

## 2007 4-H Honeybee Essay Contest

**TOPIC:** For the 2007 essay contest, the essay topic is: "Pollinator Conservation"

Insects pollinate more than 95 crops grown in the U.S. These crops are worth more than \$19 billion, and they could not be grown without their insect pollinators. Bees in the superfamily Apoidea are by far the most important pollinating insects. Pollinating insect abundance and diversity are both threatened by several trends, including: the development of land for human occupation, the cultivation of large monocultures, the use of herbicides and insecticides, introduced diseases and parasites, and the loss of plant diversity. Pollination is an essential ecological service that can be a limiting factor in the production of many crops. In addition to crops, insects pollinate plants that provide food and shelter to wildlife, plants that reduce soil erosion, and plants that increase the fertility and tilth of the soil. Insects also pollinate many plants that add beauty and color to our world, including many of the flowers we use to celebrate happy occasions and to comfort one another in times of grief.

Essayists should explore measures being used - or needed - to protect and conserve pollinating insects, especially honey bees, and to reduce the factors mentioned above that negatively affect pollinating insects.

### SOURCES:

A good place to start is a recently published book, "Forgotten Pollinators" by Buchmann and Nabhan. Two other good sources are "Letters from the Hive" by Buchmann and "Crop Pollination by Bees" by Delaplane and Mayer. Additional good leads for your research include your school and public libraries, local beekeepers, your county Extension agent, and your local or state beekeepers association.. The ABF website <[www.ABFnet.org](http://www.ABFnet.org)> has links to other beekeeping sites. The 2006 winning essays are also published on ABFnet, as are prior years'.

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 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; 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.
3. One Junior and one Senior essay per county should be sent for the statewide competition.
4. Essays will be judged on:
  - scope of research - 40%
  - accuracy - 30%
  - creativity - 10%
  - conciseness - 10%
  - logical development of the topic - 10%

### **5. Essays are due in the State 4-H Office January 26, 2007.**

Mail to: 4-H Honeybee Essay Contest,  
ACES, 210 Duncan Hall,  
Auburn University, AL 36849-5620