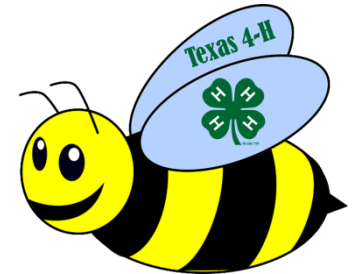


2021
TEXAS 4-H BEEKEEPING ESSAY CONTEST
RULES AND GUIDELINES

Deadline Monday, March 15, 2021

Submit Electronically via Texas 4HOnline:
Event : State – 2021 Beekeeping Essay Contest



Winners will be announced the week of April 5, 2021

The 2021 Essay Topic has been announced by The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.

2021 Essay Topic: Immunity: Threats to Bee Colonies and Methods to Defend Against the Threats

Honey bee colonies have developed many ways to stay healthy. Their immune responses range from behaviors such as grooming to using materials such as propolis, a plant-derived substance bees coat on the interior of a hive for antimicrobial purposes. Even the gut of the honey bee contains beneficial bacteria to help the bee stay healthy!

In your essay, name at least two threats (a parasite such as Varroa, a pathogen such as a virus, a predator such as a bear, etc.) to honey bee colonies and then discuss the methods colonies use to defend against the threats. If possible, include at least one picture you have taken from Feb. 2020-Feb. 2021 that illustrates how colonies manage to stay healthy against a variety of threats.

Put on Your Thinking Cap!

An essential judging criterion is the scope of research you put forth in developing the ideas behind your essay—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.

Note that “honey bee” is properly spelled as two words, even though many otherwise authoritative references spell it as one word.



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TEXAS 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

AWARDS:

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three winners from Texas 4-H:

- 1st Place: \$100.00
- 2nd Place: \$75.00
- 3rd Place: \$50.00

Texas 4-H Contest Sponsors : A complete list of sponsors will be sent to participants for thank you purposes the week of April 5th.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three winners for National:

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

National Contest Sponsored by: The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.

TEXAS CONTEST RULES:

This contest is open to active 4-H Club members only. Previous Texas winners are eligible to enter the 2021 contest, if they have not placed first, second, or third at the national level in the past.

Essay requirements for national judging: (failure to meet any one requirement disqualifies the essay)

- Essay must be typewritten or computer-generated on single-sided pages and formatted following standard manuscript format using double-spaced type and 12pt font in legible font face.
- Essay must encompass the designated topic in 750 to 1,000 words. Word count does not include sources, works cited or the writer's biographical statement.
- All factual statements and interview references must be cited in a "sources" or "bibliography" list.
- 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%.
- On a separate page, please include a brief biographical statement of the writer including mailing address, email address and phone number.
- Essay must be submitted online via Texas 4-H Connect by midnight **Monday, March 15, 2021**

NATIONAL CONTEST INFORMATION: <https://preservationofhoneybees.org/essays/2021-essays>

Final judging and selection of the National Winner will be made by the Foundation's Essay Committee, whose decision is final.

- Deadline by states for National Submission is **April 15, 2021**.
- National Winners will be announced by the **week of June 15, 2021**.
- All National entries become the property of the Foundation and may be published or used as it sees fit. No essays will be returned.
- The National winners' essays will appear in an issue of the American Beekeeping Federation's Newsletter.
- Each State Winner, including the National winners, receives an appropriate book about honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.



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