FOLEY — The Minnesota Monarch Migration Fair is coming to Central Minnesota on Aug. 21.

The annual event is put on by the Monarch Joint Venture, a non-profit organization, and Minnesota Native Landscapes, an ecological restoration company. Both organizations are based in Minnesota and have the same goal of habitat preservation which benefits monarch butterflies. As a pollinator like bees, birds and other animals, monarch butterflies serve an ecological purpose of transferring pollen from one plant to another to assure plant reproduction.

"We are able to provide vegetation that monarchs need," said Bre Bauerly, ecological products consultant for Minnesota Native Landscapes. "We grow, produce and plant milkweed species monarch caterpillars eat as well as growing a huge variety of nectar plants which is a really important resource for adult butterflies."

The planting of milkweed and other nectar plants are especially important when the monarchs prepare for their migration in the fall to Mexico where they will stay during the winter.

The Minnesota Monarch Migration Fair will take place noon to 6 p.m. Aug. 21 at Minnesota Native Landscapes' production farm at 14088 Minnesota Highway 95 outside of Foley. The farm's fields of blooming wildflowers attract hundreds of monarch butterflies. They anticipate it might even attract thousands.

"I think for us, its an exciting opportunity to have a community based event that involves a breathtaking experience of monarchs" said Stacy Carlson, communications coordinator for the Monarch Joint Venture.
The fair will have "guests wandering among the blooming fields to get an up-close-and-personal experience with this iconic butterfly," Carlson said in a press release.

To purchase a ticket, go to monarchjointventure.org/events/minnesota-monarch-migration-fair. Tickets for adults cost $25 and are $10 for youth.

The fair will also have family friendly activities. All of the proceeds from ticket sales will go to support habitat conservation, science, education and partnership initiatives focused on protecting monarchs and their migration.

Carlson added guests can also expect hayride farm tours and plant sales during the fair.