Bee Better Certified

One of the Pacific Northwest's premium fruit growers received its official Bee Better certificate just this week!

Rainier Fruit growers have planted nearly 150-acres of pollinator habitat over the last three years. We are inspired by their efforts to support the pollinators, beneficial insects, and wildlife that are vital to the health of our agricultural systems and the ecological communities.

[Click here](#) to read more about their journey to get certified, and [visit their website](#) to learn more about their company.

## Homegrown Organic Farms Joins the Bee Better Movement

A new crop of Bee Better Certified blueberries will



be in stores soon!

We couldn't be more excited to welcome [Homegrown Organic Farms](#) to the Bee Better Certified family. Homegrown Organic Farms has been exclusively growing and marketing certified organic produce since 1998, and their farmers' commitment to sustainable farming paved the way to the implementation of Bee Better Certified practices on West Coast blueberry farms.

[Visit their website](#) to learn more about their mission.

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## Bee Better Farm Profile: Vilicus Farms - Havre, Montana

A premium grower of organic/Bee Better Certified specialty grains, pulses, and oilseed crops.

Anna Jones-Crabtree and Doug Crabtree, owner-operators of Vilicus Farms in Montana, decided early on that they wanted to work with the vast, dry landscape of the Northern Plains rather than against it -- ideally recreating part of the original prairie ecosystem that once existed. Almost a decade into the effort, the result is a staggering 26% of their farm in non-crop areas set aside to serve the creatures and natural processes that the farm relies on to keep it resilient in the face of change.

[Read our full blog](#) to learn more about this Bee Better Certified farm.



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## Staff Profile: Welcome, Anna Murray!

Anna recently joined our team as the Pollinator Habitat Specialist for the food industry supply chain in the western US, supporting the Bee Better Certified program and providing technical consultation to farmers establishing pollinator

habitat.

Anna's background in restoration ecology includes projects in scrub, grassland, Redwood, riparian, dune and wetland communities. She has also managed native plant nurseries and botanical research projects in the mountains of North Carolina and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. She has a ton of work experience in data science and management, agricultural remote sensing technologies, and community education.

Anna is an AmeriCorps VSE alumna and received a master's of science in horticulture and agronomy from University of California, Davis, where she studied agroecology and nitrogen use in rice.



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

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