

YOUTH ON TARGET



From the Coordinator

The time has come to turn the page on the close of the year. Football and good food along with spending time with family tend to go hand in hand around this time...oh and did I mention hunting season? There are few things that I enjoy more than late afternoon sessions in my backyard slinging a few arrows into the target bag. My uncle had a saying that he almost enjoyed getting ready for the season as actually hunting. While I can't say that, I do however derive some satisfaction in knowing that I have all my "ducks in a row" before opening day.

Case in point....each year the night before every season opener I will travel to Wal-Mart around 5:30pm. There is intensity in the sporting goods section that cannot be explained by words on a page. People are scurrying around like there was no tomorrow. Loaded buggies fly up and down the aisles snatching camo, ammunition, scents calls and all other items imaginable from the shelves. Last year, the night before rifle season I ran into a lady that I knew. The first words out of her mouth were "Why do we do this to ourselves every year?" My response to her was "I don't."

That being said, take this time of the year to inspect your firearms and equipment that you have used for shooting sports. Make sure that they have been properly cleaned and stored so that the next time that you pick them up,



they will be safe and functional. Nothing bothers me more than to come in from the duck blind and not clean my gun. And by cleaning I mean taking it apart and getting every nook and cranny with rags, cotton swabs, and even toothpicks. (This takes self discipline especially after having been in the woods all day and the recliner is calling you.) Always and I do mean **ALWAYS** remember before cleaning any gun make sure that it is unloaded and you have read the instruction manual on how it is disassembled/assembled before going any further. This reminds me of an old statement that I love...."Those who fail to prepare, prepare for failure." I hope everyone has a great rest of the year and holiday season. Until next time be safe, be prepared, and keep your eyes open because you never know who you will run into in Wally World!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Long".

John L. Long, Ph.D.

4-H Youth Development Specialist/
Shooting Sports Coordinator



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**2009 4-H Shooting Sports
State Invitationals**



Over 200
Youth
Competed!



July 17-18, 2009



July 24-25, 2009

State Invitational Overall

Muzzleloader

- 1st Place- Doug Strong- Hinds County
- 2nd Place- David Failla Jr.- Pearl River County
- 3rd Place- Brian Layton- Simpson County

Air Pistol

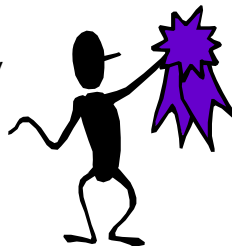
- 1st Place- Emily Bordelon- Pearl River County

Air Rifle

- 1st Place- Luke South- Tishomingo County
- 2nd Place- Meghan Davis- Union County
- 3rd Place- Kayla Parker- Alcorn County

.22 Pistol

- 1st Place- Thomas Ricks- Copiah County
- 2nd Place- David Burns- Leake County
- 3rd Place- Karelia Schmitz- Pearl River County



.22 Rifle

- 1st Place- Jamie Butler- Newton County
- 2nd Place- Jayden Jenkins- Neshoba County
- 3rd Place- Kevin Bright- Webster County

Archery Compound

- 1st Place- Drew Barefoot- Jones County
- 2nd Place- Tyler Warren- Simpson County
- 3rd Place- Ben Cheatham- Neshoba County

Archery Recurve

- 1st Place- Anna Thompson- Oktibbeha County
- 2nd Place- Stuart Wright- Lowndes County
- 3rd Place- Woody Speights- Pontotoc County

Shotgun

- 1st Place- Shana Nicholson- Wayne County
- 2nd Place- Chase McNeil- Jasper County
- 3rd Place- Carty Tillman- Leflore County

FINAL SHOTS

Dalton Bridgers
 Pearl River County



Dalton Bridgers started his 4-H career early on as a member of both the Pearl River County Lucky 13 and Blazin' Saddles 4-H Clubs. He later went on to serve as president of both. However, he soon discovered his passion for 4-H Shooting Sports. He enjoyed being a member of the Pearl River County 4-H Hot Shots for 7 years and was even selected to serve as an Ambassador in 2007-2008 for the Southeast District. He enjoyed competing in .22 rifle, .22 pistol, air rifle, shotgun, archery, and muzzleloading, placing first many times in each discipline at the Southeast District competitions and at the multi-county competitions in Marion County. Although talented in all disciplines, Dalton's true love is .22 rifle. He placed 3rd in the state in 2006, earning his spot on the National Team. However, he was unable to attend due to an injury. Dalton didn't let this

one injury stop him, as he stayed focused and competed in .22 rifle again in 2008, trying to earn his spot again on the .22 rifle National Team. He placed 1st, again securing his spot. Yet he did not get to attend the national competition once again due his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in June 2009.

Dalton didn't limit his shooting sports activities solely to 4-H. He was a frequent competitor in the Civilian Marksmanship Program matches held by the Southwest Gun Club, of which he was a member. He enjoyed competing in NRA 3-position .22 rifle, 3-position air rifle, and NRA F-class long-range high power matches. Dalton also competed on the archery team at Poplarville High School, where he placed 1st overall his senior year. Dalton gives credit to Mr. Doug Bowser as being the one who was most influential in his shooting sports career. Mr. Bowser was not only one of Dalton's instructors, but also his mentor and friend.

Today Dalton is in his first semester at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, majoring in Astronautical Engineering. He reported to the Academy this past June where he first completed 6 weeks of basic training. He then began his freshman classes including Calculus I, French, World History, Military History, Air Force Cadet Drum & Bugle Corps, Swimming, Water Survival, Chemistry, and First Year Experience Seminar. Dalton enjoys playing his trumpet as part of the Air Force Cadet Drum & Bugle Corps and has had many opportunities to travel to different places to perform at all of the football games. He credits the discipline, responsibility, and perseverance that he learned through 4-H Shooting Sports as having helped make him the young man he is today.

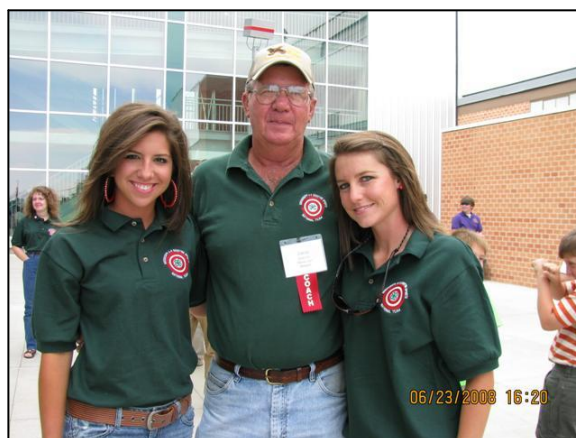


Ashley Ward
Wayne County

Ashley Ward has been a member of Wayne County 4-H since 2004. She was active in Shooting Sports and Share the Fun. She is currently working as a volunteer with a Junior 4-H Modeling Squad in the county. The 4-H Shooting Sports project sparked her interest in shotgun shooting. She was a member of the 2008 MS 4-H Shotgun team, one of the first two females to represent MS in that discipline on the National level, and traveled to Grand Island, Nebraska for the National 4-H Shooting Sports contest. She expanded her shooting to include Sporting Clays and shoots competitively with the National Sporting Clay Association. Her awards there include: **2006** NSCA – Mississippi State Sub-Junior Champion, **2007** High overall score at Boy Scout Charity Shoot, Ellisville, MS, **2009** Mississippi State Championship NSCA– 1st Place – 20 ga. D Class, 1st Place – 20 ga. Ladies Class, 1st Place – 410 ga. Ladies Class, 1st Place – 12 ga. Ladies 5 Stand, 1st Place – 12 ga. Jr. Class 5 Stand, and 2nd Place – 12 ga. Main Event D Class.



Ashley is a sophomore at MGCCC Perkinston Campus where she is Student Council President for the sophomore class, 2nd year member of the Reflections Student Recruiting Team, President of the student body spirit group; lead vocalist in the campus ministry praise band, member of Mississippi Sound, and was elected as football sweetheart for the 2009 Homecoming festivities. Ashley is majoring in public relations/marketing. She plans to continue her education at Mississippi State University in the Fall of 2010.



*Ashley and Shana with
Jamie Draughn
2008 National Team Shotgun Coach*

Shana Nicholson
Wayne County

Shana Nicholson has been a member of Wayne County 4-H since 2005. She was an active member in the Shooting Sports project and is the current MS 4-H Shotgun Champion, the first female to achieve this honor. She was a member of the 2008 MS 4-H Shotgun

team, one of the first two females to represent MS in that aspect, and traveled to Grand Island, Nebraska for the National 4-H Shooting Sports contest. She has expanded her shooting to include the National Sporting Clay Association and recently earned the title of Ladies champion at the Ducks Unlimited National Sporting Clay Association Shoot.



Shana is currently a sophomore at Jones County Junior College. She is a member of the Lady Bobcats softball team there where she plays shortstop. She was selected as All Star on the 09 Softball team. Shana plans to pursue a degree in Sports Medicine at University of Southern Mississippi.

2009 Shooting Sports Volunteer Training

State Volunteer Workshops were held August 29-30 in Waynesboro and October 24-25 in Corinth. There was excellent attendance at both events with over 100 new volunteers receiving certification in one of the various disciplines. Many thanks to the instructors that made these events an even greater success and who took time away from their family and friends to ensure quality instruction to volunteers around the state. Special thanks go out to Lanette Crocker- Wayne County 4-H Agent and Tammy Parker Alcorn County 4-H Agent for all the hard work that went into conducting these trainings in their counties.



South



North



HOME ON THE RANGE

Jean Unterseher

Level II Instructor, Archery

As an instructor I've kept notes of what works best, whether teaching new instructors or 4-H participants and I would like to share some of those notes and tips so that hopefully you can adapt to your own teaching style.

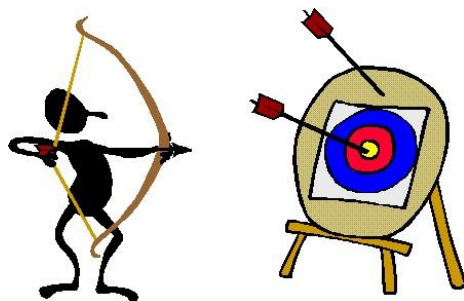
Prior to heading to the range it is extremely important that the student knows the importance of safety. As a 4-H instructor, I share with them the rules associated with archery. To instill a feeling of organization, I always open each meeting with the 4-H Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance. Next I give an overview of the bows used, as well as other equipment, and we are ready to head to the range!

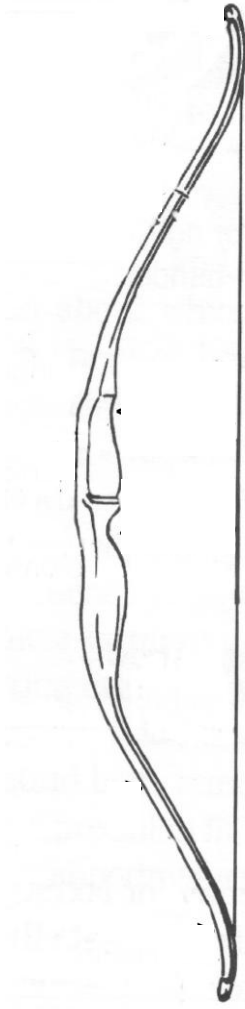
Putting the 4-H student at ease – teaching them to relax, and winning their trust and confidence – should also be at the top of your teaching guide. Should a student approach the shooting of bow and arrow as one would any other sport? YES! Relaxed form in archery is essential. A stretching warm-up prior to approaching the shooting line, as well as mental concentration, will assist the shooter in executing a shot that will hit the target. Instructing 4-H participants can be rewarding, delivering almost immediate satisfaction. This can be accomplished quickly by getting the student to the shooting line in the first 15-30 minutes of instruction. Once an arrow hits the target the student experiences the confidence that is needed to take the next shot. Including the 4-H student in the range setup, marking the shooting line, and other range responsibilities teaches the students to work together as a team. After a few rounds of shooting, a break for additional instructions is recommended. Now that they have experienced shooting a bow, they will be more apt to give their full attention to additional instructions.

There are two types of bows, Compound and Recurve,(see page 7) used to teach 4-H students. As a Level II Instructor, I have spent many hours using both kinds of bows and there is a tremendous difference – a difference that students should be given the opportunity to explore.

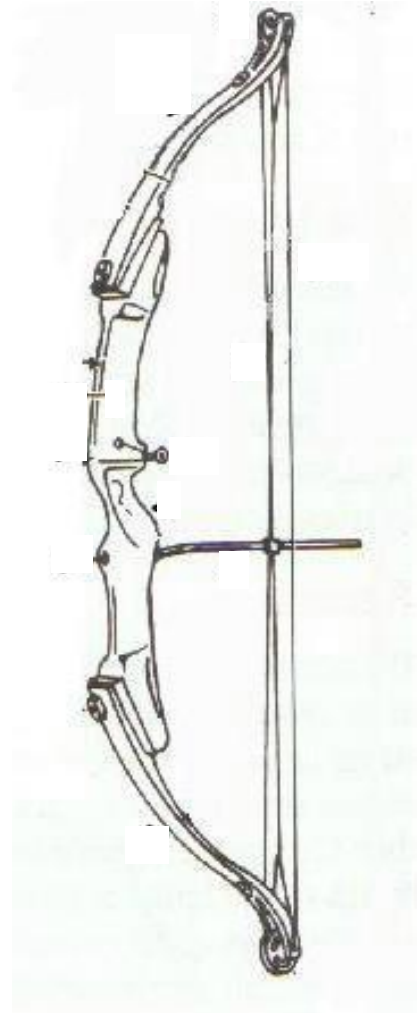
It is also an opportunity to discuss the beginning of archery as it reflects the early bows, long bows used by Indians in the early days of self preservation, used whether hunting for food or as a means of protection.

Although everyone is anxious to get to the range and shooting line, remember to focus on the purpose of 4-H, present an atmosphere of safety, working together, supporting each other and teamwork. Teaching and Learning life skills while having fun is the 4-H way!





Recurve Bow



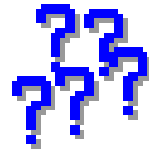
Compound Bow



SHOOTING SPORTS TRIVIA

What year was the Cooperative Extension Service created?

(See page 12 for Answer to Trivia Question)



ATV SAFETY CORNER

4-H ATV Safety License Instructors

Mississippi State University's 4-H program staff members are eager to get started educating communities to help reduce the number of accidents and deaths occurring from the misuse of all-terrain vehicles.

Just recently eight extension staff members participated in a four-day All Terrain Safety Institute Certification in which each member was successful in receiving their license to teach ATV rider courses for youth and adults. The certification is the first step for the Extension Staff members to begin assisting communities with becoming more ATV safety conscious. Extension Service now has certified trainers in all four regions across the state.



Those recently receiving their ATV Safety Institute Certification are: Jerry Burton, Lauderdale County Extension Agent; Greg Biggs, Madison County Extension Agent; Lemon Phelps, Marshall County Extension Agent; Fran Brock, Clay County Extension Agent; Randall Nevins, Monroe County Extension Agent; Laura Giaccaglia, Bolivar County Extension Director; Donna Cliett, Clay County Extension Director; and Larry Alexander Extension 4-H Specialist.

Statistics from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Web site, <http://www.atvsafety.gov>, indicate there were 271 reported deaths from the use of ATVs from 1982 through 2007. Of this number, 89 were children under age 16. Although national death statistics for 2008 and 2009 are incomplete, the agency reported more than 150,900 visits to emergency rooms for treatment of injuries related to ATV operation.

An ATV safety course is an excellent means of gaining knowledge and skills of how to safely operate an ATV machine. Parents are especially encouraged to have their young person participate in an ATV rider safety course.

For more information about ATV Safety Courses in your area, contact your local County Extension Office.



*By: Larry Alexander
Extension 4-H Specialist*

District Reports

Northwest District Shooting Sports

Tallahatchie County held its first Shooting Sports meeting for the 2009–2010 year on Saturday, September 26, 2009. They had thirty members and leaders present. All members received two hours of their eight hour safety per discipline requirement. The next meeting will be held in late October.



Southeast District Shooting Sports

The Southeast District held the 4–H Shooting Sports match at the Coastal Rifle and Pistol Club, 16706 HWY 67 Biloxi, MS.

Our numbers were up from last year and the range had made improvements that made it easier than ever to accommodate all the 4–H Participants.

Every event had more participants than the year before. We can easily see that this is a growing event. A large number of our youth qualified for the State Invitational and some then qualified for the National team. The Coastal Rifle and Pistol Club are wonderful and enjoy working with our youth.



New Future Shooting Sports Addition:



The State 4-H Office would like to welcome to the 4-H Family:

Zoe Maness

Born July 8th, 2009

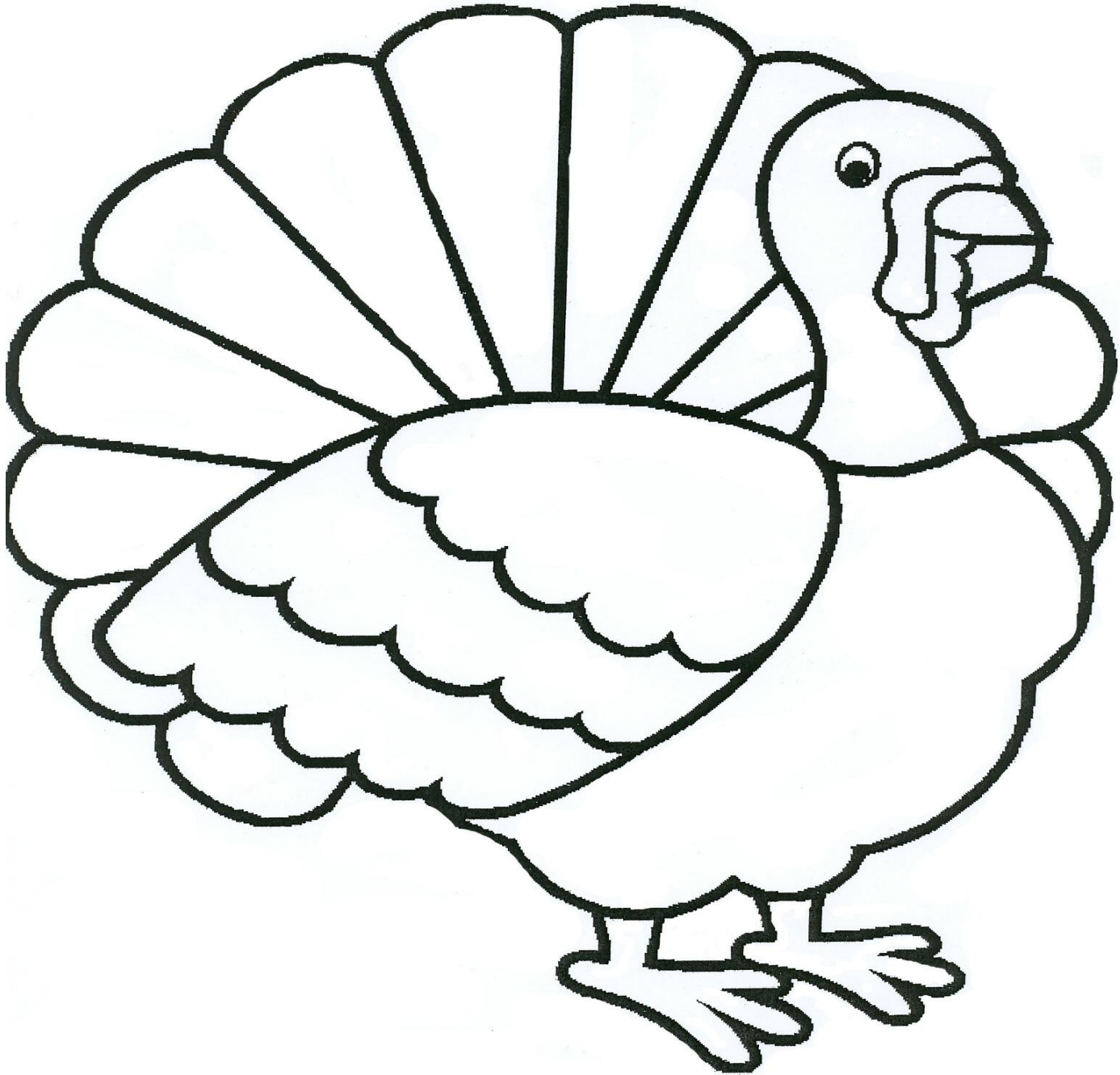
Weighing 7 lbs., 15 oz. 21 inches long

Proud Parents:

Jeremy & Heather Maness

*Jeremy is a County Director in Smith County as well as a Southwest District Shooting Sports District Coordinator
Congratulations!!*

Kids Corner



2009-2010 Shooting Sports Executive Board Officers

Bert Sanders– President

Bert is a Level II Rifle Instructor from Tallahatchie Co. and has worked with the 4-H Shooting Sports at the county, district and state level for many years.



Jeff Hendrix– Vice President

Jeff became our newest Level II Muzzleloader instructor in the spring of 2008. Jeff's passion is seeing that the youth of Mississippi are given every opportunity to succeed.



Kathy Petty– Secretary

Kathy is a multifaceted individual serving as the 4-H Youth Agent in Marion Co. as well as one of the two Southeast District Shooting Sports Coordinators. She is also Level II Coordinator, and a Hunter Education instructor.



Upcoming Events

*Remember:
June 28-July 3rd, 2010 -4-H Shooting Sports
Nationals in Kerrville, Texas*

Event Information Such As:

Upcoming events, photos, instructor resources and much more can be found on the MSUCARES.COM website.

Simply click:

4-H/Youth, Projects, Shooting Sports

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

http://msucare.com/4h_Youth/shooting_sports/index.html

Answer to Trivia Question:

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 is a United States federal law that established a system of cooperative extension services, connected to the land-grant universities, in order to inform people about current developments in agriculture, home economics, and related subjects.



If you or someone you know is interested in receiving the upcoming newsletters, Please e-mail Courtney Headley at the E-mail listed above.