

Mississippi Takes Top Honors at Invitational!

Dates of Interest

April 26, 2003- South 4-H Field and Stream Event- Collins

May 3, 2003- North 4-H Field and Stream Event- Youth LifeSkills Center, West Point

June 7, 2003- Tentative- State 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational- Youth LifeSkills Center, West Point

July 7-12, 2003- National 4-H Shooting Sports Contest- Raton, NM

July 22-26, 2003- National Wildlife Habitat Evaluation event- New Mexico

Mississippi 4-H Field and Stream

A program administered by the MSU
Department of Wildlife
and Fisheries.

*Supported in part by the Mississippi Dept.
of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.*

*Mississippi 4-H Field and Stream
newsletter is a MSU-ES publication.*

*This program is made possible by
dedicated volunteers, Mississippi 4-H, and
the MSU Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries.*

*Do you have comments or suggestions?
4-H Field and Stream welcomes reader
input. If you do, please mail them to:*

*Field and Stream Newsletter -
c/o Ben West, or Jared Quillen,
Box 9690*

Mississippi State, MS 39762

Three days of 4-H Shooting Sports events left Mississippi with a 1st place finish in .22 Rifle, a 1st place finish in .22 Pistol, and a 4th place finish overall. Young people from all over the state represented 4-H Field and Stream in several disciplines. Members of the team were:

- < **.22 Pistol** – Al Pursley, Levi Hendrix, Justin Price, Ben Butler
- < **.22 Rifle**- Logan Hendrix, Robin Majure, Wendi Butler, Jacob Rinker
- < **Shotgun**- Eric Conlee, Derek Holland, Daniel Pickering,
- < **Muzzleloading**- Darold Guyton, Hank Upton, Nicky Buckley, Andy Edgar
- < **Air Pistol**- Jessie Raymond, Nicki Rose, Christa Beth Rose, Matt McNeil
- < **Air Rifle**- Dewayne Morgan, Rebecca Baxter, Johnny Easley, Chris Jernigan
- < **Archery** – Austin Moody, Landon Gurley, Alan Thomason,

Coaches for the teams were:

Bob Dendy, Johnathan Peeples, Phil Majure, Nathan Hendrix, Eddie Pickering, William Baldwin, Mary Baldwin, Gary Taylor, Ben Kilgore, Don Raymond, Annette Rose, Tim Buckley



New National Trainers

Ten new State level instructors were trained early this summer in Aiken, SC. This regional workshop is conducted annually by the National 4-H shooting sports committee and certifies the trainers who conduct our statewide volunteer training workshops. Participants were held to a rigorous week-long schedule that included instruction in a specific shooting discipline as well as techniques for coaching young people. Emphasis was placed on youth development and how the shooting sports can be used to reinforce life skills.

Newly trained volunteer instructors are:

Phil Majure- Shotgun, Jonathan Peeples- Pistol, Gary Taylor- Archery, Phillip Dunaway- Archery, Herbert Sanders- Rifle, Jack Withers- Rifle, Virginia Whittington- Muzzleloading, Joe Walters- Muzzleloading, Ben West- Coordinator, and Jared Quillen- Hunting.

These volunteers have made a three-year commitment to facilitating our discipline instruction workshops, so you will be seeing new faces at the next several training opportunities. Please welcome these volunteers in their new roles.

We would like to thank all of our trainers who have made the time and energy commitment required to assist with our certification workshops.

WHEP National Contest

The Mississippi Wildlife Habitat Evaluation (WHEP) team, from Jones county, traveled to Wooster, Ohio to compete in this year's national contest. The 4-H WHEP program is designed to teach youth about the fundamentals of wildlife science and management via a competitive event. The National WHEP Contest is open only to senior-aged 4-H members, and is held annually in different regions of the country.

The 2002 National Contest attracted 98 4-H participants and more than 45 coaches and guests from 26 states. While in Ohio, 4-H'ers evaluated wetlands using habitat evaluation skills they learned through their

local 4-H WHEP training. The Killbuck Wildlife Management Area, operated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, hosted part of the event and allowed young people to observe Sandhill Cranes, Wood Ducks, and Canada Geese as they competed.

Throughout the event, participants were treated to lively recreational activities such as canoeing, a tour of Amish Country, campfire activities, a dance, swimming, mountain biking, horseback riding, fly fishing training, shooting sports activities, and sightseeing. The Mississippi team represented our state well and placed 13th overall.

Changes Slated for Spring 2003 Events

It has been a busy, yet productive summer for everyone involved with Mississippi 4-H Field and Stream. Following the spring events, we encourage young people, volunteers, parents, and agents to offer suggestions for program improvement. The most effective way is to take part in the 4-H Field and Stream Associations (North and South). Annually, each association holds a meeting to organize everyone's recommendations or proposed program changes. These suggestions are brought before the Executive Committee, which includes the officers of each association and state program coordinators, for action by the committee.

The Executive Committee has established some new rules and classifications for the events for 2003. These changes reflect current sentiment among active volunteers and should clarify program specifics. The following actions were approved by the Executive Committee.

Due to time constraints on event days, we will limit sharing of firearms/archery equipment to three youth per piece of equipment. Please notify our office prior to the events if you plan to share equipment. We can schedule range times accordingly.

Shotgun

The course of fire for shotgun will change to include

rabbit targets on the final shot at each station. Also the method for breaking ties has changed. Future ties will be determined by shooting doubles from the middle station until they miss. Also only one malfunction will be allowed during an event. Another target will be thrown in the event of a true malfunction.

Archery

We now allow carbon and graphite arrows to be shot in any class.

Additionally, peak draw weight shall not exceed 65 pounds. The use of quivers on the firing line is a matter of safety. Therefore, the use of quivers will be mandatory. Hip quivers, not those attached to a bow, must be used.

.22 Rifle

We have removed the power restrictions on scopes. The maximum weight in all light rifle (LR) classes has increased to 8.5 pounds. In another effort to clarify classes, we have renamed two classes. New classes are LR open sights, LR peep sights, LR optical, Junior Rifle, Precision rifle.

Air Rifle

The rules that govern our 10m event will now be the National Standard 3p Air Rifle Rules. They can be printed from:

<http://www.odcmp.com/Forms/20023-PosRuleBook2.pdf>

Also note that **rifled barrels may not be used in the 5 meter BB event**. Additionally, lead BB's may not be used.

.22 Pistol

The maximum barrel length has increased to 10 ³/₄ inches, however National events currently have a 10-inch max length. Also we have added an "any sight" classification to 50 ft. pistol match.

Air Pistol

Junior II shooters are allowed to rest **elbows**, not butt of pistol, on sandbags or table. (5 and 10 meter events).

Hunting will be a scored event for the 2003 events. Map and compass locations with hunting skill challenges at each location requiring interpretation, analysis, or recommendations by the contestant per instruction.

Course: 10 map locations/hunting skills challenges, including safety, shooting decision, wildlife ID or technique applications; may encompass live fire that can include rifle, muzzleloader, shotgun, or bare bow archery.

Muzzleloading

Any magnification will be allowed in the optical sight class. Senior course of fire will change to 6-bull target instead of the B-19 single bull target. Please note that we will limit powder charge for 50 yd bulls-eye event to 60 grains max. Also during our matches we will not allow "quick" loads. All loads must be measured on the loading table.

Also, aperture sights are now included in the metallic sight class as they are true metallic sights.

Receive Grant Money for Your Club

County 4-H Field and Stream programs are often pressed for financial resources and do not have access to the equipment needed to regularly train young people. For the third year, a limited amount of money will be made available to eligible counties with active shooting sports programs. This money is available through the generous support of the National Wild Turkey Federation and the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee.

Funding amounts will be based on the total number of applications received or up to \$200 per county club. A grant application is required and it will be used to determine which projects should be funded. The application can be found on the 4-H Field and Stream web site: http://msucares.com/4h_Youth/4hfield.html

The deadline for postmarked applications is January 15, 2003. Applications will be referred to a grant oversight committee for approval.

National Rifle Association hosts 4-H Postal

A Postal Match is a match in which competitors fire on their home ranges using targets that have been marked for identification. The fired targets are then sent to NRA for scoring and ranking for awards. The NRA conducts various postal matches, many of which are in cooperation with national and fraternal organizations.

The NRA is currently offering 4-H postal matches in Sporting Clays, 3-Position Smallbore Rifle, Air Rifle and .22 pistol. Conducted annually January through December, this postal is open to all 4-H members. Courses of fire are: Sporting Clays; NSCA 5-Stand. Five shots from each of the five stations four times. Smallbore Rifle 3-P, 10 shots each position, prone, standing and kneeling. Air Rifle: 30 shots, 10 shots each position, prone, standing and kneeling. (Only Sporter air rifles may be used). .22 pistol: 60 shots; 20 shots slow fire, 20 shots timed fire and 20 shots rapid fire.

A trophy plaque with Postal Logo and final score engraved will be mailed to the highest scorer in each category. Entry fees are \$5.00 per shooter. Entries may be made at any time provided targets and firing reports are returned or postmarked to the NRA by December 27, 2002. Entry forms may be obtained by contacting our department at 662-325-3174.

New License Available For \$5

JACKSON - Mississippi youth hunters and anglers now can have a hunting and fishing license just like adults, according to the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

The new, voluntary license sells for \$5 and was approved by the last session of the state Legislature.

It's available to Mississippi youth under 16 years of age who have successfully passed the state's hunter education course.

In addition, the Legislature provided \$5 voluntary

licenses for seniors over 65 and disabled hunters between 16 and 65.

"Our new volunteer license really came about as a request from the public, especially young people who wanted to show their support of our agency," Executive Director Dr. Sam Polles said.

"Those who choose to buy the new, voluntary license will be helping wildlife and fisheries management across Mississippi."

Mississippi receives federal aid funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for fisheries and wildlife projects based on taxes paid by hunters and anglers for various kinds of hunting and fishing equipment.

The amount of money Mississippi receives annually is based on a formula that considers such things as the number of hunting and fishing licenses sold along with the total land area of the state.

"The number of the voluntary licenses sold will now be used along with all other license types as part of this formula", Polles said.

The monies are used to fund various projects on state wildlife management areas, state lakes, hunter education, and boating education.

Lifeskills Center Availability

Many of you may not be aware that the 4-H Field and Stream Youth LifeSkills Center, located in West Point, is available to your county club for use. Active 4-H Field and Stream clubs may use the facility at no charge. However, you must schedule your use of the Center through our office and be issued range passes. Currently the Youth LifeSkills Center offers the following shooting venues: Muzzleloading Rifle, Small bore Rifle, Small bore Pistol, Air Pistol, Air Rifle, Archery, and an area for Shotgun.

All equipment, including target frames and targets, must be provided by the requesting county club.

How to Initiate Change in 4-H Field and Stream

We constantly get phone calls and email from Extension 4-H agents, adult volunteers, and youth about 4-H Field and Stream to ask about how and why things are done as they are. Many people have suggestions about how we can do things better. “Why is it done this way?” and “Can’t we change this aspect of the program?” are common questions.

This input is vital to the continued success of these programs, and we always enjoy speaking with folks who are involved in the program! However, the best way to initiate change within 4-H Field and Stream is not by speaking to state leadership, but rather by participating in the 4-H Field and Stream Association.

The 4-H Field and Stream Association was created to help state program leadership in the development, delivery, and modification of the 4-H Shooting Sports and WHEP programs. Two chapters exist within the Association: North and South. Each chapter meets at least once each year - typically after the North and South events have occurred - to conduct business and elect officers. At these meetings, participants may voice any concern or suggestion they have and ask for consideration of the chapter membership. If the chapter agrees the idea is a good one, it may be passed and forwarded to the Executive Committee, which consists of chapter officers and state-level trainers. The Executive Committee considers every motion passed by the North and South chapters, and recommends to program leadership which ones to enact, and which to reject. Recommendations made by the Executive Committee are nearly always enacted.

So, the next time you wonder about why something is done as it is, first remember that the rules governing 4-H Field and Stream were developed with the input of lots of knowledgeable and involved volunteers and 4-H agents. But, if you have a suggestion about how we can do things better, participate in your 4-H Field and Stream Association!!!

Enter the Take Aim At Safety Essay Contest....Win a trip to Elk Camp

Discipline. Self-control. Patience. Responsibility. These are the cornerstones of safe hunting and shooting. Safety is everybody’s responsibility. If you are between the ages of 8 and 15, we want to hear how these principles have impacted you and your views about hunting and shooting sports.

And the reward is a trip to Elk Camp—for the winning author and a parent or guardian. Check out the rules below and “Take Aim At Safety,” a program sponsored by Daisy.

Essay: Write a 250-750-word essay that answers the following question. *How do the important principles of safe shooting (discipline, patience, self-control & responsibility) extend into other aspects of hunting?* For example, hunter ethics, respect for the animal, and ensuring the future of hunting.

Prizes: 1st Place – Winner receives round-trip air fare for the winner and one parent or guardian from within the Continental U.S. to Reno, NV, 3 nights at the Reno Hilton and full registration to Elk Camp for the winner and one parent or guardian.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation’s annual Elk Camp will be held February 27th-March 2nd, 2003, in Reno, NV where the winner will be recognized.

Winner must attend Elk Camp.

Prizes: 2nd-5th Place

A Daisy Red Ryder BB gun



How to Enter: Send to: “Take Aim At Safety” Essay Contest, Attn: Don Burgess, *Bugle* Hunting Editor, P.O. Box 8249, Missoula, MT 59802

Deadline: January 1, 2003.

For more about the essay contest, visit the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation at www.elkfoundation.org

Instructors corner- The Ins and Outs of Silhouette Shooting

Silhouette shooting involves firing at steel outlines of chickens, pigs, turkeys and sheep from various distances up to 500 meters. Unlike most conventional target games that utilize paper targets and numerical scoring rings, most every shot fired at a metallic silhouette produces an immediate and clearly visible result. Even misses produce a cloud of dust. All metallic silhouette shooting, whether using center-fire, smallbore, air rifle or muzzle loader, is fired from the off hand position. Accessories such as adjustable or hooked butt plates, palm rests, shooting coats or slings are not allowed.

EQUIPMENT

Air Rifle- Air gun silhouette targets are 1/10 scale chickens, pigs, turkeys and rams. A standard course of fire will consist of 10 chickens at 10 yds; 10 pigs at 15 yds; 10 turkeys at 18 yds; and 10 rams at 22.5 yds. Sporter air rifles may not weigh more than 11 lbs. and only lead pellets .22 caliber and under may be used.

Air Pistol- Any factory available air pistol firing pellets not exceeding .22 caliber, equipped with any sights and with any safe trigger may be used. One-tenth scale (1/10) metallic silhouettes are used in the air pistol silhouette competition. Standard air pistol silhouette distances are chickens at 10 yards, pigs at 12.5 yards, turkeys at 15 yds, and rams at 18 yards. Pistols may be held in one or both hands, but the hands or arms may not touch at any point closer to the body than the wrists. The arms must not be supported against the body or any artificial support.

Small bore Rifle- One-fifth scale (1/5) targets are used. Any safe rifle chambered for the .22 short, long or long rifle cartridge and meeting the requirements below may be used. The rifle may weigh no more than 8 1/2 pounds including sights. Any sights, metallic or telescopic may be used, but no sight designed to activate the firing mechanism or to project an image on the target is permitted. A trigger pull of at least 2 pounds is required. Any standard or high velocity load is permitted for silhouette shooting. Hot, hyper-velocity loads are not permitted.

Smallbore hunter's pistol - One-half scale (1/2) metallic silhouettes are used. Any factory-available .22 caliber rimfire pistol chambered for .22 Short, .22 Long or .22 Long Rifle cartridges, weighing no more than 4 1/2 pounds and having a safe trigger and a barrel no longer than 10 3/4 inches measured from breech face to muzzle may be used in smallbore hunter's pistol competitions. The pistol may be of any action type, but it must conform to original factory specification in all respects. Any sights may be used, including telescopic, metallic or other optical sights. The sight radius on metallic sights may not exceed 15 inches, and the center of the sighting plane may not be more than 2 inches above the barrel or receiver. Pistols may be held in one or both hands, but the hands or arms may not touch at any point closer to the body than the wrists. The arms must not be supported against the body or any artificial support.

Muzzleloading rifle – Three-eighths (3/8) scale metallic silhouette targets are used. Any safe muzzleloading rifle of common design .54 caliber or lower with either flintlock or caplock ignition and equipped with metallic sights (see 3.7) or their equivalent may be used. In the muzzleloading silhouette match, projectiles are restricted to patched round balls only.

A typical match for .22 rifle, .22 pistol, and muzzleloading consists of 40 rounds, fired in the following sequence:

10 chicken targets at 40 meters (43.7 yards)
 10 pig targets at 60 meters (65.6 yards)
 10 turkey targets at 77 meters (84.2 yards)
 10 sheep targets at 100 meters (109.4 yards)

For each five round stage (one shot, left to right, at each target in a bank of five), a shooter is allowed a maximum of 2-1/2 minutes.

For a copy of the official rules and regulations governing center-fire or smallbore metallic silhouette shooting, contact:

The National Rifle Association of America

11250 Waples Mill Road

Fairfax, VA 22030

Tel: (703) 267-1000

Fax: (703) 267-3909

Prepared and distributed in Mississippi by Jared Quillen, Extension Wildlife Associate I, and Ben West, Assistant Extension Professor
 Mississippi State University, United States Department of Agriculture, Counties Cooperating. Mississippi State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability or veteran status.

