



STATE AWARD: Taryn Vogts, Waverly, 2nd place, 2nd-3rd Grade Poster.



STATE POSTER WINNERS: Taryn Vogts and Taegan Kelley.



STATE AWARD: Taegan Kelley, Lebo, 2nd place, 4th-6th Grade Poster.

Coffey County Conservation District Award Winners

79th Annual Meeting/Feb. 12, 2020



Key Banker Chris Bartlett presents the Kansas Bankers Association Soil and Water Conservation Award to Glen and Debbie Isch, Gridley.



Coffey County Conservation District Chairman Justin Rolf presents the Buffer Award to Mike and LaVina Dalby, Burlington.



Coffey County Conservation District Chairman Justin Rolf presents the Continuing Conservation Award to Oscar and Lynda Kistner, Waverly. Right, Rolf presents the district's Grassland Management Award to Gene Snider, Burlington.



Morgan Vogts, Waverly, placed first in Essays. Other essay winners (not present for picture) were 2nd - Luke Bartley, 3rd - Addison Miller, and honorable mention - Anna Matthews and Ben Meehan, all of Waverly.

What Is All That Buzz

Morgan Vogts
7th Grade Waverly Jr High
Teacher: Mrs. White

1st Place Essay

It is in the news. Even President Obama stated his concerns over this. A decline in the honey bee population. What's wrong with that? Bees just sting me. They aren't important to us. What is all the buzz about? Honey bees are a part of a group called pollinating animals or pollinators. Other pollinators are bats, birds, butterflies, moths, wasps, beetles, and flies to name a few. Pollinator.org states, "Pollinating animals travel from plant to plant carrying pollen on their bodies which allows for the transfer of genetic material for the reproductive system of most flowering plants." Flowering plants produce fruits, vegetables, nuts, and fibers. All these things are used in our daily lives. Pollinators are also good for conservation. Flowering plants need roots for water and nutrients. Roots of a plant hold the soil in place preventing erosion. Plants also clean the air through the process of photosynthesis. Mammals take in oxygen and release carbon dioxide. Plants take in carbon dioxide, water, and light to make food for themselves. "Around 80% of all flowering plants need help with pollination," according to the U.S. Forest Service. "More than 1,200 crops need pollinators to reproduce, which means on out of three bites of food is provided by a pollinator." When it comes to our economy, "Honey bees alone account for \$1.2 to \$5.4 billion in agriculture in the United States."

Why is there a decline in Pollinators? Research shows it is caused by a decline in their habitat. The decline in a habitat is also caused by pollution, over use of chemicals and invasive species. By working with the local Natural Resources Conservation Service office, habitat planning can be done. The United States Department of Agriculture has programs available to help landowners establish habitats for our pollinators. Working together we can bring back the pollinators numbers. More people are taking this situation seriously, as more local people are becoming interested in beekeeping.

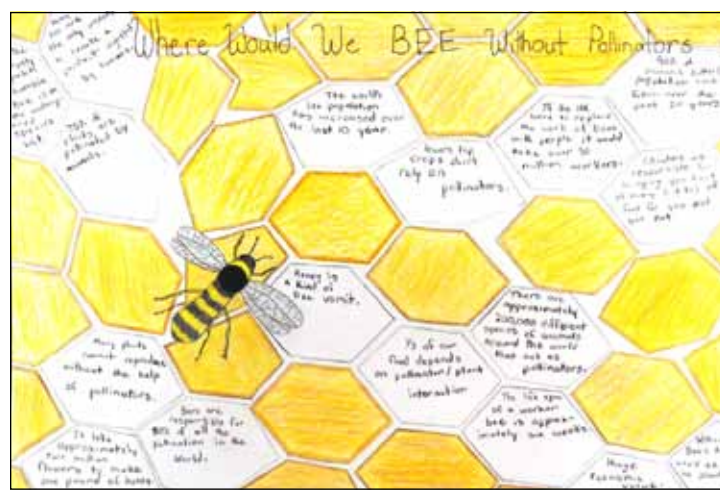
The buzz about pollinators is important. It brings light to an issue that affects everyone. From the food we eat to the clothes we wear, all are thanks to a pollinator.



K-1st GRADE POSTER WINNERS, from left, 1st - Meredith Davies (poster above), 2nd - Adley Meyer, 3rd - Colleen Davies, HM - Molly Grimmatt and Zoey Smart, all of Lebo.



2nd-3rd GRADE POSTER WINNERS, from left, 1st - Taryn Vogts, Waverly (poster above), 2nd - Piper Bathory, Waverly, 3rd - Rebecca Barnhardt, Lebo, HM - Judah Gray, Burlington; not pictured - HM Kai Lacey, Waverly.



LIMERICK WINNERS, from left, 2nd - Korryn Bolen and HM - Eli Grow. Not pictured - 1st - Kaylee Briggs (limerick above), 3rd - Krayson Bland, and HM Mackenzie Krueger, all of Burlington.



4th-6th GRADE POSTER WINNERS, from left, 2nd - Annabelle Lehmann, 3rd - Grace DeMaranville and HM - Dustin Foster. Not pictured - 1st - Ella McNabb (poster above), HM - Allie Stukey and Ari Ramirez, all of Waverly.



7th-9th GRADE POSTER WINNERS, from left, 1st - Josie Romig (poster above), 2nd - Brandon Lee, 3rd - Morgan Vogts; not pictured - honorable mentions Emma Ludolph, Kylie Jo Burkdoll and Addison Miller, all of Waverly.



Coffey County Conservation District Board of Supervisors, from left, Bob Culbertson (speaking), Justin Rolf, Larry Clark, Terry Romig and Richard Gilbert.

Photos by Mark Petterson