

From prairie to honey





PRAIRIE STRIPS IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

SIZE

Up to 25% of a tract

Minimum width: 30 feet

Maximum width: 120 feet

PLACEMENT

Around or through a field

Alongside waterways

In a terrace channel

SEED MIX

Native grasses and flowers

GOALS

Reduce soil erosion

Improve water quality

Provide wildlife habitat



Prairie strips:

Research & Demonstration on Commercial Farms





Prairie Strips

- A Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice developed at Iowa State University.
- Improves (Schulte et al. 2017):
 - Water quality,
 - Soil health,
 - Biodiversity, and
 - Honey bee health and productivity (Zhang et al. 2023).

More honey with prairie strips



**Bee hives at a control site,
August 2019.**



**Bee hives in a prairie strip,
August 2019.**

*Note extra box represents 24%
increase in honey*

Deploying colonies in the spring at a farm with prairie strips.





Each colony is routinely inspected for mites, colony growth and presence for a queen.





We did not put swarms in prairie strips, but colonies managed to prevent swarming.

Note the red circle is a queen cell from a colony that is trying to rear a queen for a swarm.







Equipment used to extract honey from harvested comb.















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HONEY**

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HONEY**

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CLONES

CYCLONES

ONES



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Acknowledgments

- STRIPS
- NCSARE
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