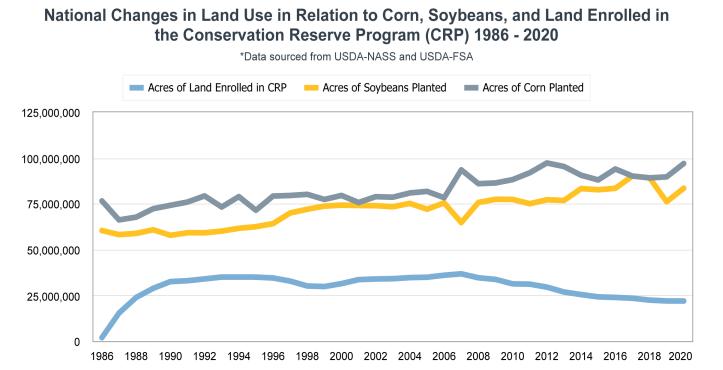
PAm Makes it Possible *On the Landscape*

If you were a fly on the wall of any beekeeping conversation – a local club meeting, a national conference, or a chat between two commercial beekeepers – it is likely that you would hear some talk about forage. Beekeepers' success depends on understanding what's blooming. From urban rooftops, to farmlands in major honey producing states, to crops being pollinated, whether the bees are moved or stationary, the food and resources that honey bees have access to are major factors influencing their health and vitality.

Access to forage is a hot topic on a policy level too. National Forests have recently become central to the conversation surrounding the use of public lands as bee pasture for commercial beekeepers. The fulcrum of this conversation is understanding interactions of honey bees and native bees when they are sharing resources. There are many things we don't know about these interactions, and PAm is supporting research to learn more. What we do know unequivocally, is that forage for all pollinators is being lost on a large scale.

USDA-NASS data clearly shows the expansion of croplands, converting wild spaces and grasslands to monoculture crops, often heavily treated with pesticides, leaving ever less on the landscape to support pollinators.



Visit **www.beehealthcollective.org** *to access credible, data-driven information about honey bee health including habitat and land use changes.*

Although honey bees are blamed for competing for resources, the number of honey bee colonies in the US is actually about 500,000 less than in the late 1980s. The root problem hurting all bees is that pollinator forage resources are shrinking. Investing in a landscape that supports more pollinators will benefit native pollinators and the honey bees we rely on for our food and agricultural systems to function.

There is no substitute for natural forage, and as crop pollination demands keep rising, honey production per colony is falling, more pests and pathogens are discovered, and clean abundant forage is decreasing, it can sometimes it feels like beekeepers have few options left.

As a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing honey bee health and crop production, supporting practical research is our 'long game,' and we have funded over 120 projects. While the science progresses to unlock bee health solutions, providing more healthy forage can save struggling bees today. With our sister organization, the Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund, we are leading efforts to restore habitat and provide important forage for honey bees and other pollinators.

"Beekeepers have been keeping bees for 100 years where they have focused entirely on finding habitat. But we've already found all of the habitat, and it's depleted. So, now we have to create it, we have to invest in it"
– Zac Browning, Browning's Honey

Using creative and innovative methods and working with agriculture, we are investing in habitat for our working bees, in almond orchards and in the Upper Midwest. In 2011, Seeds for Bees® was founded to enhance forage in almond orchards before and after almond bloom, and has planted over 40,000 acres of blooming cover crops and wildflowers in California, boosting the health of bees pollinating almonds and beyond. Preliminary research by UC Davis is showing significant benefits of this forage to honey bee colony strength.

The Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund makes free seed available to landowners and growers in the upper Midwest and Great Plains to plant pollinator habitat. This habitat is established with one-on-one technical guidance and specialized, regional seed mixes that are designed to support honey bees and monarch butterflies, are cost-effective, and provide superior weed competition. Focused on major summer forage sites and honey producing states, BBHF NextGen® seed mixes have been shown to provide 8x the pollinator value of other pollinator habitat programs.

PAm is committed to doing everything we can to help beekeepers and honey bees thrive, and forage is the bedrock of bee health. If you pollinate almonds, have land in California, or have bees in the upper Midwest, you can help by talking to the growers you rent bees to, applying for free seed, or connecting the landowners you work with to our programs. Reach out to PAm! - Use our materials to start these conversations, or let us help you plant your own habitat!

To Learn More about Seeds for Bees, The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund, and apply to enroll today, please visit:
ProjectApism.org/forage

Apply for Free Seed!

For More Information about PAm funded forage and nutrition research, please visit:
ProjectApism.org/honey-bee-research