

2008 4-H Honey Bee Essay Contest

TOPIC:

For the 2008 essay contest, the essay topic is:

“The Results of Honey Bee Pollination in My Community”

The results of honey bee pollination are many and varied. Essayists are encouraged to become familiar with these pollination activities and, then, survey their communities to see what examples they can find. Some of these will be obvious, i.e., apples on sale at the supermarket. Others may be less obvious, i.e., milk from cows that are fed alfalfa hay with honey bees used to pollinate the original seed from which the alfalfa is grown.

Essayists should not overlook the benefit to farmers who are able to produce more or higher value crops as a result of pollination nor the benefits to the local population from the varied diet to which honey bee pollination contributes.

SOURCES: Two good internet resources are “McGregor's Handbook of Pollination” found at http://beeculture.com/content/pollination_handbook/index.cfm and “The Value of Honey Bees as Pollinators of U.S. Crops in 2000” which can be found at <http://www.masterbeekeeper.org/pdf/pollination.pdf>. There are links to additional beekeeping websites at the Foundation's website -- <http://www.honeybeepreservation.org> - where the winning essays from previous years may also be found.

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.

The judges strongly recommend that 4-Hers meet with a beekeeper before writing the essay. 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. The essay contest is open to active 4-H Club members only. 4-H'ers who placed first, second, or third at the national level in previous contests are no longer eligible. Seniors who previously won the Alabama contest are no longer eligible, either. Other state winners are eligible to re-enter.

2. Requirements (**failure to meet any one requirement disqualifies the essay**)
 - **Submit essays as Word documents.**
 - Computer-generated, **double-spaced**, 12-pt. Times New Roman
 - Use 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 as the last page.
 - Length: 750 to 1000 words.
 - The word count does not include the endnotes, the bibliography or references, or the essayist's biographical sketch.
3. One Junior and one Senior essay per county should be **e-mailed** to the State 4-H Office.
4. 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%.
5. Essays are due in the State 4-H Office by 4:45 P.M. on January 28, 2008. E-mail to: klungeb@auburn.edu . Subject heading should say: Honeybee Essay from _____ County. Attach essays as Word files. Keep a copy in your e-mail folder.

NOTES FROM THE 2007 JUDGES:

“The 4-H leaders should check these papers before they submit them. These weren't negligent errors, just careless. Had the leader checked them over they wouldn't have been disqualified. The two seniors who were disqualified wrote excellent papers. They researched well, they organized the material well and they showed an enthusiasm for the subject that really made them fun to read.

‘Judging from some of the information that was in the essays, the [4-Hers] should be discouraged from using Wikipedia as a source. Those essays that had incorrect information in them all had Wikipedia as the source. Anyone can add to the information on Wikipedia and I'm sure that every beekeeper would be surprised to know that drones are workers. The drones might be surprised too.

“This is an area that the Beekeepers Associations could get involved. They could work with the 4-H leaders and present programs about beekeeping and even have kids come and see the hives and learn about bees, beekeeping and pollination activities. (They could see the different colors of pollen and what that tells about the pollen source for instance).”

The same judges have been asked to judge the 2008 essay contest.