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.

Deadline for Submission: Friday, March 19, 2021

Email entries to Dr. Ashley Burns at taberp@clemson.edu

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.

State award: First place Free 2022 Honey Bee Project registration or choice of merchandise ($30-worth) from Shop 4-H
Second place 50%-off 2022 Honey Bee Project registration or choice of merchandise ($20-worth) from Shop 4-H
Third place 25%-off 2022 Honey Bee Project registration or choice of merchandise ($10-worth) from Shop 4-H

National awards: First place $750
Second place $500
Third place $250

The three national prize-winning essays will be published in ABF Quarterly, the magazine of the American Beekeeping Federation. All authors of essays submitted to the national competition will receive a relevant book on honey bees, beekeeping or honey.
Eligibility:
The 2021 National 4-H Beekeeping Essay Competition is open to active 4-H members only. Any 4-H Club member who placed first, second or third in previous years of the national competition is NOT eligible to win in 2021, however, state competition winners remain eligible to enter the national competition. Entered essays must encompass the designated topic only. There will be no exceptions.

Rules Overview: (failure to meet any one of the requirements will result in a disqualification)
- Students interested in writing an essay, should contact their local 4-H offices for competition details. The state selection must be done through the 4-H system.
- Preparation for 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.
- Must encompass the designated topic in 750 to 1000 words.
- All factual statements and interview references must be cited in a “resources” or “bibliography” list.
- Essays will be judged on:
  a. scope of research - 40%
  b. accuracy - 30%
  c. creativity - 10%
  d. conciseness - 10%
  e. logical development of the topic - 10%
- On a separate page, please include a brief biographical statement of the author, including mailing address, email address, and telephone number.
- Deadline for electronic submission for State judging is: March 19, 2021 by 5:00 pm EST
- Email state entries to Ashley Burns at taberp@clemson.edu in Word or PDF format.
- Each state may submit ONE entry only for national judging. The 4-H state office will work with the state winner for submission.
- Deadline for National submission is: April 15, 2021.
- National winners will be announced by the week of June 15, 2021.
- Decisions made by the trustees of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees during national judging are final. All national competition entries become the property of the foundation and may be used as it sees fit. No essays will be returned.

Contact:
Ashley Burns, Assistant Director
4-H Youth Development
Clemson University Cooperative Extension
taberp@clemson.edu or 404-580-7984