

## Costs and Licensing

- Fees apply to farm-level certification. Contact an accredited certification body for a quote.
- Farmers can use the Bee Better Certified Program Mark on farm promotional materials, including online media.
- On-pack use of the seal requires an independent licensing application and agreement.

## Cost-Share Options

Farmers may access cost-share funding to assist with habitat installation and maintenance, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, and Conservation Reserve Program, as well as state funding, such as California Healthy Soils.

The habitat we've created is **integral to our entire farming system**. . . . It buffers against wind and water erosion, provides snow catch, serves as wildlife corridors and bird nesting habitat, provides **native plants** a space on our landscape, supports other beneficial insects, and . . . enables some of **our 4,000 native pollinator species to have places to thrive!**

—Anna Jones-Crabtree, Vilicus Farms

## For More Information

Access the full Bee Better Certified Production Standards, plan template, application, and other resources at [beebettercertified.org/docs](http://beebettercertified.org/docs).

## Consultation Services

Xerces can help farmers develop a Bee Better Certified plan, advise on pesticide practices, and provide step-by-step guidance on habitat creation. For more information, contact [consulting@beebettercertified.org](mailto:consulting@beebettercertified.org) or visit [beebettercertified.org/consultation-services](http://beebettercertified.org/consultation-services).

## Contact Us

(503) 232-6639 [info@beebettercertified.org](mailto:info@beebettercertified.org)



# A Farmer's Guide

Bee Better Certified™ is the gold standard of pollinator-focused farm certification programs. Developed by the Xerces Society, the world's largest science-based pollinator conservation organization, Bee Better Certified builds upon nearly two decades of on-farm habitat research and development.

Certification is available to all producers of fruit, vegetable, and commodity crops. Once certified, products can display the Bee Better Certified seal, providing premium accreditation for their work to support pollinator conservation.

# Not Just Another Certification

Bee Better Certified sets the bar for production practices that are **proven to benefit bees and other wildlife**, such as habitat creation and pesticide mitigation. Certification can help growers find value during the organic transitional period by displaying their **commitment to sustainability**. Moreover, the seal may help producers meet the USDA National Organic Program's natural resources conservation requirements, generate consumer goodwill, and **improve pollination, produce quality, and yield**.

The support of the whole Bee Better team has been **instrumental** in helping us solidify the **regenerative mindset** we expect of all our farm teams.

—Wood Turner, *Agriculture Capital*

## Key Requirements for Certification

### Habitat

- Designate at least 5% of certified acreage as flowering pollinator habitat.
- When the minimum acreage is designated as of flowering pollinator habitat, ensure that at least 1% of certified acreage is permanent and consists mostly of native plants.
- In permanent habitat, maintain abundant blooms of at least three species through spring, summer, and fall.
- Implement standard operating procedures to reduce tillage impact on ground-nesting bees.

### Pesticides

- Protect permanent habitat from exposure to pesticides through spatial or vegetative buffers.
- Do not apply pesticides classified as toxic (level I) to pollinators by the University of California Integrated Pest Management Program Bee Precaution tool while temporary habitat or crops are in bloom.
- Provide records of pesticide use and scouting and monitoring for pests and diseases.
- Implement and document preventative management strategies and practices not based on pesticides.
- Do not use nitroguanidine neonicotinoids, including imidacloprid, dinotefuran, clothianidin, and thiamethoxam.

## Certification Process

1. Complete the farm-specific Bee Better Certified Plan (BBCP)—available at [beebettercertified.org](http://beebettercertified.org)—and compile supporting documentation to demonstrate compliance.
2. Submit your BBCP, required records, and application form to an accredited certifier.
3. Certifier will contact you to follow up and schedule an on-site inspection.
4. Certifier will perform an on-site inspection.
5. Certifier will issue a certification decision based on the farm inspection and review of your BBCP and supporting documentation. Bee Better Certification is valid for three years.

