

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

**NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK**  
June 17–23, 2013

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** pollinator species such as birds and insects are essential partners of farmers and ranchers in producing much of our food supply, and healthy pollinator populations are critical to the continued economic well-being of agricultural producers; and

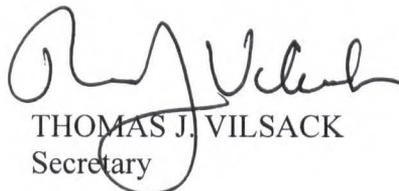
**WHEREAS** pollination plays a vital role in the health of our National Forests and Grasslands, which provide forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational and economic development opportunities for communities; and

**WHEREAS** pollinator species provide significant environmental benefits necessary for healthy, biodiverse ecosystems, and the United States Department of Agriculture assists producers in promoting wise conservation stewardship, including the protection and maintenance of pollinators and their habitats on working lands and wildlands; and

**WHEREAS** the Department's participation in the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (<http://www.pollinator.org>), a public-private partnership, is an important example of cooperative conservation;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in recognition of pollinator species' importance to agriculture and to forest and grassland environments and other ecosystems, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim June 17–23, 2013, as National Pollinator Week. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in celebrating the vital significance of pollinators with appropriate observances and activities.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of March 2013, the two-hundred thirty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

  
THOMAS J. VILSACK  
Secretary