

2010 4-H ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT AND RULES
Sponsored by The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.

AWARDS: Cash Prizes to 3 Top Winners:

- 1st Place -- \$750.00
- 2nd Place -- \$500.00
- 3rd Place -- \$250.00

Each State Winner, including the national winners, receives an appropriate book about honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.

TOPIC: For the 2010 essay contest, the essay topic 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.

The scope of the research is an essential judging criterion, accounting for 40% of your 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 familiar with the subject 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.

--ESSAY RULES on next page

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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):
 - 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.
 - Write on the designated subject only.
 - All factual statements must be referenced with bibliographical-style endnotes.
 - A brief biographical sketch of the essayist, including date of birth, gender, complete mailing address, and telephone number, must accompany the essay.
 - Length – the essay proper: 750 to 1000 words.
 - The word count does not include the endnotes, the bibliography or references, nor 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. Essayists should forward essays directly to the State 4-H office (105 Ballard Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331) by February 1, 2010. Each state 4-H Office is responsible for selecting the state's winner, which will then be submitted to 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 and may be published or used as it sees fit. No essay will be returned.