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New Staff, Vilicus Farms, Welcome to Royal Ridge Farms, Notes from the Field, Blueberry Summit

Welcome to Jenae McCarthy!



Jenae McCarthy has joined the [Living Farms Project](#) team as the new Pollinator Habitat Specialist in California! Jenae was raised in Fresno, CA where she now works with farmers and growers to create pollinator habitat to promote native species and beneficial insects. Jenae previously worked as a project manager with a non-profit land trust to implement impactful restoration projects along the San Joaquin River. She also has experience managing invasive species, working with landowners to protect vital agricultural land, and engaging volunteers. Jenae has a special fondness for reptiles and amphibians, developed during her graduate degree program where she studied rattlesnakes in the Mojave National Preserve.

Jenae is available to work with farmers in California and in the General Mills supply sheds who want to increase biodiversity on their farms and get Bee Better Certified. Through our [CDFA Pollinator Habitat Program grant](#) and General Mills' commitment to regenerative pollinator

habitat, Jenae is ready to dig in with almond, berry, citrus, vegetable growers and more in the San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast of California.

Bee Better Certified Farm Vilicus Farms Featured on Xerces Blog

Our work with Bee Better Certified farm [Vilicus Farms](#) was recently highlighted on the [Xerces blog](#). Pollinator Conservation Specialist Angie Orpet talks about the planting of a double hedgerow which both served as flowering native plants for pollinators and as a way to catch snow drifts in winter, trapping moisture for adjacent crops in the coming year. Read the full blog [here](#). You can discover more about Xerces and Vilicus' collaboration in our [interactive story & map](#) of conservation projects.



Welcome Royal Ridge Farms!

Congrats to Royal Ridge Farms for recently achieving Bee Better Certification! Royal Ridge Farms grows blueberries, sweet cherries, apples and hazelnuts on their farm in Othello, Washington. Welcome Royal Ridge Farms!



Northwest Pollinator Habitat Specialist Angie Orpet visits Royal Ridge Farms

Notes from the Field: Moxee Valley Orchards is Buzzing

The hard work of producers planting and maintaining habitat is paying off. Northwest Pollinator Habitat Specialist Angie Orpet visited [Conservation Resources'](#) Moxee Valley Orchards in Central WA this summer to count and categorize the pollinators and beneficial insects in two wide strips of flowers, shrubs, and grasses between rows of organic apples. She found the plants were humming with activity from large bumblebees and chap-legged bees to tiny predators like parasitic wasps and minute pirate bugs. These strips were planted Spring 2023, seeded in Fall 2023, and enthusiastically discovered by invertebrates in summer 2024. Moxee Valley Orchards plans to plant more of these pollinator and beneficial insect havens on



their property while working towards Bee Better Certification. Great work Moxee Valley Orchards!

A leafcutter bee a.k.a. jelly-belly bee collecting pollen and nectar on the hairs of her belly.



This strip may look ordinary until you get closer and hear and see that it is full of pollinators!

The green lacewing is an orchard beneficial insect.



Gossamer-winged butterfly (*Lycaenidae*).

Upcoming events

September 25-27, 2024
[Blueberry Summit](#)
Denver, Colorado

Bee Better Certified will be exhibiting at the upcoming [Blueberry Summit](#). Drop us a [line](#) if you would like to connect at the event or stop by our booth to say hello!



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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