Farmers and the agricultural industry in Illinois have been leaders in the Illinois Monarch Project, and will continue to work towards ambitious goals to support pollinators and monarchs in our state.

Farmers have made great strides at adding pollinator habitat to the Illinois landscape in recent years. The agricultural sector has committed, along with other sectors in Illinois, to adding 150 million additional stems of milkweed plus other nectar sources to the Illinois landscape in the next 20 years. In order to do that, the agricultural community will work to:
- educate farmers and rural communities
- support university research and science that addresses agricultural questions
- install and improve pollinator habitat on and around Illinois farms
- monitor our progress and adapt our plan accordingly

What can YOU do?

- **PLANT A POLLINATOR HABITAT ON YOUR FARM** (in your garden, along roadsides, in field corners, around the homestead)
  - Include milkweed
  - Plant other flowers that bloom May through October to provide sustenance for monarchs during their stay in Illinois

- **CHANGE YOUR MOWING PRACTICES**
  - Farm-specific recommendations coming! Stay tuned...
  - Don’t mow road right-of-ways (ROWs) unless necessary for safety, problematic weeds and woody encroachment
  - Negotiate more flexible mowing practices in your leases by discussing the benefits of pollinator and wildlife habitat with your landlord

- **PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP**
  - Follow your pesticides labels
  - Monitor your surroundings and check for sensitive areas and endangered species

- **SIGNAGE**
  - Publicize your pollinator habitat with signage to educate your neighbors and community

- **AG IN THE CLASSROOM, 4-H, FFA**
  - Work with student groups to create habitat and educate the community

- **PARTicipate in research**
  - Reach out to any of the ag groups in this report to be connected with researchers and host research on your farm!

- **TELL your story**
  - Don’t be shy
  - Present at local meetings to diverse groups
  - Tell the media what you do for the environment