

Editor's note: A photo is available [here](#).



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## News Release

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### **Flint Hills Resources On Pace to Fledge More Than 50 Bluebirds in 2014**

**Rosemount, Minn.** – More than 50 bluebirds are expected to take their first flight from their nests at Flint Hills Resources this year, outpacing 2013's fledglings and the company's average. From April-August each year, a group of employee volunteers at Flint Hills carefully monitors the 18 artificial nesting structures located on a prairie ecosystem on the refinery property. Each year, Flint Hills reports its bluebird data to the Minnesota Bluebird Recovery Program.

“Our group of ‘bluebird engineers’ is excited to see such a healthy number of fledglings this year as we continue to support efforts to restore their populations in Minnesota,” said Renee Smith, senior process engineer at Flint Hills Resources. “We are happy to maintain 500 acres of restored native habitat along the Mississippi River which serve as excellent breeding sites for the Eastern bluebirds.”

Bluebirds typically fledge (the first flight away from the nest box), anywhere from four to five weeks after the eggs are laid. The Flint Hills volunteers monitor the nest boxes during that time and keep track of the number of eggs laid and hatched. They also monitor the nest boxes for any dangers that may arise to the bluebirds, such as swarms of gnats.

“It is rewarding to be a part of the bluebird program at Flint Hills because it gives us the opportunity to help protect this critical natural habitat as part of our daily work activities,” said Kevin Jarzab, operations engineer at Flint Hills Resources.

#### **About Flint Hills Resources**

Flint Hills Resources, LLC, through its subsidiaries, is a leading refining, biofuels and chemicals company. Its subsidiaries market products such as gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, ethanol, biodiesel, olefins, polymers, and intermediate chemicals, as well as base oils and

asphalt. Flint Hills Resources operates ethanol plants in Arthur, Fairbank, Iowa Falls, Menlo, and Shell Rock, Iowa; and Fairmont, Nebraska. The plants have a combined annual capacity of 650 million gallons of ethanol.

The refining business operates refineries in Minnesota (Rosemount) and Texas (Corpus Christi), with a combined crude oil processing capacity of nearly 670,000 barrels per day. The petrochemical business includes production facilities in Illinois, Michigan and Texas. The asphalt business produces and markets products in the Midwest and Alaska. A subsidiary owns an interest in a lubricants base oil facility in Louisiana. More information about the company is available at [www.fhr.com](http://www.fhr.com).

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