

# National 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest

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

**2018 Essay Topic:** “What’s So Super About the Super Organism in the Honey Bee?”

The honey bee continues to be on everyone’s mind. From beekeepers to scientists to the public, the honey bee is a great *super organism*. What does this mean to you, to your community and to the world? Put on your thinking caps and GO!

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. **Deadline for National submission is: March 9, 2018.** Sponsored by: The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.

**2018 Essay Topic:** “What’s So Super About the Super Organism in the Honey Bee?”

The honey bee continues to be on everyone’s mind. From beekeepers to scientists to the public, the honey bee is a great *super organism*. What does this mean to you, to your community and to the world? Put on your thinking caps and GO!

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. **Deadline for National submission is: March 9, 2018.** To see rules and regulations please visit

<http://preservationofhoneybees.org/essays>.



## Arkansas 4-H Teen Star Program

The Arkansas 4-H Teen Star Program is a recognition program for Arkansas 4-H members who have outstanding achievement in the areas of 4-H projects and activities, leadership, and community service. **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** Must be 15 years old as of January 1 of the current year and no more than 18 as of January 1 of the current year. Should have completed two years of work as a 4-H member. Should be an active 4-H member at the time of application

## Arkansas 4-H Ambassador Program

Arkansas 4-H Ambassadors are individuals who can be called on to assist with 4-H promotion at the state and county level. **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** To apply, a 4-H member must be a 4-H Teen Star. 4-H’ers may apply for ambassador the same year they apply for Teen Star. They may interview for ambassador only if selected as a Teen Star. The applicant must not be 19 years of age before or during the calendar year in which the application is being submitted. Once named a 4-H Ambassador, a 4-H’er must re-certify annually (see Arkansas 4-H Ambassador Recertification Policy) on or before May 1 or the first working day of May.

## New Flags and Meeting Materials

If you are a Searcy County 4-H Club Leader and you need new club meeting materials such as American flags, 4-H flags, 4-H pledge and motto banners, and such, please let the County Office know what supplies you would like to have. We are in the process of getting all our clubs up-to-date with these items. Come by the office or send us a list that includes item description, size, number needed, and its use or what it is replacing. We will then make one complete list and order the same for all clubs. Make a little “wish” list of other items, as well. We’ll try our best to help you get supplies necessary to have successful club meetings!

## 4-H Camp Scholarships

Camp Scholarship are now up in 4-H online. These scholarships are for State Camps and TLC. If you think there’s a possibility that you will be attending, go ahead and sign up for the scholarships, you can always defer them to the next recipient if you change your mind about attending camp. Apply in 4-H Online, just like you would for any other event. For a complete list of upcoming camps, visit [www.uaex.edu/camps](http://www.uaex.edu/camps) Applications will be accepted until March 1st for summer camps and TLC.

## Arkansas Flower & Garden Show Needs Volunteers!

Here's a great opportunity for your 4-H'ers and volunteers!!!

The Arkansas Flower & Garden Show is March 2-4, 2018 at the Arkansas State Fair Fairgrounds. Again this year, we are going to have a 4-H Kids Zone at the show and need volunteers to assist with our area. The 4-H Kids Zone will have 4-H activities and program information for the public. NEW THIS YEAR, admission passes will be sent to the county office in advance. Also, the passes are only good on the day your county group volunteers. 4-H'ers ages 12 & under get in FREE and will not need a pass! The dates of the event are listed below. If a group would like to volunteer please contact us at the Extension Office!

Here's the schedule:

Friday, March 2, 2018  
9:00 am-1:00 pm  
1:00 pm-5:00 pm  
Saturday, March 3, 2018  
9:00 am-1:00 pm  
1:00 pm-5:00 pm  
Sunday, March 4, 2018  
10:00 am- 1:00 pm  
1:00 pm- 4:00 pm



## Livestock Clubs

Searcy County 4-H is looking for youth to join 2 new livestock clubs! We are creating:

- The Animal Science Club, which will cover animal husbandry, livestock production, and aspects of livestock showing and judging.
- The Vet Science Club which will cover animal production, anatomy, diseases, reproduction, and genetics.

Educational activities will include online/social media environment, classroom instruction, and field trips. Once membership for the new clubs has been established, a schedule of meetings and trainings will be created that best suits the needs of the youth. Call the Extension Office at 870-448-3981 to sign up.



## Financing A Livestock Project

The most difficult part of starting a 4-H livestock project is the financing. Without the funds necessary to purchase an animal, feed and care for it, and give it proper veterinarian services, a young person may never obtain the skills necessary to work hard and meet their goals.

Did you know that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to individual young persons to start and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs and similar agricultural youth organization? These projects financed with FSA Youth Loans provide an opportunity for young people to acquire experience and education in agriculture-related skills. Your County Agent, as project advisor, verifies through the loan process that he will sponsor the loan applicant and has the correct training and experience to supervise your project. He will be available to help whenever needed.

If they are between the ages of 10 and 20, with parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) consent, a young person may apply for a Youth Loan. They are personally responsible for repaying the loan and a co-signer is required only if the project shows possible difficulty in repaying the loan or does not meet security requirements. Contact the County Agent for help starting the FSA Livestock Project Loan process. What a great way to start a livestock project!