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American Kestrel population status in Agroecosystems

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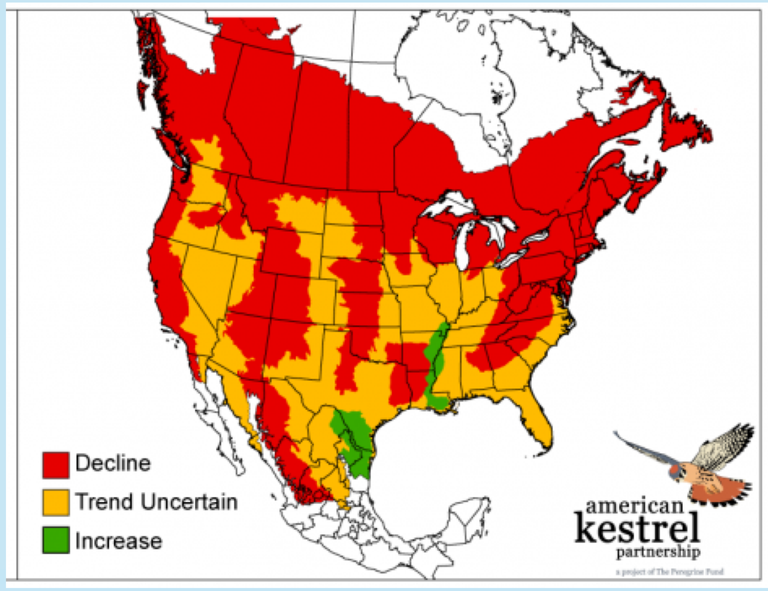
American Kestrel populations in the US have declined by 50% in the past 50 years and scientists are struggling to understand why.
Possible reasons for Kestrel decline include habitat loss, limited availability of nest cavities, pesticide and rodenticide-use, and climate change. Comprehensive studies on breeding, land-use, toxicology, and diet in farmland can help inform management strategies that boost Kestrel populations and benefit agricultural production.



You can help!

Installing and maintaining Kestrel nest box networks in farmland is a win-win.
Kestrels gain a secure place to nest and land-owners benefit from the presence of Kestrels. Kestrels prey upon and influence the behavior of common agricultural pests, such as rodents, songbirds, and insects.

Nest box monitoring in agroecosystems can reveal optimal nest box locations and landscapes Kestrels can thrive in.
The demographic data also contribute to regional studies that help us understand Kestrel population status and trends across North America.

Photos: Ryan Bourbour, John Davis, Jessica Schlarbaum

Kestrels prefer to nest and hunt in open habitats, including grasslands and farmland.
They rely on isolated perches, such as lone trees, fence posts, and power lines. Installing raptor perches in open areas on farms can encourage Kestrels to hunt in a specific area.