

## *NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Update...*

*Mailed to Instructors & Featured on the website  
December 17, 2009  
“The Happy Holidays Edition”*

Dear Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Instructors and Selected Others:

The 2008-09 4-H Program is “in the books!” With all the uncertainties, the value of 4-H and CCE programs cannot be underestimated – the 4-H Youth Development Program along with all CCE educational programs are making a difference! 4-H volunteers and staff are a special group who give their time and expertise to enhance the lives of others. 4-H Shooting Sports has grown and solidified its position in New York’s Youth Development Program. The future is bright with the traditional values of shooting and shooters along with our new initiatives that are consistent with the statewide 4-H Science – Engineering – Technology initiative.

These brief updates are designed to maintain our lines of communication. The website: [www.NYS4HShootingSports.org](http://www.NYS4HShootingSports.org), is rapidly becoming the featured way to deliver time-sensitive materials. The following is what has been happening and plans for the coming year.

**4-H Shooting Sport Staff Update:** Staff members remain the same: Our Administrative Assistant is Marilyn Preissler ([mkp2@cornell.edu](mailto:mkp2@cornell.edu)); John Bowe of Warren County is the Assistant State Coordinator ([jfb32@cornell.edu](mailto:jfb32@cornell.edu)); Kenyon Simpson, while no longer employed by CCE, continues as our Shooting Sports Education Specialist; Russell Lehr, a volunteer, continues to serve as the Eastern NY Volunteer Shooting Sports Coordinator with an emphasis on new programs and equipment. His email is [Russlehr@att.net](mailto:Russlehr@att.net). And, Bill Schwerd is the NYS Coordinator, [WMS4@cornell.edu](mailto:WMS4@cornell.edu). Usually the best way to contact us is with an email.

**New Emphasis in 2010:** 4-H Shooting Sports will be taking a step into the world of SET - Science, Engineering and Technology. Shooting is all about science and math, it is only natural that these elements of SET should be added to shooting sports. A series of lesson plans that will come with “loaner kits” filled with the necessary equipment will become available during the 2010 program year. We expect 4-H’ers to participate in public presentations and fairs. The SET lessons will be hands on experiential learning experiences that are open ended. The lesson plans will relate to specific disciplines and before statewide distribution, they will be piloted. Lessons will include the concepts of velocity, trajectory, the effects of wind and recoil across a variety of factors. More will be forthcoming as the lesson plans evolve. If you are interested in working on the lessons, additional ideas, or in being a pilot county, please let us know. All pilot counties must have active 4-H members in Shooting Sports.

**County Reports:** County reports, including photographs, are needed for “*Maintaining the Tradition*”, the annual NYS 4-H Shooting Sports report. County reports go on the website:

[www.NYS4HShootingSports.org](http://www.NYS4HShootingSports.org) to share across the state and the country what is being done. Formal reports are given to sponsors and donors.

County reports should include all levels of involvement from clubs to special interest groups and one day activities where the program is promoted. The number of volunteer instructors involved is equally important. Personalized success stories add smiles to what can be dull reading.

Your report is needed by December 29. A simplified form can be found on the website or self-created..

### **Calendar of Events & Activities for 2010**

The number of opportunities for volunteers and members is increasing dramatically. Our busy schedules are making it increasingly difficult to schedule last minute events and expect people to attend. Staff and volunteers (approved by the county) are welcomed to participate based on the scope of each event. Member events/activities are open to those who have county approval. NYS 4-H Shooting Sports adheres to the Cornell Volunteer Management Plan. County regulations and rules may be more but not less restrictive.

1. January 12 - A public **Sportsman Legislative Forum** in Albany to educate elected officials and their staff: Shooting Sports, along with many outdoor, recreation based programs, are being invited to a program reception in Albany. Leaders of the state and national conservation movement, along with local groups, will be in attendance. I will be coordinating 4-H shooting sports involvement. We will have the laser shot system and our new educational display. Experienced staff, volunteers and teens are welcomed. Please contact me for more information if you are interested in participating.
2. January 17-22 - NYS 4-H Shooting Sports will be sharing a booth at the **SHOT Show** in Las Vegas with the National 4-H Shooting Sports representatives. The SHOT Show is the largest shooting industry event in the world. Two Teen Ambassadors, one from Saratoga County and one from Vermont, will be representing participants from the Northeast. They will be joined by two others from Missouri and California. The event is used to report on the program and to solicit support, donations, and share success stories. There is about 750,000 square feet of exhibits inside the hall and thousands more in the outside area. Volunteers and CCE staff will be working the booth along with the teens. NYS uses this event to solicit items for our annual Banquet & Auction.
3. January 30 - **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sportsman Education Workshop** is hosted by the NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Program for DEC Sportsman Education Instructors. 4-H instructors are welcomed to attend at the reduced price of \$15.00 which covers lunch, breaks and a special gift. The agenda covers a number of topics. Visit the website to see the agenda and registration form.
4. February 19, 20 & 21 - **Winter Instructor Workshop** in Ballston Spa: This annual event has grown to include at least three states and even volunteers from Canada. The winter is a great time to take any of the disciplines and to share thoughts, needs and concerns with a large number of nationally certified instructors and staff. The registration form for this workshop is on the web.

5. April 17, 2010 - Annual **NYS 4-H Recognition Banquet & Auction** - This event is the primary funding source for Shooting Sports. This year the event will be held in Saratoga Springs. The evening is filled with good fellowship, great auction items and we recognize volunteers and staff who are making a difference. CCE staff members are encouraged to nominate volunteers and other staff for a variety of awards. If you have not attended this event – and I have heard all the reasons why it is difficult – distance, cost, etc, you should join us for a fun filled evening. I do know that this is the only program with a recognition program that offers a statewide scholarship and supports county programs with money and equipment.
5. **April 23, 24 & 25 - New Jersey Spring Workshop** – The workshop is held at the Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp in Branchville, NJ. The camp is closer to many New York volunteers than our own workshops. All states follow the same manual; therefore, those attending this workshop will be certified in New York once we are notified by their state coordinator. (Several NY instructors teach at this annual event.) Since all states follow the same instructor manual, New York has reciprocal agreements with other state workshops. We accept their discipline certifications.
6. **May 3-8, 2010 - National Instructor Workshop** – The workshop will be held in West Virginia at the Jackson’s Mill State 4-H Camp. The full announcement with minimum guidelines can be found on the website. Last year 11 volunteers and staff from NY attended the workshop. We are looking for instructor candidates from the Western region, up North and the mid-to-lower Hudson River Region. The state program picks up half the registration fee. When the application forms are available, they will be on the website. Completed forms must be returned to me. A minimum of one team of instructors, and possibly two, will be partially funded by the NYS program. The staff will make final selections if space at the workshop becomes a problem.
7. **June 11, 12 & 13 - Western New York Workshop** - This event is rapidly becoming an annual workshop. A registration flier will be added to the website as soon as it is available. This will include the NRA Rifle course.
8. **Camp Archery and Rifle Certification Workshops** – Shawn Tiede is coordinating these events. Three workshops are scheduled for archery:
  - June 5, Shankitunk – Delaware County
  - June 16, Dorothy P. Flint -Long Island
  - June 28, Camp Wabasso
  - The Western Regional Workshop – June 11, 12 & 13 will also qualify archery instructors for the camp curriculum.

The archery workshops only for camp counselors are offered at no cost to the participants by the NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Program. The host sites will determine if there are costs related to lunch, etc. Private or other not-for-profit camps can receive invitations at the discretion of the host site. All registrations are to go directly to the host camp.

Rifle – NRA certification, as required by the NYS Department of Health, will be offered at two locations:

  - Camp Shankitunk June 5 plus.

Rifle certification, by law, is through the NRA certification process. 4-H Shooting Sports will coordinate the trainings using instructors who are both 4-H and NRA certified. The cost is

established through the NRA. More details to follow from Shawn. We appreciate all that Shawn is doing to make it easier to offer these programs.

9. October 8, 9 & 10 - **Tioga County Fall Workshop** – Jody Tatich and Tioga County will be hosting this workshop. If you have special discipline requests, please let Jody know asap! This event is growing and promises to become a major shooting sports event. The site is special!
10. August 26 through September 6 - **NYS Fair** – Shooting Sports is a major player at the fair. Across from the extensive poultry display, down from the featured dog program and next to some nifty county displays, there is lots to do, from the laser shot simulated shooting activity to other hands on activities for kids of all ages. There is much more that can be done, we just need more help. Now is the time to start thinking of volunteers and youthful participants or 4-H clubs who want to be involved. Together we can make it happen.
11. **Need Equipment?** It isn't too early to reserve the laser shot systems for the coming year. All equipment must be reserved by a CCE staff member in writing – including emails. Confirmation will be sent through my office. During the winter months, two laser units will be assigned to other counties for distribution. Making more equipment accessible with less travel – more on where and when this transfer will take place in January.
12. Just a reminder – counties with active programs are able to borrow equipment for all disciplines. Make your requests in writing with what is needed and when and we will work on a first come basis.
13. Events and Activities for Participants – beyond state fair there are a growing number of shooting opportunities including postal matches – where targets are sent to a central location for scoring where youth can expand their horizons. We will begin listing these opportunities shortly. Jody Tatich has agreed to work with a committee on statewide events. Now that the National 4-H Conference is over and the budget process is done more time will be spent in this arena.
14. **Communications** – website continues as a primary way to communicate with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Youth list serve as the quickest way to reach staff. I would like to create a list serve for instructors. The catch is that I need your email addresses. A list serve will provide almost instant communications regarding opportunities, problems or requests. To make this possible, please email Marilyn Preissler [mkp2@cornell.edu](mailto:mkp2@cornell.edu) and cc me – [WMS4@cornell.edu](mailto:WMS4@cornell.edu) and we will begin the process.

Thank you for a great year. We are always looking for personal interest stories about success stories and this year I want to take an insert on the Hunting Discipline to the SHOT Show. If you know of 4-H'ers or other youth that you have mentored, I would enjoy receiving a photo and short story. We will not be using full names or exact locations. In today's world privacy, protecting youthful participants and volunteers is a priority.

Have a tremendous Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year!