Summary of Informal State Outreach

In an effort for the Monarch Collaborative to better understand where individual states are in their monarch conservation planning efforts, the ways in which the agriculture sector is involved, associated opportunities and obstacles, and where there might be opportunities for the Monarch Collaborative to provide support, members of the Collaborative contacted individual state planning efforts and grower facing organizations in the monarch migration corridor[1] with an informational inquiry.

The set of questions and compiled responses is contained in the Appendix (page 4). The following summary clusters key learnings by i) levels of awareness and engagement, ii) sense of urgency, and iii) stated needs by grower-facing groups for fostering engagement.

Responses to the questionnaire were provided by:

Illinois Soy
Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife
Iowa Corn
Iowa Soy
Kansas Corn
Kansas Farm Bureau
Kansas Soy
Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Michigan Farm Bureau
Michigan Soy
Michigan Corn
Minnesota Corn
Minnesota Soy
Missouri Corn and Soy
Missouri Dept. of Conservation
Nebraska Corn
Nebraska Soy
North Dakota Soy
Ohio Soy
Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation
South Dakota Corn
Tennessee Soy
Texas Parks and Wildlife
Texas Soy
West Virginia Dept. Natural Resources

It should be noted that information contained herein is the result of informal outreach to Monarch Collaborative member contacts and intended for internal Monarch Collaborative purposes. Individual members may find it helpful to inform outreach to foster engagement and opportunities for private and working lands to support monarch habitat. This information is perhaps most relevant as a discussion starter in communications with member constituents.

Cluster 1: Awareness/Engagement

Characteristics of higher levels of engagement with/by grower facing groups -

- Involvement with monarch conservation planning effort in the state (e.g, participating in formal planning effort, involved with ag subcommittee, participated in planning meeting) (IA Corn, IA Soy, KS Corn, KS Soy, MO Corn&Soy)
- Engaged in efforts (other than or in addition to planning effort (e.g., supporting research to better understand optimal habitat plots (MN Soy), engaging other stakeholders to create habitat (MN Soy)
- Employ multiple communication methods to convey information about the monarch/habitat (IA Corn, IL Soy, KS Soy, MI FB, MN Corn)
- Planning entity reported involvement of various agricultural interests in the state (OK DWC)

Organizations reporting one or more of these characteristics

Iowa Corn
Iowa Soy
Illinois Soy
Kansas Corn
Kansas Soy
Michigan Farm Bureau
Missouri Corn & Soy
Minnesota Corn
Minnesota Soy
Nebraska Corn
Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation

[1] This exercise the delineates the monarch corridor by USFWS's priority conservation unit. The north core of the priority conservation unit are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, West Virginia and Wisconsin. States in the south core are Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Texas Parks and Wildlife

Characteristics of medium level of engagement with/by grower facing groups -

- Outreach to ag sector being done, actual involvement variable (MI Soy)
- Have not been engaged in summit planning process but will be invited to summit (IN FW)
- Self-reported as involved to a limited extent (NE Soy)
- Aware of monarch needs, but wrap the species into pollinator habitat generally (MI FB)

Organizations reporting one or more of these characteristics:

Michigan Farm Bureau
Michigan Soy
Indiana Department of Fish and Wildlife
Nebraska Soy

Characteristics of lower level of engagement with/by grower facing groups -

- State Department of Agriculture involved, grower groups less so (ND Soy, OH Soy)
- Self-reported as not engaged in the state monarch conservation planning effort (SD Corn, TN Soy, TX Soy)
- Self-reported as members not aware (KS Corn), recently aware (KS FB) or low level awareness of the issue (KS Soy, ND Soy)
- Self-reported as little awareness in comparison to concerns re resistant or noxious weeds (SD Corn)

Organizations reporting one or more of these characteristics:

Kansas Corn
Kansas Farm Bureau
Kansas Soy
North Dakota Soy
Ohio Soy
South Dakota Corn
Tennessee Soy
Texas Soy

Cluster 2: Sense of urgency

Generally lower levels of a sense of urgency among grower group membership, including among groups engaged in the issue at the organizational level

Considerations mentioned include:

- Monarch issue has lower priority for members in comparison to other operational issues – e.g., maintenance of non-crop areas (IA Soy); controlling for resistant and noxious weeds (SD Corn), sense among members that past goals for establishing pollinator habitat have been unrealistic in context of farm operations (NE Corn)
- Other environmental issues are more pressing (IL Soy, MN Corn)
- Uncertainty about needs, risks and tradeoffs associated with pollinator habitat improvement (IA Soy)
- Not high sense of urgency among members (no specific reason given) (IA Corn, KS Corn, KS Soy, MI Soy, OH Soy, TX Soy)

Organizations reporting one or more of these considerations:

Iowa Corn
Iowa Soy
Illinois Soy
Kansas Corn
Kansas Soy
Michigan Soy
Minnesota Corn
Ohio Soy
South Dakota Corn
Texas Soy

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Cluster 3: Self-reported needs related to establishing monarch habitat on private/working lands

Needs mentioned include:

- Tailored informational resources to raise awareness and provide practical guidance to farmers (IL Soy, KS Corn, KS Soy, MI FB, MI Soy, MO Corn & Soy, NE Corn, OH Soy, SD Corn)
- Although adding to the growing volume of information on conservation, stewardship and sustainability that producers must sort through can be a disincentive and turn producers off the issue (NE Corn)
- Technical and financial assistance, including alternatives to traditional private lands conservation programs (IA Corn, KS Soy, MI FB, MN Corn)
- Unclear at this time what any unmet needs might be and therefore what type of resources would be helpful (KS FB, ND Soy, NE Soy, TX Soy)

Organizations mentioning one or more of these needs:

Iowa Corn	Michigan Farm Bureau	Nebraska Soy
Illinois Soy	Michigan Soy	North Dakota Soy
Kansas Corn	Minnesota Corn	Ohio Soy
Kansas Soy	Missouri Corn&Soy	South Dakota Corn
Kansas Farm Bureau	Nebraska Corn	Texas Soy

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Appendix

Monarch Collaborative

Informal inquiries to state planning entities and state ag-facing organizations

Findings
(as of October 2017)

Monarch populations have declined over the past two decades. Because they face serious challenges today, the Monarch Collaborative, a diverse and dedicated group of organizations spanning the research community, agricultural production, conservation causes, and public agencies is working to identify how partnerships in the farming and ranching community can support and enhance habitat for a sustainable monarch population. As farmers and ranchers are stewards of the land across much of monarch habitat, they are in a unique position to support sustainable monarch populations. The [HYPERLINK "https://www.keystone.org/monarch"] believes that an increase in milkweed and nectar plants appropriately placed in rural areas can help to achieve a sustainable monarch population without inhibiting agricultural production. More information on the Monarch Collaborative can be found [HYPERLINK "https://www.keystone.org/our-work/agriculture/monarch-collaborative/"].

The informal questions below are intended to help the Monarch Collaborative better understand the status of monarch conservation planning efforts in individual states in the monarch corridor (question set #1) and whether and how the Monarch Collaborative could support agricultural sector engagement in those states (question set #2).

Summary of Responses and Key Findings

25 responses received, six of which are from planning agencies and the remainder, grower facing groups.

Of the 20 states in USFWS's priority conservation unit[2] we received at least one response (from a grower or planning entity) from 15 of them.

Of the states responding, four indicate they have targets (IA, KY, MO, NE) with two describing what they are. Most are in the process of developing targets or mention working with MAFWA to do so. Some mention they are not aware of targets in their state.

1) Status of Conservation Planning in Corridor States. *(Responses from planning entities and grower groups)*

a) *Who are the lead entities in [your state] responsible for monarch conservation planning*?

Note: clustered with those with broad based participation appearing first.

[2] The North Core is comprised of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin; the South Core is comprised of Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

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IA Soy	Iowa State University is leading the [HYPERLINK "http://monarch.ent.iastate.edu/"] with representation from Agriculture organizations, State Agencies, Federal Agencies, and NGOs.
IA Corn	Iowa State University, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
KS Soy	The steering committee is made up of KSU academia & Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism staff. The breakdown of those involved can be broken down into organizations categorized into these groups: Ag NGO-11, Conservation NGO-21, Federal Agency-7, Ag Industry-6, Tribal-1, Academia-3, State Agency-5, & Right-of-Ways Industry-6 (separate attachment with list)
MI Soy	Michigan State University, Michigan Department of Natural Resources. MSU Entomologist, Dr. Doug Landis has done some practical work in this area.
MO DOC	NRCS, MDC, USFWS, DNR, Quail Forever
MO Corn & Soy	The Missouri Department of Conservation would be the unofficial lead, however since 2015 Missouri has had a formal statewide collaborative called the "Missourians for Monarchs Collaborative". The work of the Collaborative is supported by a Missourians for Monarchs Steering Committee, which oversees the implementation of the Missouri Monarch and Pollinator Conservation Plan. This steering committee is composed of a diverse group of entities including, MoDOT, MoDNR, Mo Dept of Agriculture, NRCS, USFWS, University of Missouri College of Ag, St. Louis Zoo, Conservation Federation of Missouri, Mo Prairie Foundation, Quail Forever, National Wildlife Federation, St. Louis Audubon Society, MO Master Naturalists, MO Native Seed Association, Monsanto, Missouri Electric Cooperatives, MO Soybean Association, MO Corn Growers Association, & MFA Incorporated
MN Corn	The Department of Agriculture would be the lead however, there are several groups also engaged including Great River Greening and TNC. MN Corn has been involved with several meeting and discussions in the past year toward discussing habitat needs and possible programming opportunities
ND Soy	North Dakota Game and Fish Department, North Dakota Department of Agriculture, North Dakota Department of Transportation, North Dakota State University Extension Service, NDSU North Dakota Forest Service, North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, USDA Forest Service - Dakota Prairie Grasslands, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, North Dakota Grain Growers Association. I feel like we should have been at the table and might not have been asked. Am following up on this. ND Dept Ag leads the pollinator plans.
NE Soy	Nebraska Game and parks Commission, NE Department of Agriculture. Other stakeholder groups were invited to attend a meeting as well
OK DWC	The Monarch Butterfly is a species that is under the legal jurisdiction and management authority of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC). ODWC is represented by Matt Fullerton, Wildlife Biologist, on the Oklahoma Monarch and Pollinator Collaborative (OMPC). The OMPC is composed of 12 agencies and organizations, among which include the Oklahoma Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Xerces Society, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever, and Oklahoma State University. Since January 2017, the OMPC has been "leading the charge" on Monarch Butterfly conservation in Oklahoma by developing a statewide conservation plan to address the species' decline
TXPW	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Houston Wilderness, Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texan by Nature, Monarch Gateway, USFWS, NRCS
KS Corn	Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism; Kansas Wildlife Federation; NRCS; Monarch Watch; Kansas State University

IL Soy	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
IN DFW	Our Monarch Summit planning committee is comprised of individuals from the following organizations: Indiana Wildlife Federation (lead), IN DNR-Fish and Wildlife, IN DNR-Nature Preserves, IN DNR-State Parks, NRCS, USFWS, IN Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS), US Forest Service.
KDFWR	The KDFWR and the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission worked together to initiate Monarch planning
MN Soy	University of Minn, DOT, Minn Soy
NE Corn	There is a Nebraska Monarch and Pollinator Conservation Team. This effort is primarily being led by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The team is also made up of representatives from Nebraska Pheasants Forever, Nebraska Extension, Nebraska Wildlife Federation, Save our Monarchs Foundation, Xerces Society, Nebraska NRCS, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. I've heard the Nebraska Department of Ag and University of Nebraska are working on a broader pollinator/beneficial insect plan, but have not seen nor am I aware of a draft plan that has resulted from this effort.
OH Soy	USDA/EQIP Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project, Monarch Wings Across Ohio, Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative.
SD Corn	SD Game, Fish, and Parks – (State natural resource agency), US F&WS
TX Soy	Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD)
WVDNR	WVDNR (Susan Olcott), NRCS (Sarah Owen – just hired part time pollinator specialist)
GA Soy	No knowledge of an effort in Georgia relating to the Monarch.
SD Soy	Not aware of anything policy or otherwise happening with the Monarch butterfly issue in South Dakota.
TN Soy	None. At one time the forestry department looked into planting milkweed following timber harvest but that fell through

b) *Where is [your state] in the monarch conservation plan process*?

Note: Four states have a formal monarch conservation plan in place. Most are in the process of developing a plan, and a few responses indicate awareness of the issue but unsure whether a plan is in development (or unclear response).

IA Corn	Conservation Strategy, version 1 is complete. [HYPERLINK "http://monarch.ent.iastate.edu/files/file/iowa-monarch-conservation-strategy.pdf"]
IA Soy	[HYPERLINK "http://monarch.ent.iastate.edu/files/file/iowa-monarch-conservation-strategy.pdf"] was developed and released in March 2017. Development was coordinated by the ISU team with opportunities for input from all member organizations of the Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium.
KDFWR	We have a completed plan
MO DOC	We have a plan completed with a goal of 385,000 new quality acres to be created over 20 years. A quality acre is considered to have 200 stems per acre of milkweed plus diverse nectaring plants. This goal may need to be adjusted to fit with Midwest Association of Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) plan if practical.
MO Corn, Soy	The Missourians for Monarch Collaborative has a formal plan in place. The plan was finalized May 2016
ND Soy	The plan was published Dec. 2016. It talks about outreach, monitoring, etc. The NDDA guy in charge is out this week or I'd bug him.

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	[HYPERLINK "https://gf.nd.gov/gnf/conservation/docs/nd-monarch-butterfly-native-pollinator-strategy.pdf"]
TX Soy	Texas Parks and Wildlife has conducted some events in some areas
TXPW	We created a Texas monarch and native pollinator conservation plan in 2015. We are in the initial planning phase to organize a Texas monarch summit in late 2017 to create a more comprehensive, inclusive, and quantitative monarch conservation plan for the state
IN DFW	Indiana is finalizing a plan for a Monarch Summit to be held Sept 19 and 20, 2017. The summit will jumpstart the formal planning committee to draft an IN Monarch Strategy/Plan.
KS Soy	At the beginning stages of the process. In June, the Kansas Monarch Conservation Plan Summit was held to gain information about the issue & hear what is already happening. From there 5 working groups were established with the goal of the draft plan being finalized by October 1. The working groups are Croplands, Grasslands, Right-of-Ways, Urban and Outreach, and Research & Marketing
KS Corn	A Draft state wide plan is to read y Sept. 2017. Due to MAFWA Oct. 01, 2017. An initial plan summit was held on June 7, 2017 in which Kansas Corn attended
MI Soy	There have been several workshops to include multiple partners and collaborators in conservation efforts to benefit both monarchs and insect pollinators. I don't know if this is in collaboration with the national monarch conservation plan.
MN Corn	Minnesota seems to continue to be in the planning stage of the monarch conservation plan process. The Governor has appointed a taskforce on pollinators and habitat in general and they meet quarterly since 2016.
NE Corn	In February 2016, roughly 50 organizations and businesses met at the Nebraska Monarch and Pollinator Conservation Summit to provide input to develop a Nebraska Monarch and Pollinator Conservation Plan. A draft plan was released in August 2017 with the final Conservation Strategy for Monarchs being released online earlier this spring.
NE Soy	Comments on the draft conservation plan that was pulled together were due by the end of May 2017. I have not seen any of the final comments of the draft at this time (July).
OK DWC	The first draft for the Statewide Monarch Conservation Plan was released in August 2017 to the mailing list of participants that attended the November 2016 Oklahoma Monarch Butterfly Summit. After input is received from the larger group, the plan will be finalized and implementation will begin.
WVDNR	Very early – we've starting planning and brain storming on what agencies and entities to contact and engage
IL Soy	Illinois is part of a group that is putting together a Mid-Continental Monarch Conservation Strategy, which will be reviewed by USFWS
MN Soy	n/a
OH Soy	Don't know
SD Corn	Nothing happening, as far as I know. There is awareness, and some proactive activity in the NGO sector.
TN Soy	Didn't think that Tennessee was in the restoration corridor thus no activity is really going on

c) *Is there a set of agreed upon goals or targets for your state driving the planning effort?*

Note: of the states responding, four indicate they have targets (IA, KY, MO, NE) with two describing what they are. Most are in the process of developing or mention working with MAFWA to do so. Some mention they are not aware of targets in their state.

KDFWR	Yes
MO DOC	Yes, see above. We do not however break the overall habitat goal down into habitat sectors.
MO Corn, Soy	Yes, the plan's stated goal is to work toward a Missouri 20-year habitat objective of 385,000 acres (19,000 acres per year) of additional pollinator habitat with 200 milkweed stems/acre. This objective is a step-down

	from the USFWS 20-year national plan to develop 7 million acres of habitat with 1.25-1.5 billion additional milkweed stems
NE Corn	The Nebraska Monarch and Pollinator Initiative set a goal of 125 million new milkweed stems in the state by 2020. The Nebraska Monarch and Pollinator Initiative identified the following educational and outreach goals: 1) Create a clearinghouse for information, 2) Develop and share best management practices with all interested parties, 3) Engage approximately 50 citizens or more in an active volunteer network over the next 3 years, 4) Reach out to involve schools and school lands, and 5) Hold a combination of a minimum of three pollinator meetings, public events, or workshops per year.
NE Soy	Yes.
IA Corn	Yes although specific acreage goals will not be set until version 2 of the strategy.
IA Soy	The conservation includes the framework for designating Iowa specific goals that are anticipated with version 2 of the document. Currently a summary of landcover and available public land resources are included in the strategy document.
IN DFW	Not officially, however we are working in coordination with the MAFWA Mid-America Monarch Strategy and their efforts to set goals and coordinate state plans.
IL Soy	Our goals and targets are still being developed
MI Soy	The development of goals was part of the workshop that I attended but I don't know if that input has been turned into formal goals or targets.
ND Soy	It feels like there are lots of goals including an annual update. No sense of how this will be implemented.
OK DWC	Each section contains goals; however specific targets have yet to be determined. ODWC is also participating in development of the Mid-American Monarch Conservation Strategy led by the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA). One working group within the framework is currently addressing the "South-Core" of the Monarch migration corridor. Once specific goals and targets are developed within the southern region, they will be incorporated into the Oklahoma statewide plan.
WVDNR	Not officially – we'll be looking at the FWS goals for WV and evaluating if we can achieve them
KS Corn	Not yet.
KS Soy	Not at this time.
MN Corn	We are not aware of any established goals or targets at this time.
MN Soy	n/a
OH Soy	Don't know
SD Corn	No
TN Soy	None
TX Soy	None I am aware of
TXPW	No

d) *Is the state department of agriculture and the state's major ag/livestock organizations engaged*?

Note: Responses with higher levels of agricultural sector engagement are clustered first.

IA Corn	Yes.
IA Soy	Yes. All are included as members of the consortium with varying levels of input.
IL Soy	Yes, an ag sub-committee has been formed, which includes the commodity organizations, cooperatives and the department of agriculture
KS Corn	Yes: Kansas Dept. of Ag., Kansas Livestock Assoc. Kansas Soybean Assoc., Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Corn

KS Soy	Yes. Involved agriculture organizations include Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, No-Till on the Plains, and the Soybean, Corn, Wheat, & Grain Sorghum Commissions & Associations
MI Soy	Yes. A broad group of supporters continues to be encouraged to be involved. Actual involvement is variable but not due to exclusion
MO DOC	Yes. Our Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) has recently taken a backseat due to Dicamba issues, but MDA, Monsanto, Missouri Farmers Association (MFA), Missouri Corn and Soybean Growers Association all serve on our steering committee. We also have membership from the state cattlemen's association and the Farm Bureau.
MO Corn, Soy	The following 5 ag organizations were founding members of the steering committee and were part of the plan development: Mo Corn Growers Association, Mo Soybean Association, Monsanto, Mo Dept. of Agriculture, MFA Inc. Since plan development, the Mo Cattleman's Assoc. has joined and Mo Pork Assoc. has contributed to the cause as well
NE Corn	The Nebraska Department of Agriculture as well as the Nebraska Corn Board and Nebraska Soybean Association were all represented at the initial monarch/pollinator summit and provided comments to the draft plan before the final strategy was released.
IN DFW	They have not been engaged in the Summit planning process however they will receive invitations to the Summit and hope to have them engaged in committees during the formal planning process.
KDFWR	Department of Agriculture – yes. Not as many individual AG interest represented, but Kentucky Farm Bureau is a strong partner and can help be a voice for many of the major ag groups.
MN Corn	In the conversation, and planning process and in particular, we have a farmer member on the Governor's pollinator task force however the primary focus of this group seems to be honey bees.
MN Soy	Yes
ND Soy	NDDA is engaged. The rest of ag is not.
NE Soy	Yes to a limited extent
OK DWC	Both the Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association have participated in OMPC conference calls and statewide plan development. However, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture was not directly involved in plan development. However, representatives from the agency attended the November 2016 Oklahoma Monarch Summit.
OH Soy	Yes, Ohio Department of Ag
TXPW	Agricultural interests and entities have been represented at several state monarch meetings to date, but definitely need to be more involved in the state planning process.
SD Corn	No
TN Soy	No
TX Soy	I believe TDA is working in conjunction with TPWD
WVDNR	Unknown what their level of engagement is at this time (see b).

e) ***Is there something that the Monarch Collaborative could do to involve agricultural perspectives? How else might the Monarch Collaborative help?***

IL Soy	General awareness with farmers of the issues and sharing best practices for planting milkweed would be helpful. It's important to know what is happening at the state and local level. Also, it's important to dispel farmers' concerns about planting a species that they have traditionally tried to eradicate in their fields
IN DFW	Any encouragement for IN ag groups to participate in the Summit and the planning process after would be appreciated. It may be beneficial to review our invite list with you to ensure that there aren't any major groups that have been left out.

KS Corn	Possibly develop publicity materials for KCGA promotion in our newsletter.
MI Soy	Continue to keep ag groups informed and invited to events.
NE Corn	Just ask. Ask for ag perspective on issues or initiatives, ask for help or about potential collaboration. In Nebraska, the Monarch and Pollinator Conservation Team invited all ag stakeholders to a separate meeting to review the draft plan, talk about concerns, and offer suggestions. The meeting went well and everyone was receptive to the suggestions
NE Soy	Keep providing information for the states to use in publications and media posts.
TN Soy	Maybe awareness to the state of Tennessee that activity is important in that state
OK DWC	Continued engagement of these sectors is critical to the success of these efforts. Like most things, it's important to tie in existing efforts. Any organization that is engaging agricultural interests needs to be on the same page. This would include groups such as the Sam Noble Foundation, Kerr Foundation, and definitely agencies such as OSU County Extension, county conservation districts, and NRCS. Finding a way to loop all of these groups in is key.
SD Corn	Absolutely. Each state should be challenged from respective ag sector leadership, to develop a set of goals and a conservation plan. Embrace support of federal conservation programs that can provide pollinator benefits, as well as reduce other resource concerns such as salinity – in working lands programs. (ie – Senator Thune's SHIPP program). Find support from the Risk Management Agency – to reduce cost to taxpayers – by reducing the risk of indemnity on low-production acres.
KDFWR	I need to delve deeper into what the MC has to offer
KS Soy	In Kansas, agriculture has been able to be involved in the discussion. Our only suggestion would be to ensure that this discussion and any plans keep a collaborative nature with all parties involved
MN Corn	Agricultural groups have been willing to be involved, however state focus has been dominated by the Buffer law and development of the Nitrogen Rule at both the policy and implementation levels, perhaps reducing the focus on Monarch habitat.
MO DOC	I think we have good Ag perspective in MO. Personal opinion, but I think the Collaborative help most by ensuring an acreage increase in the CRP cap for the next farm bill. Promoting the idea installing good conservation practices (buffers, field borders with pollinator habitat and etc) in return for crop insurance premiums breaks or better payouts when a disaster strikes would be a good start as well.
MO Corn, Soy	I don't think additional help is needed in Missouri, but would be open to ideas. The Monarch Collaborative partnered with our group in 2016 when the Collaborative held a meeting at the St Louis Zoo which coincided with a formal signing event for the members of the Missourians for Monarch Collaborative
ND Soy	This survey has awakened me.
TXPW	Yes. Identify important agencies, associations, and individuals to represent agricultural perspectives in the upcoming Texas monarch summit.
WVDNR	We'd like to hold a monarch summit to get various stakeholders involved, so any help with contacting and engaging the ag community and state ag department would be appreciated.
IA Corn	I don't know
IA Soy	n/a
MN Soy	n/a
OH Soy	Don't know
TX Soy	n/a

2) Status of Awareness and Engagement of Ag-Facing Organizations. *(Responses from grower facing orgs)*

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a) ***How would you describe the general awareness among your members/growers of the need for monarch habitat and the resources available to growers? How would you characterize the sense of importance or urgency of the issue?***

Note: With a few exceptions respondents predominately indicate general lower levels of awareness and/or urgency.

MN Soy	Good. In Minnesota we have been very active on these issues with a collaboration of other farm groups. The first steps we took was to meet with researchers at the university of Minnesota to see what types of habitat would be best for bees and monarchs. The end result was to support some research grants that would look into whether large plots or scattered fragments would be best. We have begun to engage an entity that owns a great deal of idle land in the state to see if we can get them to plant significant amounts of habitat in rural MN. We have been supportive of efforts to designate Monarch highways that would plant highways right of ways with habitat. Finally, we have begun talking with a company that makes coffee cup ring things to make them with milkweed seeds in them so that people can plant habitat right in their yards with trash.
IA Soy	Most are aware of the reports documenting the decline in the overwintering monarch population. Coordinated communication efforts have been developed by the state consortium to highlight opportunities for improving habitat by landowners. The sense of urgency is not high currently among most growers. This is often a secondary issue considered thought the lens of maintenance of non-crop areas and when considering participation in federal financial assistance programs. Uncertainty about the need, risks, and tradeoffs associated with pollinator habitat improvement are forefront for individuals although there is a general sense of the importance of maintaining functional habitat across the landscape.
MI FB	Some of our members are very aware of Monarch needs in particular, but many wrap the species into the larger question of pollinator habitat in general, which is very important to our fruit and vegetable producers. They are generally willing and interested in planting pollinator habitat in non-cropped areas and would like to see expansion of incentive/assistance programs to help with that
MI Soy	Awareness among soybean growers is moderate. In conversations with farmers, I feel that they are sympathetic to this issue but it does not rank high on their priority list.
MO Corn, Soy	Awareness varies widely and would be difficult to gauge. Awareness is likely increasing each year
NE Corn	I'd say our growers are aware that certain groups are working on pollinator initiatives, but may not know the specific details behind these initiatives, or what is going on specifically in Nebraska. I don't get any questions from growers looking for resources on this issue, so I wouldn't say it is of top importance for them. I don't think most producers have found past goals about establishing pollinator habitat to be realistic with their farm operations.
NE Soy	Producers are aware, they have heard about it through publications and press info. In Nebraska I would say the Game and Parks commission is doing most of the awareness outreach with a lot of that going out to the general public. Producers know it is important and continue practices to help with the habitat.
OH Soy	Generally aware but level of urgency not high
MN Corn	The Minnesota agricultural sector (MCGA in particular) is very aware of the need. In terms of urgency, see question 1-e. Other issues dominate the agricultural landscape discussions at present.
IA Corn	There is some general awareness but not a lot of urgency.

IL Soy	The general awareness level is low. There is not a strong sense of urgency. One challenge is the number of environmental issues impacting farmers and helping them understand the importance of each issue and what they can be doing to address it
KS Corn	Kansas Corn Growers are not aware of the need for Monarch habitat. So no sense of urgency on the issue
KS FB	As this issue is in the emerging stages in Kansas, our membership is not fully aware yet. However, awareness will be a large part of our plan in the future
KS Soy	Awareness of the need is low. Frankly, this is not a top priority for our farmer leaders, however we know involvement in the process is key
ND Soy	Low level of awareness on the state level, higher on national level
SD Corn	Very little awareness – as compared to resistant weeds, or noxious weed concern. Road ditches, native range, and pastures are very well controlled for broadleaf plants – resulting in loss of diversity.
TN Soy	Don't feel there is importance due to not being in the main corridor. I (Wayne) think that the emphasis on the I-35 corridor project maybe has diminished activity in states that do not fall in that corridor.
TX Soy	Currently, I don't think it is high on the general producers priority list

b) ***Are there unmet needs of your membership regarding monarchs? (e.g., information, technical or financial resources, etc.)?***

IA Corn	Yes, all of the above especially financial.
IL Soy	I think there are opportunities for various organizations in our state and regionally to work together to help farmers understand what they can do to be part of the solution. The key is identify people who are willing to plant milkweed and helping them understand the various types, practices for growing it and benefits
KS Corn	You could help with information materials
KS Soy	Yes there are unmet needs. There is a lack of information, technical assistance, and financial resources to aid in changes needing to be made
MI FB	Our members would like to have access to more technical and incentive programming, both from existing agencies such as FSA and NRCS, and from new sources that offer alternatives to the traditional Conservation Reserve and other programs. More information is always beneficial, to help members understand the importance of the habitat and the need for collaboration to hopefully demonstrate there is no need for Fish and Wildlife Service to list the species as endangered because of the proactive protection measures in place
MI Soy	Information sharing that is targeted at field crops producers may help in education. Making the connection to the business of farming may help growers to identify motivations to get involved.
MO Corn, Soy	We would welcome any agricultural specific information on monarchs/pollinators that could improve communications and outreach.
MN Corn	Perhaps financial resources toward establishing habitat as well as fatigue with legislation concerning buffers on public waters and public ditches.
NE Corn	In order to get the attention of most growers, there needs to be information and outreach that is directed specifically to them that clearly states how they can assist in efforts, and tells them what resources are available to them. When it comes to conservation, stewardship, and sustainability, there seem to be so many programs and initiatives going on that it can be overwhelming for growers to sort through the information – and if they have to invest a lot of time in just sorting through information, they probably won't do it.
OH Soy	Resources to support basic awareness
SD Corn	Yes. No information is reaching them, as the issue has not been identified as a priority for expenditures.
TN Soy	Is grant money available?
IA Soy	Most of these needs are being addressed by one or more organization in the IA consortium.

NE Soy	I have not heard anything from soybean producers of unmet needs regarding monarchs.
KS FB	At the present time no, as we participate in the development of a monarch conservation plan more information could be of use to us in the future
ND Soy	I reached out to one of the organizations to learn more about the implementation plan. Until I know more, I don't have a sense of resource need
TX Soy	Not known at this time.

c) ***What are the methods your organization has used to convey information about the status of monarchs and resources available to growers?***

Note: Responses clustered with multiple communication methods appearing first.

IA Corn	Newsletters, social media, presentations at meetings.
IL Soy	We have included information in our farmer-facing communications outlets, which includes, print, digital and social media. We also have talked to companies who have monarch and other sustainability programs
KS FB	Kansas Farm Bureau has utilized our primary communication channels. E-News that reaches 9,000 members, as well as our monthly "Farm Leader Letter" that is sent to 40,000 members
KS Soy	We have newsletters, social media, & radio programs we can utilize to communicate to growers as well as farmer field days. The Kansas Soybean Commission currently funds a project thru NRCS to inform farmers throughout the state about the importance of pollinators & monarchs fit into that project
MI FB	We use our media outlets (print and electronic Farm News to members, Facebook page and others) to communicate to members and this year have also introduced the topic as a potential issue for our member-driven policy development process that creates our organizational policy for action
MN Corn	We have established a pollinator habitat as part of the landscape at our main office building, used weekly and quarterly communications as well as social media to convey both need and opportunity to our members.
IA Soy	Highlighting available opportunities for habitat improvement in Newsletters, inclusion of the issue in the programming at the annual research conference, and directing interest to the Iowa consortium which serves as a clearinghouse of information for Monarchs in Iowa.
MI Soy	At this point, information on this topic has been shared verbally
NE Corn	Brief updates have been given at meetings as well as thorough our grower email/newsletters. However, we don't get a lot of information from in state efforts to use as outreach to our growers. We'd be happy to promote efforts through our communication channels if we are given the information.
NE Soy	Soybean Magazine articles that go out to soy growers in NE
KS Corn	None so far, but could promote in our newsletter to members.
MO Corn, Soy	At this point we have relied on state and federal agencies to do this. The Missouri Dept of Conservation has a robust "private lands conservation program" that works with NRCS and targets private landowners
ND Soy	We have done nothing. We appear to be remiss
OH Soy	Have not conducted outreach on this issue
SD Corn	None taken. The monarch issue is seen as some other organization's focus for concern.
TN Soy	Have not done anything.
TX Soy	Not known at this time

d) ***Where would you say the monarch fits on your organization's agenda of conservation/sustainability topics? Does your organization have a monarch habitat policy and/or a pollinator policy?***

Note: grower organizations with a policy clustered first, followed by those addressing monarchs although not via a formal policy at this time.

IA Corn	We are a member of the Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium, support the strategy, and have given financial support to Iowa State University for monarch research and strategy implementation.
IA Soy	Policy included beginning in 2016 supporting the development of the conservation strategy by ISU and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.
NE Soy	It's part of our efforts to support conservation practices. Our NE policy mirrors that of ASA's policy on pollinator habitat, supporting voluntary based efforts on private lands to improve pollinator and Monarch habitat
IL Soy	The monarch fits within two areas. The first is encouraging farmers to voluntarily adopt best management practices. It also fits within our association social responsibility goals. We encourage farmers to plant milkweed and pollinator habitat on their less productive ground or un-farmed areas
KS Soy	We are just beginning to gain awareness & believe they fit within our conservation/sustainability policy with no specific habitat or pollinator policy in place. We do follow ASA's policy under Endangered Species 2.6.03, 2.6.04, & 2.6.05
MI FB	Our organization has a pollinator policy focused much more on managed honey bee populations, so we have introduced the topic of Monarchs and habitat protection as a potential policy area to get feedback and policy direction from our members
MI Soy	This topic does not have a prominent place on our agenda. It fits with our general thought to be good stewards and sensitive to environmental issues. We do not have a specific policy for monarchs or pollinators.
MO Corn, Soy	No formal policy, but obviously we have been highly engaged on state efforts. From a priority standpoint, Monarch conservation issues and policy is something we try and stay on top of, however we have several other environmental policy issues like for example nutrient regulation, pesticide stewardship, that often take priority for MCGA
SD Corn	Not currently on our agenda – although a very robust policy could be developed in short order.
KS Corn	Monarch currently does not fit into our agenda but if regulation and legislation come about in the future we could need to address this issue.
KS FB	In regard to where monarch conservation fits on our agenda it is definitely on our radar as KFB is participating in the development of a monarch conservation plan. KFB currently has no policy on pollinators or monarchs
MN Soy	Important
ND Soy	It hasn't made the list. We have looked at the bee plan, since it is a huge issue in ND.
MN Corn	MCGA does not have policy statements on monarch habitat.
NE Corn	We do not have any policy on monarchs/pollinators. At this time, I'd say monarchs are at the bottom of our priorities when it comes to sustainability
OH Soy	No monarch policy at this time
TN Soy	Farmers are still trying to get rid of milkweed
TX Soy	We have no policy at this time

e) **Is your organization involved in a state-based monarch conservation planning effort? (Or are your interest being represented?) (Follow-up to learn what's needed/missing/desired.)**

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Note: Responses clustered with responding grower organizations who are participating in a conservation plan effort appearing first, followed by those engaged on some level, followed no reported involvement.

IA Corn	Yes.
IA Soy	Yes. [HYPERLINK "http://monarch.ent.iastate.edu/"]
IL Soy	Yes we are involved and have been included in our state-based monarch conservation planning effort through the Illinois Monarch Project's agricultural subcommittee
KS Corn	We are involved by attending planning meetings.
KS FB	Yes, KFB is currently involved in the development of a monarch conservation plan
KS Soy	Yes, we are involved. We have staff representation on the croplands and right-of-ways working groups
MI FB	Currently we participate in two state initiatives related to pollinators: the Michigan Managed Pollinator Protection Plan which focuses on pesticide application (though it is geared more toward managed pollinator populations, the provisions are also applicable to wild pollinator protection including Monarchs), and the Michigan Monarch and Wild Pollinator Habitat Protection Plan, which has a direct focus on Monarchs. This initiative is in its early phases and could use some assistance with getting the plan off the ground. We would like to collaborate further on this initiative. [MI Monarch strategy attached separately]
MN Corn	As mentioned, we have been involved to date in planning conversations.
MN Soy	Yes
MO Corn, Soy	Yes, see part 1 above
MI Soy	We are not formal members of a committee or partnership but have been active in educational/workshop events to address the issue. We have supported research project proposals from Michigan State University Entomologists on this topic.
Ne Corn	We have been involved in the planning efforts (see question set 1). We plan on staying engaged in state efforts to represent corn growers' interests
NE Soy	We have participated in 2 stakeholder meetings that were working on the master plan. I have not seen the finalized plan.
ND Soy	We haven't been represented in the effort.
OH Soy	Not currently but open to considering
SD Corn	No – those efforts in SD have been led by Pheasants Forever.
TN Soy	No
TX Soy	If one is held we will be interested in participating

f) *Are there habitat or acreage targets that your state is shooting for that you are aware of?*

Note: Responses clustered with those grower organizations unaware of targets in their state (or unclear response) appearing first, followed by those indicating plans for developing targets, followed by respondents aware of targets.

IA Corn	Not yet.
IL Soy	I am not aware of any habitat or acreage targets. However, the current emphasis is on the number of milkweed stems to be planted to help the Monarch population
KS Soy	No
MI Soy	I am not aware of specific targets.

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MN Corn	Not that we are aware of at present.
ND Soy	Each organization represented in the group appears to have their own specific plan. Sort of confusing.
NE Soy	I had a note from a meeting they held was NE has approx.. 23 thousand ac. Of pollinator habitat which is mostly in CRP grasslands.
OH Soy	Not aware of
TN Soy	n/a
TX Soy	None I am aware of
IA Soy	National targets highlighted in conservation strategy with state level goals to be determined in future revisions of the strategy
KS Corn	There are targets but that currently would not involve giving up cropland to develop habitat. Kansas has millions of acres of rangeland that grow common milkweed.
KS FB	We do not currently have any habitat or acreage targets. As we continue to develop a conservation plan habitat and/or acreage targets will exist in the future
MI FB	The Habitat plan mentioned above does not identify targets for acreage or milkweed stems, as one of its goals is to go through the process of mapping the geographic location and acreage/stems needed for maximizing habitat benefits while minimizing cost/loss of productive lands
MO Corn, Soy	Yes, see part 1 above
NE Corn	The Nebraska Monarch and Pollinator Initiative set a goal of 125 million new milkweed stems in the state by 2020.
SD Corn	Pheasants Forever has a monarch and honey bee initiative, to establish 5000 ac. of quality habitat.

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