



[Partners for Sustainable Pollination](#)

PFSP Newsletter-Fall 2009

(1) Bee Friendly Farming (BFF) NOW LIVE!



The “Bee Friendly Farming” initiative is an important means of raising consumer recognition and increasing support for helping bees by (1) encouraging plantings for honey bees and all pollinators, (2) recognizing those who provide bee habitat, (3) encouraging consumers to thank Bee Friendly Farmers by purchasing farm products and local honey bearing the “Bee Friendly Farmer” logo, and (4) helping growers increase plantings for bees through cost-share assistance funded through the annual BFF certification fees.

“Bee Friendly Farmer” is an inclusive term that is intended to recognize Bee Friendly anyone who supports bees directly or indirectly—farms, ranches, businesses, schools, local governments, nonprofits, gardeners and beekeepers.

Annual certification fees are deposited in a special fund that will be used to provide cost-share assistance to growers planting additional forage for honey bees and other pollinators. Displaying the Bee Friendly Farmer logo helps spread the word that our bees need plenty of year round sources of pollen and nectar to stay healthy.

- Go to <http://pfsdbees.org/selfcert.htm> to access on line self-certification.
- **BEEcome a Bee Friendly Farmer yourself!** There’s an annual, tax-deductible certification fee of \$25, which will be used to help fund cost-share assistance to growers to plant additional bee forage.
- We plan to feature pictures from certified participants who want to send us their BFF examples.

(2) PFSP Bee Friendly Plaque Accepted at UC-Davis Häagen Dazs Bee Haven Farm Garden Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

A proud moment for PFSP and our important mission occurred when our first 'Bee Friendly Farming' plaque was accepted at a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 16 by Lynn Kimsey for display in the new Häagen Dazs Bee Haven Farm Garden. Kimsey is vice chair of entomology at UC Davis, and a driving force behind the creation of the 'Bee Haven Garden.' We all owe a huge thanks to PFSP volunteer Tom Anderson, pictured holding the BFF plaque he created for our cause.



This garden project was funded by Häagen Dazs and Wells Fargo Banking Company and will be a lasting example to help educate the public about the important benefits of incorporating diverse plants in all landscapes. How perfect that the UC-Davis Bee Haven Garden is the home of the first 'Bee Friendly Farming Plaque!' Go to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/pho-tog/sets/72157622632429006> to view flickr site containing photos taken at the event by Kathy Garvey, UC-Davis.

(3) Grower Workshops



Your executive director was busy this summer and fall, preparing for and participating in two Grower Workshops. These grower workshops are a partnership effort with North Coast Regional Development Council. A special thanks goes to Phil Giles who coordinates their activities!

Our first workshop held at Kunde Wine Caves could not have happened without the enthusiastic support of Tish Ward, Vineyard Manager for Atwood Vineyards. I was joined by Dr. Bob Bugg, UC-Davis Sustainable Agriculture

Specialist, who presented on the many outstanding benefits of hedgerow management and suitability to vineyard landscapes.

Sotoyome RCD and organizer Trisha Meisler are to thank for a second grower workshop held recently at Shone Farm near Healdsburg. The workshop was co-sponsored by Community Alliance of Family Farmers (CAFF). There I was joined by Rose Roberts who is director of Farm Stewards. Rose is an amazing resource in regards to knowing what plants are most compatible to every farm environment, and PFSP looks forward to continued future collaboration!

(4) PFSP Advocacy Update

PFSP has continued to weigh in on implementation of the 2008 farm bill provisions for managed and native pollinators. Most recently comments were been filed on the Conservation Reserve Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program, focusing on how those programs can be used to provide forage for honey bees and other pollinators. PFSP also sent a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger in support of the honey standards bill which he recently signed into law. Go to <http://www.pfspbees.org/developments.htm> to view archive of PFSP comments and other filings.

(5) PFSP is Now a Membership and Annual Dues Organization— Please Join!

As I am sure you can appreciate advocacy costs money. In order to have some modest funds available to cover operational costs such as print media, copying for presentations, web site design, etc. along with travel expenses to attend conferences and meetings by the executive director, we need to collect dues. Please continue to support PFSP's important mission and necessary work by going to PFSPBees.org and becoming a dues paying member!

(6) Network the CAUSE!

Help the hive through the Bee Friendly Farming initiative by *Spreading the Word*—now everyone can contribute to healthier bees!

- Please spread the word that 'Bee Friendly Farming' certification is now operational through our website by talking up the concept with your friends and affiliated organizations. Engaging others will multiply the good we can do for our bees! The more exposure of the BFF logo, and folks ask "*What is that?*," the more we have an opportunity to create a voice, a buzz, for the bees! We can help everyone think and implement actions that can have a continued and increasingly growing impact thriving populations of honey bees and native pollinators!
- Encourage others to join the PFSP team!

Thanks, and have a Bee Well Day!

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PS-Check out changes on the PFSP website at <http://pfspsbees.org>, and tell us what you think. It's a work in progress!