



#### Contact

Amy Hughes, Project Coordinator

Keep Loup Basin Beautiful

Email: amy@keeploupbasinbeautiful.org

Tel: 308-346-3393

**March 2, 2017**

## **Rose Youth Learn the Connection Between Environmental Stewardship and Pollinators**

On February 7, 2017, Amy Hughes, Keep Loup Basin Beautiful (KLBB) Project Coordinator, traveled to Rose, NE to speak with youth at the Rose Community School. Shelli Spencer, Teacher Grades 5-8, asked Hughes to speak to her classes on the importance of pollination.

Hughes took the presentation one step farther and incorporated how human actions can have an extreme impact on the environment. Hughes had Ms. Spencer and the five students participate in a pollination activity. They had to visit different flowers where they collected and deposited pollen. The process of pollination was then discussed and how each species of flower has to be pollinated by the same species to ensure the production of a new and viable “fruit”. Teacher and youth also participated in an activity which require them to read descriptions of certain plants and certain pollinators and decide which were “a match”. This activity taught the youth about plant selection by pollinators. Youth also learned that there are different types of pollination and that the types of pollinators entails a long list. The final activity Hughes provided for the teacher and students was: “What Foods Require Pollination & Which Do Not?” Hughes provided several types of foods, seasonings, and drinks for the students to choose from. Through discussion, the students did a very nice job of determining that all foods require pollination. They even thought deeper and deciphered as to why all foods require pollination. An example was milk. Why would milk be a result of pollination? The students answer was because milk comes from cows, and cows eat plants, and certain plants require pollination to reproduce and survive.

Hughes then lead the discussion on how being and environmental steward is very important to the survival of all living organisms. Hughes explained that our actions on trash disposal and recycling items can have an amazing impact on the amount of trash left in our environment by sending them to the landfill. Hughes also spoke on how important it is to pick up after ourselves because wildlife habitat/pollinator habitat relies on us for staying clean. The Monarch and Regal Fritillary butterfly populations were also discussed and how human actions and how simple changes and education can make a huge difference in a species survival.

In closing, Hughes shared some activities that KLBB would be doing this year, such as tire collections. The students were excited to hear of these opportunities and asked to be given the information as soon as possible. Hughes appreciated the invitation to speak to the youth about our environment, pollination, and how important our actions are and looks forward to working with Ms. Spencer again on different projects!!

Keep Loup Basin Beautiful (KLBB) is grant-funded through the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) and Keep America Beautiful; and is a project of the Loup Basin RC&D Council that promotes litter prevention, waste reduction, recycling, and beautification. KLBB serves thirteen counties in central and north-central Nebraska. For more information about KLBB’s education programs, email KLBB at [info@keeploupbasinbeautiful.org](mailto:info@keeploupbasinbeautiful.org), visit [www.keeploupbasinbeautiful.org](http://www.keeploupbasinbeautiful.org), or like them on Facebook. Contact the Loup Basin RC&D office (308)-346-3393 or stop by the office at the Loup Rivers Scenic Byway Interpretive Center, 330 South Highway 11 Burwell, Nebraska.

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