

BEEKEEPING ESSAY CONTEST

This annual 4-H Essay Contest is sponsored by the American Beekeeping Federation and the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees. This contest includes cash prizes at the state and national levels. The entries will be judged at the state level and the state winner will be forwarded to the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) whose Web site you may check for the winning national entry (<http://www.abfnet.org/>). All entries must be submitted to Dr. Glenn Studebaker, Northeast Research & Extension Center, P.O. Box 48, Keiser, Ark. 72351 by February 15, and state winners will be announced by the first working day of March.

Topics are announced each year with a stated objective and details to be included. Specific information for each year's essay will be available from the state extension office.

The topic for the 2010 essay is "Is My Community Honey Bee-Friendly?" Honey bees and other pollinators have been in the news lately. Many beekeepers have experienced colony losses to the yet-unexplained Colony Collapse Disorder, or CCD. These unexplained losses have caused some people to wonder: What can I do to help? For this essay, you should survey your community to see what is being done, or could be done to help honey bees. Perhaps there are classes to attract new beekeepers—or laws that prohibit beekeeping. Does your community allow roadsides and open land to grow up in blooming plants in the spring—or not? Are there resources to help home gardeners make bee-friendly choices? When insecticides are required for pests (for example, mosquito control), are the insecticides chosen or applied with bee protection in mind? Include your state in your survey if there is some reason; for example, your state may have declared the honey bee your state insect, or your state highway department may have a wildflower seeding program.

SOURCES

Sources are important. Good leads for research include school and public libraries, local beekeepers, county extension agents, local or state beekeepers associations and the beekeeping professor at Arkansas' agricultural college. The ABF Web site is www.abfnet.org, which also has links to other sites. Winning essays from previous years are also archived on the ABF site.

The scope of the research is an essential judging criterion, accounting for 40 percent of the score. The number of sources consulted, the authority of the sources and the variety of the sources are all evaluated.

Personal interviews with beekeepers and others who are familiar with bees and beekeeping activities are valued sources of information and should be documented. Sources not cited in the endnotes should be listed in a "Resources" or "Bibliography" list. Note that "honey bee" is properly spelled as two words, even though many otherwise authoritative references spell it as one word.

Rules:

1. Contest is open to active 4-H Club members only. 4-H'ers who have previously placed first, second, or third at the national level are not eligible; but other state winners are eligible to re-enter.

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2. Requirements (failure to meet any one requirement disqualifies the essay) –
 - a. Preparation for National Judging: Typewritten or computer-generated, double-spaced, 12-pt. Times or similar type style, on one side of white paper following standard manuscript format.
 - b. Write on the designated subject only.
 - c. All factual statements must be referenced with bibliographical-style endnotes.
 - d. A brief biographical sketch of the essayist, including date of birth, gender, complete mailing address, and telephone number, must accompany the essay.
 - e. Length – the essay proper: 750 to 1,000 words.
 - f. The word count does not include the endnotes, the bibliography or references, or the essayist’s biographical sketch—which should be on a separate page.
3. Essays will be judged on (a) scope of research – 40%; (b) accuracy – 30%; (c) creativity – 10%; (d) conciseness – 10%; and (e) logical development of the topic – 10%.
4. **Individual essayists should not forward essays directly to the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees office.** Essays should be sent to Dr. Glenn Studebaker, Extension Entomologist, Northeast Research & Extension Center, P.O. Box 48, Keiser, Ark. 72351-0048 by Feb. 15, 2009. The winning essay will be forwarded to the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees for entry into the national contest.
5. Final judging and selection of the national winner will be made by the Foundation’s Essay Committee, whose decision is final.
6. The national winner will be announced by May 1, 2010.
7. All national entries become the property of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. and may be published or used as it sees fit. No essay will be returned.

Copies of previous national winners’ essays are available on the Foundation’s Web site at <http://www.honeybeepreservation.org/4-hbeekeepingessaycontest>.