

March 23, 2022

TO: County 4-H and Ag Agents
Past Coaches and Leaders
FFA Advisors
Biology Teachers

FROM: Drew Ricketts, Extension Wildlife Specialist, Dept. of Horticulture and Natural Resources

RE: Wildlife Habitat Education Program Virtual Contest – May 5, 2022 at Woodson State Fishing Lake,
Toronto, KS

The 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program is well established in Kansas and has over 10,000 participants nationwide. We have good participation from high schools, FFA groups and some 4-H clubs. For the past 31 years, Kansas has held state wildlife habitat evaluation contests in which the winning team was eligible to advance to the national contest. The contest is about teaching young people about wildlife, the needs of wildlife, and their habitat.

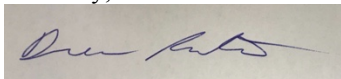
There are two age groups in the competition: 9-13 and 14-18 years of age. You can enter as a member of a team, such as your 4-H group, FFA group, or any group of 3-4 individuals. Alternatively, you can enter the contest as an individual. The major objectives are for youth to gain an understanding of wildlife management including ecological principles, basic life history of a variety of species, use of management techniques to enhance habitats, and for participants to develop leadership skills.

There are five parts to the contest: (1) wildlife identification; (2) general wildlife knowledge; (3) on-site recommendation of wildlife management practices; (4) writing a one-page management plan for a rural setting and; (5) defending that plan in an oral interview. The written management plan is a team activity. However, all team members will be expected to participate in the oral interviews.

All of the information needed to compete in the contest is contained in the National Wildlife Habitat Education Program Manual, 5th Edition/2020 Revision. The manual covers most regions of the United States. For this year's contest we will be using the "Great Plains Grassland – Tallgrass/Mixed Prairie" section of the manual. The manual is available on line at www.whep.org. We will return to an in-person format for WHEP this year, and will meet and complete all activities at [Woodson State Fishing Lake](#), Fegan Rd, Toronto, KS 66777.

If you are interested in participating as a member of a team or as an individual in the 2022 contest, please contact Drew Ricketts, Extension Specialist, Wildlife, Room 2021 Throckmorton Hall, 1712 Claflin Road, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506, or call me at (785) 532-1949 by April 25, 2022. A \$5 donation/fee is requested from each person to help defray lunch expenses. As always, I would be happy to visit with any coaches that have an interest or questions about the program.

Sincerely,



Drew Ricketts
Extension Wildlife Specialist
Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources
Kansas State University
2021 Throckmorton Hall
1712 Claflin Rd.
Manhattan, KS 66506
785-532-1949
arickett@ksu.edu