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Bee Better Blog Posts, Spotlight on Vino Farms, Welcome to Riverwood Farm, Notes from the Field

Bee Better Certified News

Retailers continue to recognize Bee Better Certified as a leading certification for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. In a recent Xerces blog, Cameron Newell and Eric Lee-Mäder take a deeper look at Kroger's commitment to advance biodiversity and pollinator protections in their supply chains. Learn more about how the Bee Better standards meet Kroger's requirements for IPM-based pest management in the full blog post [here](#).

In an interview celebrating Pollinator Week, pollinator habitat specialist Angie Orpet was interviewed about her important work designing and installing pollinator hedgerows, a common and highly functional practice for Bee Better Certified farms. Angie shares her passion for habitat and her commitment to supporting our agricultural partners doing the work to support pollinators. Read the full interview [here](#).

Certification Spotlight - Vino Farms, LLC

Vino Farms is a vineyard management company dedicated to sustainable wine grape farming in Lodi, California. By practicing organic and regenerative farming, Vino Farms

contributes to the conservation of native pollinators by creating habitats where pollinators can thrive and managing pests using an Integrated Pest Management approach. In recognition of their strong commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable farming, VINO Farms was awarded the 2024 Business Green Medal Award.

A key aspect of VINO Farms' environmental stewardship is the planting of native plants across their properties, which they have been doing for nearly a decade. In 2019, VINO Farms received Bee Better Certification by eliminating their use of the most toxic systemic pesticides and restoring 35 acres of native habitat, creating high quality habitat for beneficial insects, wildlife, and pollinators. Native plant species were carefully selected with the help of a biologist to ensure pollinators and butterflies have food and shelter year-round. The farm plans to expand their habitat acreage by adding hedgerows between vineyards in the coming year with the help of Xerces' pollinator habitat specialists and the [CDFA Pollinator Habitat Program](#).



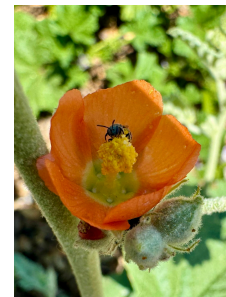
Welcome Riverwood Farm!

We are excited to announce that Riverwood Farm, managed by Farmland LP, has achieved Bee Better Certification! Located in Oregon's fertile Willamette Valley, Riverwood Farm grows high-value crops that have strong market demand, including wine grapes, organic blueberries, and hazelnuts. We are proud that Farmland LP has chosen Bee Better Certified to demonstrate their commitment to regenerative agriculture, prioritizing long-term sustainability by creating and maintaining habitats for bees and other pollinators.



Notes from the Field

Well it's summer and in the Western U.S. that means warmer temperatures, rains are slowing down, and monitoring season! Pollinator Habitat Specialist Bernardo Niño has been out in the field, crisscrossing California, Oregon, and Washington. His boots have been busy checking on several first-year pollinator habitats, funded under the National CIG On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (On-Farm Trials) [awarded](#) to Xerces Society in 2021. These habitats are an exciting step in advancing our understanding of how pollinator conservation contributes to climate-smart agriculture.



A happy leaf cutter bee

The CIG On-Farm Trials in California, Oregon, Washington, Montana and Maine aren't just about planting flowers for bees. It's a comprehensive program that supports farms across the country by establishing native habitats that are specifically designed to attract and sustain a variety of critical pollinators and beneficial insects in the face of a changing climate and extreme weather events. The grant also helps participating farms collect valuable data on soil health, carbon sequestration, water

holding capacity, and long-term changes in biodiversity within their agricultural operations.

This data collection is crucial, because it allows farmers and conservation practitioners to evaluate whether Bee Better Certified practices like pollinator habitat plantings can help achieve multiple sustainability goals including carbon and climate smart farming. By participating in this program, the farms, which include a wide range of crops, such as almonds, blueberries, tomatoes, sunflowers, pears, alfalfa, and many others, are ensuring a healthy future for our food system, our environment, and the essential pollinators that keep it all humming along.



Pollinator Habitat Specialist Bernardo Niño does on-farm monitoring.



Sphaeralcea ambigua thriving in a pollinator hedgerow.

Upcoming events

July 10-11, 2024

[Organic Produce Summit](#)
Monterey, CA



Bee Better Certified staff will be attending the event and walking the tradeshow floor later this week. Send us an [email](#) if you would like to connect!

Follow us on social media!

We recently rebooted our social media accounts, namely our [Instagram](#) page and [LinkedIn](#) - make sure to give us a follow to stay in the loop on all things Bee Better Certified!

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Learn more:

beebettercertified.org





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