



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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FDC Enterprises, Inc. Partners with Pheasants Forever and University of Wisconsin- Madison on Conservation Innovation Grant, *Integrating Pollinators into Bioenergy Crops*

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On September 10th, 2013 Agricultural Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the award of Pheasants Forever's *Integrating Pollinators into Bioenergy Crops* grant along with 32 other Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) awarded to entities across the nation to develop and demonstrate cutting-edge ideas to accelerate private lands conservation.

This unique project funded by USDA will combine the design, establishment and evaluation of pollinator habitat on fields being managed to produce dedicated energy crops. The study will design specific pollinator habitat that will be established on field borders and drive rows that will remain unharvested within portions of fields that will be managed and harvested as an energy crop to be used in solid fuel biomass boilers in Virginia.

The project will be implemented in several phases that will produce and document the compatible relationship between high quality pollinator habitat and dedicated bioenergy agricultural production. Pheasants Forever, Inc. (PF) will combine Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) practices for field borders and pollinator habitat to develop a compatible program that could be offered to landowners establishing bioenergy crops like native warm season grasses. Factors that will be taken into consideration include: dedicated energy crop harvest regimes, stand management, pollinator habitat requirements, pollinator species responses, field layout and adjacent land-use.

PF has partnered with FDC Enterprises, Inc. to establish and manage the dedicated energy crop and associated pollinator habitat. FDCE will convert 2,000 acres of fallow and/or hay fields in South Central Virginia to a dedicated energy crop of native warm-season grasses and associated high quality pollinator habitat in field borders.

University of Wisconsin-Madison staff will collect baseline data and monitor changes to document pollinator diversity, abundance and use.

A series of habitat tours and informational material will be provided to USDA personnel, resource professionals, federal bioenergy policy makers, landowners and the bioenergy community to demonstrate the concept.

For more information on FDC Enterprises, Inc. please contact Tom Schwartz at (217) 725-7550 or e-mail tom@fdcenterprises.com. For more information on this project or Pheasants Forever, please contact Pete Berthelsen at (308) 390-0848.

For more information about FDC Enterprises visit www.fdcenterprises.com