



# North Carolina 4-H Beekeeping Essay

Cultivating curiosity about honey bees through writing

**Honey Bees are hardworking**, tirelessly gathering nectar and pollen to share with their hive. They provide a vital ecological service by pollinating agricultural, garden and native plants. Explore more about these fascinating insects by participating in the North Carolina 4-H Beekeeping Essay contest. The essay provides a platform for youth to creatively express their working knowledge and research of the craft of beekeeping.

## 2015 Beekeeping Essay Topic “Planting for Bees from Backyards and Up”

Beekeeping has become difficult due to a lack of native plants for forage. In this essay, you will be required to discuss ways that habitats can be modified to become “bee friendly”. Does your community allow roadsides and open land to grow wildflowers and encourage native planting of bee friendly plants?

Survey your community to see what is being done to help honey bees. Include your state in your survey to see if there is a wildflower planting program available or any other program that could aid the honey bee.

### Essay Guidelines

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.*



A honey bee sipping nectar from a flowering chive

### Beekeeping Essay Deadlines

Essays are due  
February 15th, 2015 at 5pm

Essays should be emailed to  
[liz\\_driscoll@ncsu.edu](mailto:liz_driscoll@ncsu.edu)



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## North Carolina 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest Rules

1. The 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; but other state winners are eligible to re-enter.
2. Requirements (failure to meet any one requirement disqualifies the essay)
  - 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.
  - Prepare your essays double-spaced, 12-pt. Times or similar type style, following standard manuscript format. Submit as a Microsoft Word compatible document.
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. One state winner is selected and awarded \$50 by the North Carolina State Beekeeper's Association.

## National 4-H Beekeeping Essay



The winner of the North Carolina 4-H state Beekeeping Essay is forwarded to the national Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees to participate in their national essay contest. Each state 4-H Office is responsible for selecting the state's winner and should set its deadline so state judging can be completed at the state level in time for the winning state essay to be mailed to the Foundation office before March 1, 2015. No essay received after March 1 will be considered. Each state may submit only one entry.

Final judging and selection of the National Winner will be made by the Foundation's Essay Committee, whose decision is final. The National Winner will be announced by May 1, 2015. All National entries become the property of the Foundation and may be published or used as it sees fit. No essay will be returned. National winning essays will be posted at the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey bees 4-H Essay website.