



On Target



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2006 Kickoff...and Reflections on '05

New York State 4-H Shooting Sports Newsletter

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Special points of interest:

- © New York State 4-H Shooting Sports Success at NYS Fair
- © Statewide Survey

The year that was and the promise for the future are reflections that we have as we enter a new year and close the books on programs and accomplishments. There were many highlights that we can enjoy and they provide the foundation with an ambitious set of goals that are our objectives for the coming year.

The efforts of new volunteers certified in 2005 and the continued dedication of existing instructors from across the state enabled us to establish a new category when evaluating the Shooting Sports Program. We continue to include 4-H club members and those who belong to special interest programs and the number of volunteers, those who are certified and others who support the program off the ranges. New in 2005 is the inclusion of the number of youth who sampled 4-H Shooting Sports through activities and events like the NYS Fair. (These are not numbers that we use when reporting to NYS or national reports.) The numbers help to identify quantitative impact and may be used in the future to chart growth in the overall program.

Statistically, it is believed that over 10,000 and possibly 12,000 youth participated in 4-H Shooting Sports programs where youth receive "real" 4-H experiences through the efforts of over 300 certified volunteer instructors. An additional 15,000 – 20,000 youth sampled this exciting program at the state fair, county fairs, festivals and events from Long Island's "Pumpkin Festival" to the far reaches of Western New York where 4-Hers and adults demonstrated safe firearm handling to elected officials. Congratulations to all those youth and adults that make this program possible.

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7th NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Recognition Banquet & Auction...coming on April 1!

The NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Recognition Banquet and Auction is a highlight of the program year. It includes recognition of outstanding achievements and raising the funds that are needed to conduct the program statewide. The 2006 event will be held at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs...the same site as the past two years. The biggest change is that we will have the whole room, more space for tables and for the many great items that will be sold at the live and silent auctions or through the ticket drop and games. There will be even more space for some of those great games from the **Backyard BBQ, the Diners Delight, the Duck Bucket, Whitetail Pail** and all the other catchy groupings that can only be found at the 4-H Banquet!.

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7th NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Recognition Banquet & Auction...coming on April 1!

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Make your reservations early...there are some special drop ticket opportunities that will be sent to those who register early! Reservations are to be postmarked by March 15. Complete tables of 10 may be reserved prior to the banquet. The reservation must be made by one person from the group with a complete list of those sitting at the table. 250 people are expected to attend this year's event.

Donations for the auction are still needed! The success of the 4-H auction is that almost everything is donated or sponsored by businesses, corporations or friends of 4-H. The items must be in Ballston Spa by March 1...or we have a guarantee in the form of a receipt that the item will be on hand for the event. The auction lists will be completed on March 15, this will enable us to better advertise what can be expected that night. Items that arrive late are likely to go into the 2007 event.

Check the website beginning on February 15 for a partial listing of items that will be available that night.

2006 Kickoff...and Reflections on '05

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This year's edition of "*Maintaining the Tradition*" which is our annual report highlights the 2005 story. Certified instructors and county offices will receive a hard copy with the report available through the website at www.nys4hshootingssports.org.

One disappointment in 2005 was that we cancelled two workshops. A downfall of Cooperative Extension is that we wait until the last minute or later to register for programs, activities or events...both volunteers and staff fall into this trap. It takes less time to conduct a workshop than to cancel it! Help our small amount of staff time by registering early for workshops, the banquet or for state fair.

Recognizing those who make a difference...our annual banquet is important for raising funds but just as important is the opportunity to recognize volunteers and staff. We need your recommendations to reach across the state. Send, or better yet, email the names and in 50 words or less why the individual deserves recognition. We will put the nominees in the right categories. The website also includes the categories.

Teens and parents of Teens Alert! The NYS 4-H Shooting Sports scholarship will again be given in 2006. The scholarship is titled the 4-H Natural Resources and Environmental Education Scholarship. Applicants must have been active in a 4-H Natural Resource and Environmental Education project for at least one year. Contact your county 4-H Educator or go to <http://www.nys4hfoundation.org/scholarships/> for an online copy. Applications and all supporting documentation are due at the State 4-H Office by February 15, 2006.

4-H Shooting Sports a Success at NYS Fair!

First and foremost, we would like to thank all the youth, parents, volunteers, and educators that stepped forward to help with this historical event. This is the first time that 4-H Shooting Sports had a presence at the New York State Fair in Syracuse. Let's put that in perspective, a program that has existed for over twenty years and is in contact with thousands of youth has not been present at THE largest public forum for 4-H until you helped us do it in 2005! Pat yourselves on the back and then mark your calendar for 2006.

Developing, planning, and manning the booth was a significant endeavor and the resulting acceptance was more than any of us could of asked for. There are areas that could use improvement and that the NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Advisory Committee will work to do better in 2006. Yes, we were specifically asked to come back in 2006!

How many youth do you think we contacted? Estimates are as high as 10,000 who actually participated in a hands-on activity such as shooting the Laser Shot system, making animal print stamps, or learning about firearms safety. Thousands of gun locks were given away and hundreds of inquiries were directed to specific counties for further information about 4-H Shooting Sports activities.

In 2006, we are asking even more of the counties that have a program or are developing a shooting sports program to step forward and volunteer some time!

September in South Carolina

The National Wild Turkey Federation is one of the key national sponsors to 4-H Shooting Sports. The leadership of the NWTF hosted the first nationwide meeting of state coordinators and regional representatives in late September. Edgefield, South Carolina, the national home of the NWTF saw a gathering of 4-H Shooting Sports state coordinators from all over the United States. It was great to see and realize that this is a national organization with leadership and policy. This is bigger than all of us. And, there are a lot of great programs across the country. Considered a successful working meeting, it will be held once every three years. Program continuity and consistency from state to state, program accreditation, better communications, and more national training opportunities were some of the concerns discussed. Bill Schwerd attended as the NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator. Kenyon Simpson participated as one of two northeast representatives to the national committee..

Friendship Opportunity

The National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association will host it's national shoot program in Friendship, Indiana. The spring shoot is from the second Saturday in June to the following Sunday. The fall shoot runs from the second Saturday in September to the following Sunday. This is an adventuresome trip for youth and adults. We have been trying to make opportunities available for interested 4-H'ers, parents and instructors. This is a unique opportunity for youth and instructor development. The key words are OPPORTUNITY and DEVELOPMENT. Call Kenyon Simpson at 518-885-8995 for more details than you can imagine. 4-H Shooting Sports and the NMLRA are partners in providing youth and adults a place to go back in time, to meet great volunteers and youth from across the country.

Upcoming 4-H Shooting Sports Workshops

2006 will be a busy year of opportunity. Fliers are enclosed for the THREE scheduled workshops coming up in 2006!

- ▶ **Winter 2006 Instructor Workshop**
February 24–25–26
 Saratoga County 4-H Training Center
 556 Middle Line Road
 Ballston Spa, NY
- ▶ **New Jersey State Regional Instructor Workshop**
April 28–29–30
 Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp
 100 Struble Road
 Branchville, NJ 07826
- ▶ **Fall 2006 Instructor Workshop - (All disciplines will be offered)**
September 15–16–17
 Arnot Teaching and Research Forest
 611 County Route 13
 Van Etten, NY, 14889



- A minimum of five participants are needed to hold classes for a specific discipline.
- You can find more information on the web-site at www.nys4hshootingports.org
- Get your registrations in on time. Workshops have been cancelled because we did not have enough registrations, by the deadline, to conduct the workshop. It is critical to get registrations in as early as possible. If you have any questions, please call Kenyon Simpson at 518-885-8995.

Programs Receive Grants - Congratulations!!!

Debra Padden of Allegany County, Dave Decker of Tioga County and John Bowe of Washington County all recently received grants from their local FRIENDS OF THE NRA.

Talk about enthusiasm.... Debra is excited about equipment that they are getting for their county program. Dave called looking for input on purchasing equipment. John is trying to keep Tom Story from spending ALL of their grant monies on muzzle loaders and Living History.

FRIENDS OF THE NRA grant opportunities are found locally in almost every county. Contact the National Rifle Association for your local contact.

NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Advisory Committee



In 2004, the NYS 4-H Shooting Sports program developed an advisory committee to help guide the direction of staff and volunteer efforts into the new century. Since that time, the committee has met several times at Shackleton Point, a Cornell University Research Station that specializes in fisheries. It's a beautiful location with the kitchen and bedding facilities that we need and a direct connection to the Cornell University Department of Natural Resources.

The committee is comprised of all Nationally certified coordinator instructors, educators with programs in their counties, the NYS Coordinator, Bill Schwerd, and the NYS Educator, Kenyon Simpson. The NYS 4-H Program Leader and other key staff have also been invited to attend these meetings and continue the connection with the university.

One of the main goals of the advisory committee is to develop a system where ALL certified instructors will have quick and easy access to program information as soon as possible. One of these results has been an e-mail list where important fliers or general information can be sent to as many of the instructors statewide as possible. It worked much better for enrolling volunteers for the NYS Fair booth than a regular mailing. Work will continue to provide on-line areas for instructors to get and provide information needed for a successful program.

Some of the topics that were discussed at the most recent meeting:

- Annual funding banquet
- Overall funding situation...Counties support for the program
- 4-H Shooting Sports sponsored scholarship
- Use of Nationally supported Power Point presentations to create a consistent message of structure, organization, and delivery
- National instructor needs and the challenge of east to west trainings in such a large state as ours.
- Optional curriculum review
- What role does 4-H Living History play?

If you would like to make recommendations or even pose questions to this committee, you should speak with the coordinator or educator in your county and have them contact Bill Schwerd or Kenyon Simpson.



19th Sportsman Education Workshop a HUGH success

The very active car dealership(s) that advertise using the word “HUGH” would have used that term to describe the agenda that NYS 4-H Shooting Sports put together in hosting the **19th Sportsman Education Workshop** on January 21! Nearly 200 DEC certified volunteer instructors, presenters and facilitators gathered for a program that featured the following speakers:

- Assemblyman James Tedisco – Minority Leader of the NYS Assembly
- Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward – an active member of the Assembly who supports shooting and hunting and a longtime supporter of 4-H. She will be judging public presentations in Warren County we are told!
- Denise Sheehan – NYS DEC Commissioner. This is the first time that the commissioner has been a guest speaker.
- Wayne Jones, Administrator and Jeff Liddle, Coordinator from the NYS Sportsman Education Program were featured speakers.
- Director Gerry Barnhart and Chief John Major of the NYS DEC Bureau of Wildlife and Marine Resources provided insight and expectations for the future.
- Robert Lucas, Director of NYS DEC Division of Law Enforcement, highlighted a list of Encon Officers that included Captain Scott Florence and Lt. Deming Lindsley highlighting laws and law breakers.
- Harold Palmer, President of the NYS Conservation Council was a key speaker and he headed Council representation that included two NYS 4-H Shooting Sports instructors...Mickey Elliott, a representative to the Council and Vice President Loren Sigman II.

The future of furbearer management was provided by Gordon Batcheller who heads the program plus two members of the Joint Trapper Initiative from the NYS Trappers Association – Angie Berchielli and Al West.

WOW! The evaluations were that this was possibly the best workshop in our 19 year history. 4-H Shooting Sports hosts this “hot stove league” event to provide a forum for DEC and volunteers to share concerns and needs. Shooting Sports is front and center, promoting programs, soliciting for volunteers and providing a much needed service.

Two people deserving special recognition are Mike Miller, a staff member of Assembly members James Tedisco, Teresa Sayward, Daniel Hooker and Roy McDonald. Mickey Elliott of the NYS Conservation Council and a 4-H Shooting Sports instructor worked to include the key elected officials and DEC representatives.

Thanks to all those who helped to make this a very special event.

Annual Reports

Each year 4-H programs are required to complete an annual report showing the impact of county programs. These report numbers are very important and are reported to the USDA (the federal oversight group for Extension systems) through Cornell University.

Because of the diverse and often autonomous standing of 4-H Shooting Sports program, it is absolutely VITAL to turn in an annual report about the activities of your county. These are not complicated reports. In fact, several counties would be willing to send you electronic copies of their report form so you can see what information you should include. Completed reports should be turned into the county office with a copy to the state coordinator in the Saratoga County office. These materials are also used to help build the website and public relations materials for booths throughout NYS. You did great putting your program together, now brag!!!!

Statewide Survey

An ongoing goal of the NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Program is to conduct a statewide survey showing the impact of the program over the years on youth, volunteer instructors and parents. A false start, followed by the promise of a nationally developed survey has delayed the implementation. While we have been waiting for a survey that would show consistency across the country, the Washington County program, through the efforts of John Bowe, distributed a survey that will provide baseline information. The survey results are being tabulated and we will have those results in a future newsletter.