



# COWS, BEES, & BLOSSOMS

A Grassland Tale



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In the middle of a big, sunny grassland  
with tall grasses and little  
groups of trees, there lived a  
Texas Longhorn named Lily.

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Lily loved her home. The sun was  
warm, and the cool wind made the  
grasses sway all around her.  
She felt happy as she munched on  
the sweet grass.







One day, while Lily was eating, she noticed a tiny bee buzzing nearby. The little bee was flying from grass to grass, looking for something.



"Hello!" Lily called out.  
"What are you doing,  
little bee?"





The bee stopped and said, "Hi! I'm Biff. I'm looking for flowers to pollinate. Have you seen any around here?"

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Lily shook her head. "No, I haven't seen any flowers. Who is Polly Nate? Should I know her?"





Biff laughed. "Oh no, I said 'pollinate,'  
not Polly Nate!"

"When I visit a flower, I'm looking for sweet nectar to drink. While I'm busy sipping, some powder, called pollen, sticks to my legs. Pollen is like little bits of flower dust, and it's super important for helping flowers grow seeds!



Then, I fly to another flower. When I land, some of the pollen on my legs falls onto the new flower.

This is what we bees call pollination!"  
explained Biff.

"That sounds like an important job!" said Lily, nodding.  
Biff smiled. "It is! But right now, there are no flowers here, so I'm having a hard time."







Lily thought for a moment and then kept munching on the grass. But as she looked around, she saw that there were no flowers anywhere, just tall grass.



She started to feel a little sad for Biff.



Later, Lily walked over to the a feeder where the rancher had left special mineral for her. She licked it up, but something felt strange.




The mineral was crunchy!

"Hmm, what's this?" she wondered, licking up some more. "This isn't what I expected!"

Lily ran to show Biff. "Look, Biff! It's crunchy!" she said.

Biff flew over to take a closer look.

"Oh wow! These are flower seeds! I think we might have a way to help me find flowers after all."



Lily tilted her head. "How?"



Biff had a funny idea. "Here's my plan! You keep eating the mineral, and don't worry about the seeds."

When the seeds go into your tummy, they'll pass through and come out in your poop!"

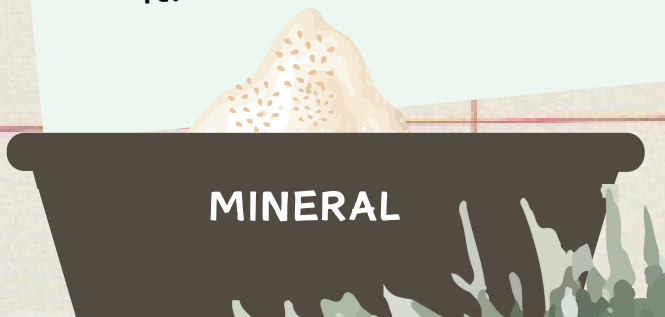
Lily blinked. "My poop? That's how we can grow flowers?"

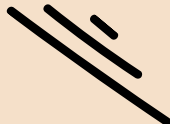
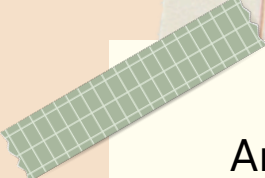
Biff nodded. "Yes! I've seen seeds in cow poop before. And those seeds grow into new plants! So if you eat the mineral, the seeds will go through you and help me grow the flowers I need!"

Lily wasn't sure about this idea, but then she smiled. "Okay! I'll do it! I'll help you grow flowers."

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So Lily ate the crunchy mineral and kept track of where she pooped, excited to see if flowers would grow where the seeds landed.





And sure enough, after some time, beautiful flowers started to sprout and grow.

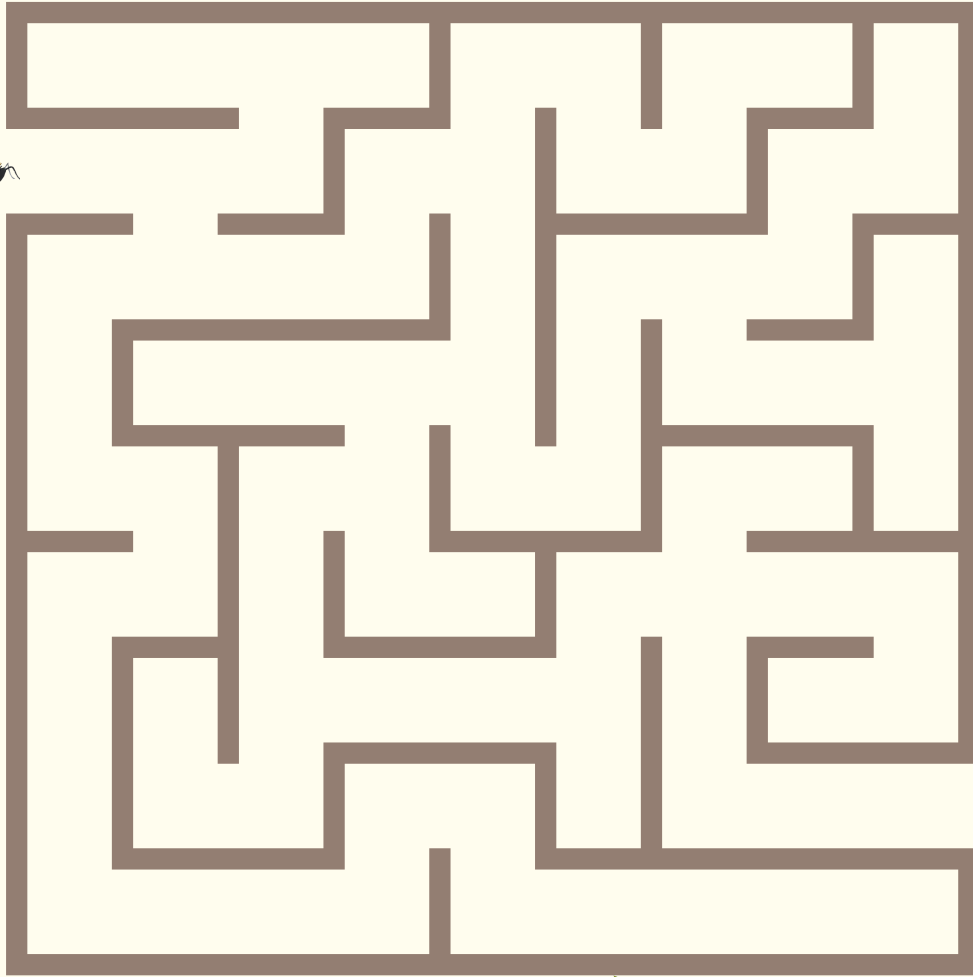
Biff flew around, visiting the flowers and spreading pollen, just like he was supposed to.

Lily was so happy to have helped her friend, and together, they made the grasslands more colorful and full of life.





# HELP BUZZ GET TO THE FLOWERS!





# GLOSSARY



**Grasslands:** Big, wide places where lots of grass grows and animals like bison, cows, and deer live. There aren't many trees, just lots of grass, flowers, and animals that eat the grass.

**Pollination:** When a bee, butterfly, or other animal moves tiny bits of powder (called pollen) from one flower to another. This helps the flowers make seeds so new flowers can grow.

**Adaptive Grazing:** When animals, like cows or sheep, eat grass in a way that helps the land stay healthy. They might move around and let the land have a good rest, then might come back to graze again.

**Conservation:** Taking care of the Earth's water, trees, animals, and plants, so they stay healthy and plentiful for future generations.

**Ecosystem:** A place where plants, animals, and other living things work together and depend on each other. It includes everything in that area, like the soil, water, and air. (examples: a forest, ocean, or the grasslands!)

**Graziers:** People who take care of animals that eat grass, like cows and sheep, on rangelands or farms.

**Livestock Mineral:** Special vitamins and minerals that are given to animals, like cows or sheep, to help them grow strong and stay healthy.

**Native Flower Seeds:** Seeds from flowers that naturally grow in a certain place. These flowers belong to the land and have grown there for a long time.



# BUZZ ON THE RANGE PROJECT

## So what was the 'Buzz' all about?

The Buzz on the Range project found new ways to keep the soil healthy and help bees grow strong on Montana's rangelands. By working with ranchers, the project showed how cows can spread seeds for plants that bees love, making the land healthier and full of life. Ranchers learned through farm experiments, workshops, and fun educational events. These ideas helped them take better care of the land, their animals, and the bees, building a better future for ranching and nature in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

## Buzz on The Range Ranchers



**Barney Creek  
Livestock**



**Anderson  
Ranch**



**Blake  
Ranch**



**Milk Maid  
Meats**



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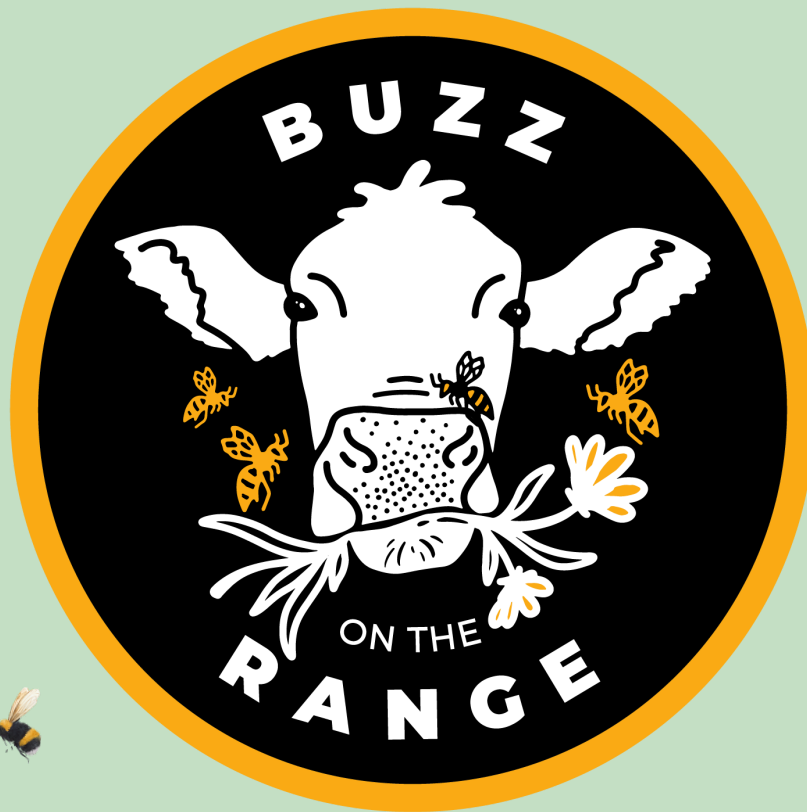


United States Department of Agriculture  
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**Our Soil & Bee  
Professionals:**







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