

Mississippi 4-H Field and Stream



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Emphasizing Youth Development!



Mississippi Takes Top Honors at Invitational!

After an 1100 mile drive and three days of intense competition, Mississippi 4-H Field and Stream's shooting sports team brought home **second place overall honors** at the 4th annual National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational. This National Invitational was held July 8-11, 2003 at the NRA Whittington Center in Raton, NM. Two hundred eighty-two participants were represented by 15 states scattered from all over the nation. This second place honor speaks very highly of our young people, dedicated volunteers and 4-H agents throughout Mississippi. For a list of honors for specific events please see our website at http://msucares.com/4h_Youth/invitational_03_nm.pdf Young people representing Mississippi are listed later in this newsletter.

The next National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational will be held in Columbia, Missouri on June 28 – July 2, 2004. At this point we do not know the proposed course of fire for this match, however we have been advised that one of the .22 rifle courses will be the Civilian Marksmanship Program's Sporter Rifle Event. Please see the CMP's website <http://www.odcmp.com/Competitions/Rulebook.pdf> for details on the event.

Once the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee votes on a course of fire and distributes the match bulletin, we will then develop our State Invitational match. We have been advised that this match bulletin may not be released until February, so please be aware that the State Invitational match course will not be announced until that time. If you have questions about the facilities in Missouri, you may contact Gerry Snapp at snappg@missouri.edu



Mississippi attends the 2003 4-H National Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest

Mississippi was represented by the Pontotoc county team, which included Justin Moorman, Steve Anderson, Evan Anderson, and Tracy Huffman at the 2003 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP) National Contest at Las Cruces, NM on July 24. Although our Pontotoc team did not win the competition, all agreed that the trip was enjoyable, educational, and exposed them to a completely different landscape in the desert southwest.

The contest, which is held annually in a different region of the country, attracted 77 participants and more than 50 coaches and guests from 20 states. Participants judged wildlife habitat in the Hot Desert region using habitat evaluation skills they learned through their local 4-H WHEP training. Contestants individually judged the suitability of habitat for wildlife species through on-site evaluation and aerial photographs. As teams, they also wrote urban and rural wildlife management plans for nine different wildlife species.

Participants spotted pronghorn antelope, desert cottontails, roadrunners and jackrabbits as they competed in the rural management practices events held on the Chihuahuan Desert Research Area. Participants were treated to educational tours of the USDA Jornada Experimental Range and White Sands National Park. Relaxation activities included trips to

Wet and Wild, or a hike in the National Forest near Cloudcroft, NM.

“The goal of WHEP is to teach our nation’s youth how to be wise stewards of our wildlife and fisheries resources,” said Jon Boren, co-chair of this year’s event. Summer Eaton, co-chair and a past individual national champion of WHEP, reported “while the competition is important, it is not the sole focus of the program. The kids are exposed to field trips and fun activities. WHEP events help participants to develop critical speaking and thinking skills and learn how to work as a team. The kids are given real world situations and work together to provide solutions to natural resource problems that managers face.”

For more information about WHEP in Mississippi, please contact your local MSU-Extension Service office, or call 662-325-3174.



Volunteer Leader Training Scheduled for October



We would like to announce our October 4-H Field and Stream adult volunteer training. The training will be held on October 18-19, 2003 at the campus of Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS. Classroom instruction will take place at this facility and range instruction will be completed at the Youth Lifeskills Center in West Point, MS. The location of the facility is Thompson Hall on Stone Blvd...if you need specific directions, please call or email us. **We have received several requests to offer a training workshop on a Saturday/Sunday timeframe. With this in mind training will commence at 10:00 am on the 18th (Saturday), and end by 6:00 pm on the 19th (Sunday).** Please send one or more of your volunteers or county personnel to this training workshop!

Outline of what to cover in 8 hours of safety/discipline training prior to events

Over the years there have been many questions about what specifically is to be covered during the required 8 hours of safety and discipline training prior to attending a North or South shooting sports event. 4-H Field and Stream leadership has established the following policy: A minimum of eight hours of training per youth, per discipline, **per year** is required for a total of 24 hours if they are participating in three disciplines. This may include video and lecture, and **MUST** include hands-on training. It is the Coach's responsibility to determine what subjects are covered during the eight hour training. For example new or beginning youth should be taught general firearm safety and basic discipline instruction. Older or advanced youth can have the general firearm safety reinforced, but can be taught more advanced and technical information. Exceptions at this point are given for Wildlife and Hunting, which do not have training requirements because they lack significant safety issues. However, training is strongly encouraged in these disciplines to be competitive.

NRA training materials bring new resource to coaches



Volunteers who come to the next leader training will notice that our training materials have been upgraded. The Executive Committee for 4-H Field and Stream recently voted to begin using National Rifle Association (NRA) curriculum where it exists. The previous 4-H material was produced in cooperation with the NRA, but lacked some of the graphics and overall quality that is found in the NRA books. Beginning with the upcoming training we will be using NRA material instead of National 4-H Shooting Sports material for Rifle, Muzzleloading, Shotgun, Pistol, Reloading, and Hunting. Incidentally, the NRA graciously donated these materials for this and future training workshops.



Recognition of NRA credentials for instructors

The Executive Committee for 4-H Field and Stream also recently voted to begin recognizing shooting sports instructors' credentials from other organizations for 4-H Shooting Sports. Examples of other organizations include: National Rifle Association, National Archery Association, and the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association. One stipulation will be that volunteers seeking the 4-H certification will be required to complete a 4-H Field and Stream orientation and a youth development short course with their county 4-H youth agents. Exceptions to this requirement will be for volunteers who have already completed 4-H shooting sports certification in another discipline. This should greatly increase and improve volunteer recruitment in the county. You will soon be getting information from State 4-H concerning the content of the youth development short course. For information concerning the 4-H Field and Stream orientation, contact our office and we will give you the appropriate information. Once these courses have been completed the 4-H Youth agent should send our office documentation of the course and copies of the volunteers' credentials from the national organization. We will review the submitted materials and confer 4-H Shooting Sports certification when evaluated.

Update for Shooting Sports Events

Our 2003 4-H Field and Stream events were a huge success, but that doesn't mean there is no room for improvement. Every year, we seek input from 4-H agents, volunteers, parents, and youth to try and improve and refine the program. This year, the North and South 4-H Field and Stream Association meetings were well attended, and many excellent recommendations were made. In mid-August, the Executive Committee, consisting of Association officers and level II trainers, convened to officially consider and discuss all proposed changes. As a result of that meeting, several rule changes or clarifications were made. Below is a list of the most significant changes, but a complete set of rules will be released later this fall in the Handbook.

- In smallbore (.22) pistol, there will be a 1 and a 2 handed class for Senior I and Senior II shooters.
- For 10 meter air pistol, Junior III, Senior I, and Senior II shooters will shoot standing and may elect to shoot either 1 or 2 handed and will be scored in separate classes.
- Senior I and II classes in 5 meter air pistol and air rifle have been eliminated.
- 5 meter air rifle will have 3 classes: BB (rifled or smoothbore permitted), Smoothbore Pellet, and Rifled Pellet.
- For muzzleloading, Junior II and III shooters may have assistance loading their firearm, but Senior I and II shooters must load their firearm without assistance from a coach or parent.
- For muzzleloading, all powder must be in pre-measured loads; no powder canisters will be allowed on the line. Shooters must have a minimum of 20 pre-measured loads per event, and may be randomly checked by range officer to ensure compliance.
- In general, assistance (loading, pumping air guns, etc.) will be allowed by coaches or parents, but Range Officers have full authority to restrict these activities in the event they are causing a disturbance to other shooters.
- In general, coaching is discouraged on the line of fire. In most cases, coaches should pull their shooters off the line to offer coaching suggestions and advice. Again, Range Officers have authority to restrict or permit such activity on a case-by-case basis.
- For training, the Executive Committee clarified that 8 hours per youth per discipline per year is required to qualify for the North and South events. Those 8 hours must be delivered by a certified trainer, not his or her proxy.
- Certification is not required for youth to participate in hunting or wildlife habitat evaluation program, but it is encouraged.
- Registration fees have been increased to \$6 per youth per event, for a maximum of \$18 for shooters participating in 3 events.
- The dates for next year's events are April 24 (South), May 1 (North), and May 22 (State Invitational).

2003 4-H Shooting Sports National Team

Nathan Hendrix Coach Air Pistol

Levi Hendrix Alcorn Air Pistol
Freddie Serio Alcorn Air Pistol
Bethany McNeil Jasper Air Pistol

Heidi Hendrix Coach Air Rifle

Chris Bush Alcorn Air Rifle
Patrick Fratesi Washington Air Rifle
Logan Hendrix Alcorn Air Rifle

Lowell Gann Coach Archery Compound

Brad Case Asst. Coach Archery Compound

Zachary Case Grenada Archery Compound
Hannah Gann Alcorn Archery Compound
Russell Holmes Hinds Archery Compound

Melanie Kiani Coach Hunting

Brandi Carter Scott Hunting
Emma Collins Scott Hunting
Antoine Brown Scott Hunting
Jonathan Corley Scott Hunting

Dale Edgar Coach Muzzleloader

Lanny Edgar Leake Muzzleloader
Dewayne Morgan Tishomingo Muzzleloader

Angie Ladner Coach Shotgun

Maury Giachelli Union Shotgun
Wesley Goins Jasper Shotgun
Daniel Luxich Hancock Shotgun
Everett West Marshall Shotgun

Mike Boyd Coach Smallbore Pistol

Bob Dendy Asst. Coach Smallbore Pistol

Nick Boyd Hinds Smallbore Pistol
Kathy Johnson Chickasaw Smallbore Pistol
Matthew McNeil Jasper Smallbore Pistol
Amanda Taylor Chickasaw Smallbore Pistol

Phil Majure Coach Smallbore Rifle

Emily Courtney Hinds Smallbore Rifle
Andy Edgar Leake Smallbore Rifle
Jeb Elliott Clay Smallbore Rifle
Trey Johnson Lauderdale Smallbore Rifle