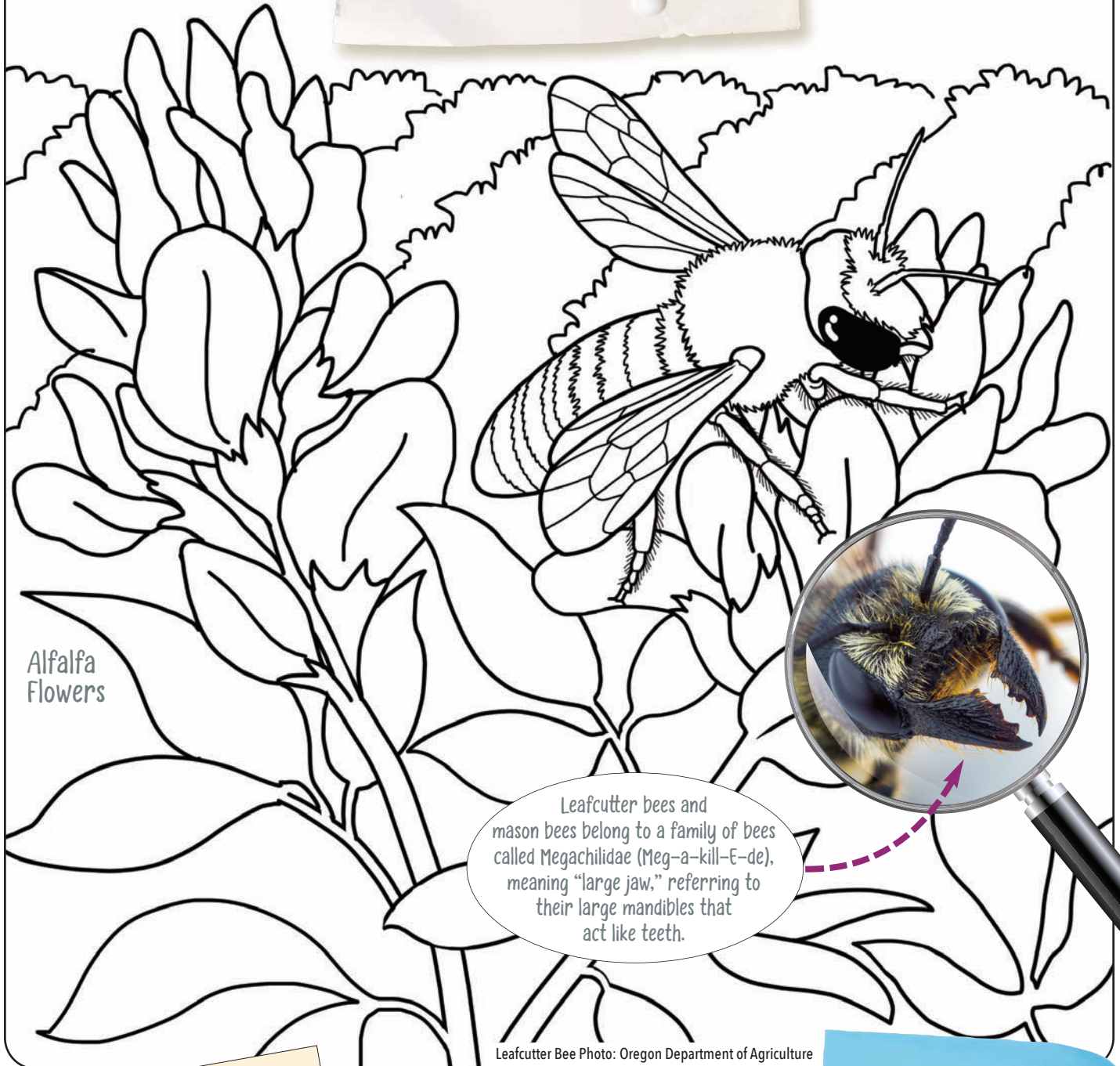


Leafcutter Bees

Genus: *Megachile*



Leafcutter Bee Photo: Oregon Department of Agriculture

Field Notes:

Leafcutter bees, which belong to the genus ***Megachile*** (pronounced mega-KY-lee), are pollinators of alfalfa and many wild plants. They are called leafcutter bees because they cut out small pieces of leaves to use to build their nests. Leafcutter bees are darkly colored, small to medium-sized bees. In Oregon, they are important pollinators of alfalfa grown for seed. Farmers buy the seed to grow alfalfa plants, which are fed to cows and other livestock (animals raised on a farm) that give us milk and meat.



The next time
you eat beef,
thank a leafcutter bee!