

2021 Colorado 4-H Beekeeping Essay Competition: Call for Entries

Submission Deadline: March 14, 2021

Sponsored by: Colorado 4-H

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 predators 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.

Eligibility:

The 2021 Colorado 4-H Beekeeping Essay Competition is open to any active 4-H Club members only. Youth selected as the Colorado 4-H Beekeeping Essay winner will be sent onto the National Competition by April 1.

Entered essays must encompass the designated topic only. There will be no exceptions.

Competition Rules & Essay Requirements:

Any 4-H Club member interested in writing an essay should contact their local 4-H office for competition details. The state entry will be through *4-H Online* events.

Failure to meet any one of the essay requirements will result in disqualification.

Essay requirements for state and national judging:

- 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.
- Each youth may submit only ONE entry in 4-H Online.
- Deadline for state submission: **March 14, 2021**
- State winners will be announced: **April 1, 2021**
- Deadline for national submission: **April 15, 2021**
- National winners will be announced: **June 15, 2021**

National competition entries will be submitted for judging by the Colorado 4-H superintendent.

Please send a thank you to Joe Theis for sponsoring this contest.

Joe Theis
771 Roland Dr.
Bailey, Colorado 80421

Decisions made by the judges of the Colorado 4-H contest judging are final. All state competition entries become the property of the Colorado 4-H program and may be used as either program sees fit. No essays will be returned.

Awards:

Three cash prizes will be awarded in the 2021 Colorado State 4-H Beekeeping Essay Competition. The author of the highest scoring essay will win first prize. The author of the second-highest scoring essay will win second prize. The author of the third-highest scoring essay will win third prize.

- First Prize: \$100
- Second Prize: \$75
- Third Prize: \$25

The three prize-winning essays will be published in *State 4-H Newsletter* and recognized at the *Colorado State 4-H Conference*. Essays will also be framed and displayed at the *Colorado State Fair*. All authors of essays submitted to the national competition will receive a relevant book on honey bees, beekeeping or honey.

Questions? Contact Barbie Garnett, Colorado 4-H Essay contest superintendent, bgarnett@parkco.us, 719-836-4152

GOOD LUCK!