

## Canadian Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and Pollinator Partnership (P2) are pleased to solicit nominees for the **2013 Canadian Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award**. This award recognizes an individual or family in the farm and ranch community in Canada who has contributed significantly to pollinator species protection and conservation on working and wild lands. CFA and P2, through their recognition and appreciation of these individuals and organizations, encourage their conservation stewardship and hope to catalyze future actions on behalf of pollinators through public recognition of the award winner.

The recipients of the 2013 award will be recognized during an evening reception at the **U.S. Department of Agriculture, Whitten Patio on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm** in Washington D.C., or in their hometown if they are unable to attend.

To complete your nomination, please return the attached form to Vicki Wojcik at the Pollinator Partnership by **Thursday July 18, 2013**. Awardees will be notified no later than **Thursday August 1, 2013** to allow for travel arrangements.

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) is the nonprofit organization that was formed in 1935 to act as the national voice of Canadian farmers. It is the country's largest farmers' organization, representing provincial general farm organizations as well as national and interprovincial commodity organizations from every province - over 200,000 Canadian farmers and farm families. The CFA's mission is to promote the interests of Canadian agriculture and agri-food producers, including farm families, through leadership at the national level and to ensure the continued development of a viable and vibrant agriculture and agri-food industry in Canada. One of its objectives is to promote and advance acceptance of positive social, economic and environmental conditions of those engaged in agricultural pursuits; pollination is an area that has a direct impact on all three conditions, and is becoming increasingly important for farmers to recognize and promote on their farms.

The Pollinator Partnership (P2) is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation in the US and Canada that, since its inception in 1997, has established itself as an innovator in pollinator protection across North America. P2 works to promote widespread collaborative stewardship practices on open and working lands, within institutions, and among individuals. One of P2's strategies is to improve the health and survival of all species by promoting the importance and wonder of pollinators, and by protecting their habitats.

To complete your nomination, please return the attached form to Vicki Wojcik at the Pollinator Partnership by **Thursday July 18, 2013**. Awardees will be notified no later than **Thursday August 1, 2013** to allow for travel arrangements.

Forms can be sent as an e-mail attachment to [vw@pollinator.org](mailto:vw@pollinator.org) (please put "Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award" as the subject line) or faxed to 415-362-3070.

## Canadian Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award Nomination Form

Please return the attached form to Vicki Wojcik at the Pollinator Partnership by **Thursday July 18, 2013**. Forms can be sent as an e-mail attachment to [vw@pollinator.org](mailto:vw@pollinator.org) (please put "Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award" as the subject line) or faxed to 415-362-3070.

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_Victoria MacPhail, on behalf of Pollination Guelph\_\_\_\_\_

My E-mail: vmacphail@gmail.com Phone: 519-362-2783

I wish to nominate the following individual or family in the farm and ranch community for the Canadian Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award:

Nominee's Name: Bryan Gilvesy

Farm/Ranch: Y U Ranch

Nominee E-mail: bryan@yuranch.com Phone: 519-842-2597

Nomination Narrative (*You may insert your narrative below or attach additional sheets as necessary*):

1. Briefly describe nominees and their farm or ranch operation (location, size, crop, community).

Bryan Gilvesy, and his wife Cathy, started tobacco farming, in Norfolk County, Ontario in 1979. However, with the decline in the tobacco market, they moved to cattle ranching, and have been raising Texas Longhorns for over fifteen years. These cattle graze freely under natural range conditions, foraging for grasses that include restored native tall grass prairie.

Their 100 hectare farm is known as Y U Ranch, and is managed sustainably with the environment and natural systems in mind. Their beef is Local Food Plus (LFP) certified, which is a certification that "attests to the total picture of food production including environmental protection, wildlife enhancement, energy efficiency, and sustainable local food". LFP also promotes the buying and selling of local products to local markets, and Y U Ranch beef is sold within a 100 mile radius of Tillsonburg, Ontario. They also sell ready to cook Premium Ground Beef patties and All Natural Beef Frankfurters.

2. Describe the contributions of the individual or family farmer/rancher to pollinator protection and conservation on working and wild lands, including but not limited to "on-the-ground" pollinator conservation, best management practices, development of conservation partnerships, and demonstration projects that promote pollinator awareness and conservation.

The Gilvesy's have always had a strong stewardship ethic, and this led them to purchase their property, which not only contained agricultural land, but also 45 hectares of native Carolinian Canada woodlot. This woodlot includes a cold water trout stream, a tributary to the Little Otter Creek. When they began keeping cattle, they realized the importance of protecting both the woodlot and the creek, and used a solar-powered watering system to pump water to the cattle keeping them out of the sensitive area.

YU Ranch became involved with the Norfolk Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) project in 2006. ALUS supports the conservation, restoration, and management of native habitat on working farms and ranches by providing project start up assistance, technical expertise and support, and incentive payments. It is a voluntary program that rewards farmers for returning marginal, environmentally sensitive, or inefficient farmland into native vegetative cover and wetlands, while ensuring that agriculturally productive lands remain producers of food and fibre.

In 2008, Bryan Gilvesy, and another ALUS member, Dave Reid, attended a Pollination Guelph symposium where they learned about the importance of providing pollinator habitat on farms and other areas. That year, they put in a 2000 ft pollinator hedgerow: old decrepit Scots Pine were removed, but the stumps were left for bee nesting habitat. To aid in pollinator colonization of the hedgerow, ¼" and 3/8" holes were drilled in the stumps for solitary bee nests. A diversity of flowering trees and shrubs, all suited for the Carolinian forest zone, were also planted for pollinator habitat, with three-season bloom in mind. This included black oak, black cherry, downy serviceberry and dogwoods for the spring, elderberries, brown-eyed susans, and coneflower for the summer, and witch hazel and goldenrod for the fall.

Six ALUS projects in total were implemented on Bryan Gilvesy's farm, many of which provided food, shelter, or nesting sites for pollinators, as well as several Species At Risk. In addition to wildlife habitat, hedgerows act as a windbreak, preventing or slowing erosion and transpiration rates, and keeping moisture and nutrients in the field. The table below (copied from the ALUS web-site, [http://www.norfolkalus.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=108&Itemid=34](http://www.norfolkalus.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=108&Itemid=34)) details the work done and the corresponding environmental benefit.

Project #	Type	Description	Environmental Benefit
1.	Windbreak Hedgerow	Planting of native flowering shrubs, trees and Tallgrass Prairie as a windbreak. Creation of nesting cavities for native solitary pollinators. Total area: 1.23 acres	Benefit to native pollinator communities through a variety of flowering shrubs and trees that will offer habitat throughout several seasons. Establishment of Tallgrass prairie (SAR community) will provide habitat, mitigate wind erosion and complement existing Tallgrass prairie pastures on farm.
2.	Tallgrass Prairie Pasture	Establishment of SAR community Tallgrass Prairie for pasture. Total area: 15.90 acres	Tallgrass prairie (SAR community) including native forbs for wildlife and pollinator habitat. Cattle will be allowed to graze after July 15th annually to allow for Spring and early summer use by grassland species.
3.	Tallgrass Prairie Pasture	Establishment of SAR community Tallgrass Prairie for pasture. Total area: 8.64 acres	Tallgrass prairie (SAR community) including native forbs for wildlife and pollinator habitat. Cattle will be allowed to graze after July 15th annually to allow for Spring and early summer use by grassland species.
4.	Bluebird Trail	16 Eastern Bluebird nesting boxes erected and maintained by landowner along Tallgrass Prairie pasture	Enhancing habitat and nesting possibilities for Eastern Bluebird populations.
5.	Switch Grass Windbreak Hedgerow	400' native Switch Grass windbreak Total area: 0.13 acres	SAR Switch Grass windbreak provides wildlife habitat for grassland species and wind erosion control on sand plain.

6.	Reforestation	Planting of 250 native trees in former kiln yard	Reforestation of former kiln yard with native Carolinian species including Red Oak, White Oak, Black Oak, Black Cherry and Tulip-tree.
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Bryan has been speaking to farmers, groups, and organizations for years, including naturalist club meetings, National Fish and Wildlife Congress meetings, open houses, workshops, farm events, university and college classes, academic conferences, public symposiums (including Pollination Guelph's 2010 symposium and the Canadian Pollinator Conservation 2013: Next Steps meeting this past spring), and more. He has also been interviewed on several radio and television programs, including CBC, CTV, and A-Channel, and featured in countless newspaper and magazine articles, locally, provincially, and nationally. With an emphasis on food and environmental sustainability, topics ranged from planning your new farm business to grassland management to species at risk, source water protection, and environmental goods and services. Pollination and pollinator-friendly farming has been a part of many of these talks.

Y U Ranch is a known North American leader in sustainable agriculture and the development of natural systems to improve the environment and foster a healthy food supply. It has been on a number of farm tours, including those showcasing the ALUS demonstration project, and Bryan frequently gives tours throughout the year to individuals and small groups.

The farm has a web-page (<http://www.yuranch.com/>), Twitter account and a Facebook page, and he has been featured in a number of YouTube videos, which is a great way to get people interested in agriculture and the environment. In fact, one popular video, "The Birds and the Bees" (<http://www.youtube.com/user/NorfolkALUS?feature=mhum>), focusses in on how you can create pollinator-friendly habitat on your farm.

As chair of the Norfolk ALUS (Alternative Lands Use Services) Pilot Project, Bryan has been able to demonstrate and promote the value of pollinators, as well as ecosystem services, to farmers throughout Canada. For example, right after Bryan incorporated pollinator habitat on his farm, two other farms, one a Saskatoon berry farm and one a blueberry farm, planted 1.4 acres of pollinator habitat. A large organic vegetable operation soon followed suit, as have other farms.

Of the 433 acres planted into Tallgrass Prairie through the ALUS project, 300 acres have included a blend of 28 native wildflower species providing a food source for pollinators from early spring to fall. ALUS farmers have found that the number and diversity of birds, butterflies, and bees have greatly increased on their properties since doing the work. Indeed, the ALUS project has found that retiring marginal land on working farms to pollinator habitat is a fairly easy sell, which is great news for both crop and natural pollination services.

Bryan was pivotal to the acceptance and movement of the ALUS from a pilot project to a model program, including aiding in obtaining over \$3 Million from the W. Garfield Weston Foundation. He pioneered the creation of the Ontario Ecological Credit, a mechanism that leverages the sequestration of carbon into sustainable environmental outcomes on land in Ontario. He has been recognized for his great work on the farm and in the community with a variety of awards, including the 2008 Canadian Agri-Food Award of Excellence For Environmental Stewardship, the 2008 Toronto Food Policy Council Local Food Hero Award, the 2007 Premier's Award For Ag Innovation, the 2006 Norfolk Soil and Crop Association Soil and Water Conservation Award, among others.

As a member of Pollination Guelph recently remarked, "His vision is inspiring and he is a great advocate for farmers, pollinators, and the environment alike". For all of these reasons, we believe that Bryan merits the Canadian Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award.