



Texas 4-H and Youth Development Office
7607 Eastmark Drive, Suite 101
College Station, TX 77840
<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>

2009
TEXAS 4-H BEEKEEPING ESSAY CONTEST
RULES AND GUIDELINES

National Contest Sponsored by: The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.
Texas Contest Sponsored by: Williamson and Collin County Beekeepers Associations

AWARDS:

National 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.

Texas Cash Prizes to 3 Top Winners

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

TOPIC:

For the 2009 essay contest, the essay topic is:

“The Dance Language of Bees”

Honey bees possess the ability to communicate the distance and direction of resources to their nest-mates. They employ a symbolic dance language in which the position of the sun is symbolically represented by gravity, and a trained observer can watch their dances and predict where they are foraging. The use of symbolic language by an insect has made them one of the most studied animals. This year’s essay contest invites participants to learn about the honey bee’s dance language, how it was discovered, how it works and how it provides colonies the ability to find and exploit floral

resources.

SOURCES:

Karl Von Frisch was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1973 for his work with insect communication. His classic text is *The Dance Language and Orientation of Bees*, (1967) Harvard University Press. There are dissenters to Von Frisch’s findings. See “Anatomy of a Controversy: The Question of a ‘Language’ Among Bees” (1990) Columbia University Press. The results of scout bees leading nest-mates back to a new food source can be demonstrated easily by a beekeeper.

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.

2009
**TEXAS 4-H BEEKEEPING ESSAY CONTEST
RULES AND GUIDELINES**

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 anyone 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. The deadline for entries to be in (not post marked) the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Office is January 31, 2009. Send to:
4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest
Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program
7607 Eastmark Drive, Suite 101
College Station, TX 77840
5. Each state may submit only one entry.
6. Final judging and selection of the National Winner will be made by the Foundation's Essay Committee, whose decision is final.
7. The National Winner will be announced by May 1, 2009.
8. All National entries become the property of the Foundation and may be published or used as it sees fit, No essay will be returned.
9. All entries must have a completed and signed Certification Form as the top cover of the essay.
10. Entries should be securely stapled in the top left corner for submission. Do not place them in folders or report binders.

<p>2009</p> <p>TEXAS 4-H BEEKEEPING ESSAY CONTEST</p> <p>CERTIFICATION FORM</p>
--

Award Program Entered: BEEKEEPING ESSAY CONTEST Year: 2009

Name: _____ Gender: M ___ F ___
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Home Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

District/County: _____ / _____

4-H Club Name: _____ Email Address: _____

STATEMENT BY 4-H MEMBER

I certify that I am an active 4-H Club member in Texas and that I have not previously placed first, second, or third at the national level:

Date: _____ Signed: _____
(4-H Member)

APPROVAL OF THIS REPORT:
We have reviewed this report and believe it is correct:

Date: _____ Signed: _____
(Parent/Guardian)

Date: _____ Signed: _____
(4-H Club Manager/Leader)

Date: _____ Signed: _____
(County Extension Agent)

