

## BEEKEEPING ESSAY CONTEST

NOTE: ALL ESSAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THIS YEAR

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 national level. The entries will be judged at the state level and the state winner will be forwarded to the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) whose website you may check for the winning national entry (<http://www.abfnet.org/>). All entries must be electronically submitted to Dr. Glenn Studebaker, Northeast Research & Extension Center, P.O. Box 48, Keiser, AR 72351 ([gstudebaker@uaex.edu](mailto:gstudebaker@uaex.edu)) by February 15, and state winners will be announced by the first working day of March.

### AWARDS

Cash prizes to the top 3 winners at the National Level:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$750
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$500
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$250

Each state winner will receive an appropriate book about honey bees, beekeeping or honey.

### TOPICS

**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 2011 essay is "U.S. Honey: A Taste For Every Preference". The taste and color of honey varies according to the flowers where the nectar originates. Each different type of plant will yield honey with a different taste. The same plants, growing in different soils and climates, can yield different honey. The 4-H'ers are encouraged to investigate the local/regional honeys of the United States and see how they differ in taste and color. Is a honey dark with a rich flavor, or light in color and mild-tasting? Actual access to the honey for tasting is not required – just find out about some of the characteristics and write about them.

### 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 website is [www.abfnet.org](http://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, which are 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.
2. Requirements (failure to meet any one requirement disqualifies the essay) –
  - a. Preparation for National Judging: **ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS ONLY**. Entries must be double-spaced, 12-pt. Times or similar type style, on one side of white paper following standard manuscript format. Submit as a Microsoft Word compatible document.
  - 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 1000 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, AR 72351-0048 by Feb. 15, 2009. Please submit your essay via email to: [gstudebaker@uaex.edu](mailto:gstudebaker@uaex.edu) as a Microsoft Word compatible document. 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 website at <http://www.honeybeepreservation.org/4-hbeekeepingessaycontest>.