



# POLLINATOR PROUD PROJECTS: Clean Water Fund



## Linda Moen Native Prairie Restoration



**PARTNERS:** Linda Moen, Scott County Scott SWCD

**PROJECT SITE:** The 5-acre upland prairie restoration project site is located in central Scott County. Linda's site is very steep, and the watershed empties into the DNR-protected stream Sand Creek. An existing crop field was eroding due to poor farming practices and was dumping tons of sediment and pounds of phosphorus into Sand Creek. The crop field was adjacent to woods, nearby grasslands and Sand Creek; it had the potential to act as a corridor for animals and a food source for pollinators.

**PLANTING & MAINTENANCE:** The crop field had been planted in corn and needed to be disked and smoothed out. Linda, who is very outdoorsy and loves to plant gardens, was concerned about pollinators. She wanted to create a haven for

bees and butterflies. The native prairie was planted with species that attract butterflies and bees and provide a food source. For example, Wild Bergamot, Purple Coneflower, Yellow Coneflower, White Prairie Clover and Prairie Blazingstar are some of the forbs that were planted. Little bluestem, beneficial to pollinator nesting, was also used in the mix. Linda's crop field was lightly disked and packed by a local contractor. It was planted with a Great Plains No-Till-Drill. Linda had a thistle problem the first year and cut the weeds down 3 times to a height of 4-6 inches when they were 1 foot tall. Ongoing maintenance will include annual clipping/spraying and a burn the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year after the prairie was planted.

**WHAT WORKED:** Packing of the seedbed was important to prepare the site for seeding with the Great Plains No-Till Drill. Mowing also an important step following planting to ensure that sufficient light was available to the forb seedlings as they developed.



**Written by: Alyssa Alness, Scott SWCD**