

2009 Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP) Contest Changes

The changes to the WHEP contest are designed to increase critical thinking opportunities. Many county, regional and state-level people involved in WHEP participated in discussions that led to these changes.

All of the following information is available on the 4-H Wildlife web page at <http://www.aces.edu/fourh/programs/wildlife-new.php>. You will also find additional items that will help 4-Hers prepare for the WHEP Contest.

New for 2009:

General

- Contest Location – Auburn University School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences
- Parking Location – Park in the unpaved B Zone lot on the hill on Lem Morrison Dr. across from the AU Medical Clinic. University Parking passes will not be needed. Do not park in the Medical Clinic parking lot. Follow the sidewalk east to Duncan Dr. and turn left. The School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences is located half-way down the block on the left.
- Program Manual – Separate PDF files comprise the manual. None will be printed by the State 4-H Office.
- No picnic or evening program.
- 1st - 5th place ribbons will be given to individual winners in addition to prizes and plaques for the high three individual and team winners.

Contest Procedures

- Regions - Each year, the contest will focus on one of the four geo-physical regions contained in Alabama – Eastern Deciduous Forest; Southeast Mixed & Outer Coastal Plain Forest (Southeast Mixed); Urban Area; and Wetlands. In order to make the adjustment to the new contest format easier, we will focus on the Southeast Mixed Forest for at least three years.
- During the WMPs activity, participants will be given a WMPs Practices chart that corresponds to the region being highlighted to use. Memorizing this chart will no longer be necessary. Participants will still need to identify the WMP practices to be successful in the contest.
- Scoresheets – They will look different and will contain items for the region being emphasized.
- Wildlife Identification – The species list will contain species from all regions in the U.S. The consolidated list is found in the *Activities & Scoring* section of the program manual.
- Aerial Photos – This will be a paper and pencil activity that takes place in the auditorium immediately after Wildlife Identification. Participants will receive pages containing digital aerial photos and questions relating to these photos. They will write their answers on the answer sheet. To study digital photos of Alabama, go to http://www.aces.edu/waterquality/gis_data/doqq_interview.html.
- Written Plans – Could be urban or rural. In order to make the adjustment to the new contest format easier, the written plans will be urban for at least three years. Therefore, participants must study some sections in the Urban Region part of the program handbook.