



WILD BEE POLLINATORS ON VERMONT FARMS

In 2025, the Vermont Center for Ecostudies and UVM Extension teamed up to work with farms to better understand wild bee pollinator populations and the farm management practices that impact pollinator habitat. Researchers at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies are collecting data on farms located in five Vermont counties to assess the abundance and diversity of bee pollinators supported by five farm types in Vermont: apples, blueberries, soy, grazed pasture, and mixed vegetables. The findings from this project will help reveal what wild bees are hosted by these Vermont farms. Findings will also inform the development of farm appropriate management practices to support bees. These will be shared through educational and outreach materials and events with growers to help promote on-farm wild bee habitat and diversity.

2025 Project Highlights

- 45 species documented on 13 project farms
- 4 of these species are rare in Vermont
- 1 of these species is a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Vermont

2026 Project Next Steps

- Continued data collection from participating farms
- Expanding number of research sites
- Outreach and education to farms about results and supportive management

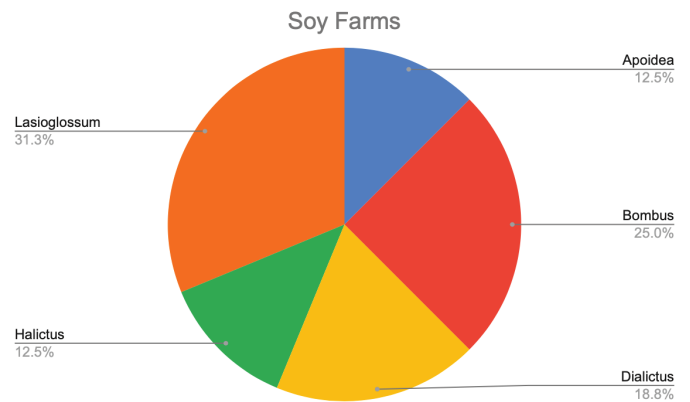
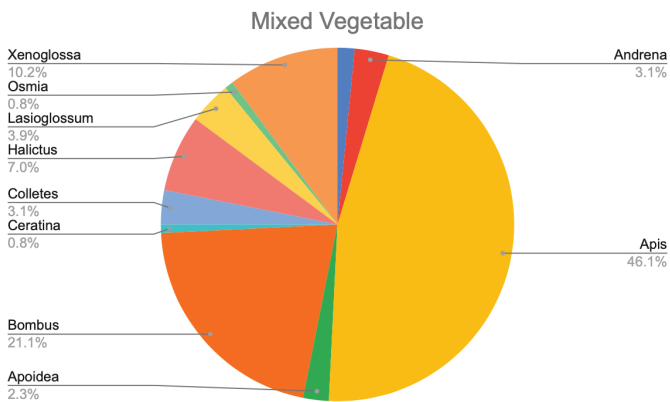
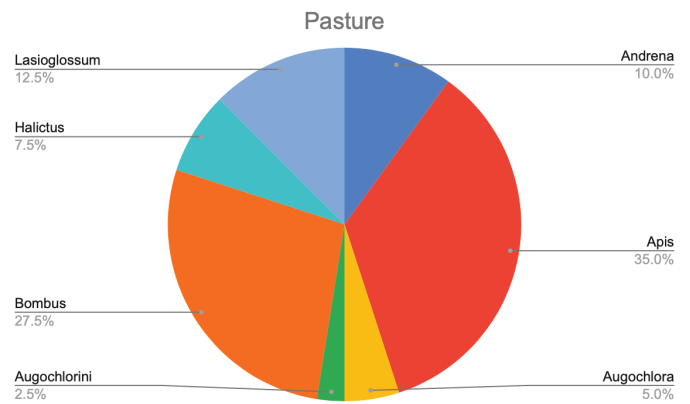
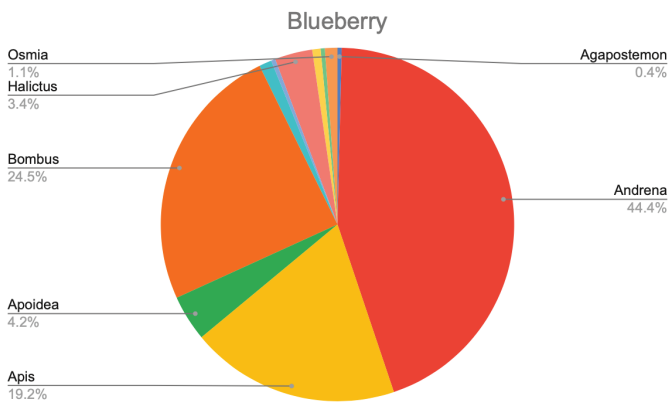
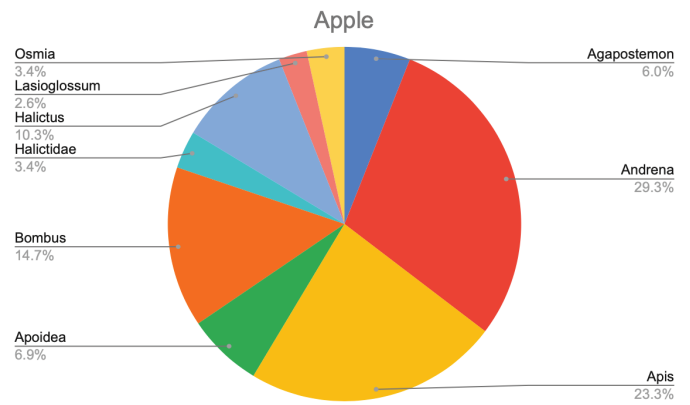
Preliminary Insights

Vermont farms host diverse and abundant bee pollinators across farm types, including rare species. This research helps to build a broader understanding about which bees are sharing the landscape with farmers and their crops. Growers have a unique opportunity to make management decisions grounded in this new knowledge to steward crop and pollinator wellbeing. We are thankful to the growers involved in this work and are humbled by their openness and enthusiasm to host the research at their place of business.

For information about this work, please reach out. If your farm is interested in being considered as a research host, email Ryan Rebozo at rrebozo@vtcostudies.org. For questions about pollinator supportive farm management practices, email Laura Johnson at laura.o.johnson@uvm.edu.

Bee Species Richness and Diversity

Active bee surveys, also known as pollard walks, took place three times on each farm during late spring, mid summer, and late summer/early fall. These surveys covered the flight times of most native bees species and focused on species richness and diversity. The timed walks recorded the presence and abundance of wild bee species over a 100m transect.



The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets has generously supported this work.