Have you ever wondered how the 4-H shooting sports program began in Oklahoma?

Marie Ketchum started practices in 1979 with a group of participants in Stephens County. In 1983, Marie and Guy Harlow partnered together in an effort to bring shooting sports to Oklahoma 4-H through the shotgun discipline. The new contests brought in many 4-Hers who enjoyed the first successes of 4-H shooting sports in Oklahoma.

In 1994, Oklahoma sent a team of adults to get nationally trained in other disciplines including archery, hunting, muzzleloader pistol and rifle. The training allowed the team to gain greater knowledge of the disciplines they would be coaching when they returned home. The first state certification for shotgun was held in 1995. In the fall of 1995, a state certification was held for shotgun, rifle and county coordinator giving more people the chance to become coaches in their desired discipline.

Oklahoma 4-H held their very first air rifle and air pistol contests followed by archery in the spring of 1996. Both events had good turn outs. Each year, 4-H contest grow while adding more participants each contest.

2003 was the very first year Oklahoma sent a team to nationals in Missouri. This team, coached by Charles Hurt and Jean Bailey, competed in air rifle. The first official .22 rifle/.22 pistol state contest was hosted in 2005. The first Muzzleloader contest followed in the spring of 2010.

In 2011, Oklahoma sent its first team in hunting skills to the national contest. They placed 3rd overall. Every discipline now has a state contest throughout the year. The top 4 overall have the opportunity to attend the 4-H national shooting sports championships. In 2016, history once again was made by sending a full contingent to the national contest. Oklahoma entered the state sweepstakes placing 7th overall.

The Oklahoma 4-H shooting sports program has continually grown since its inception and now boasts an enrollment of 3598 for the 2017 year.

The Friends of NRA have been instrumental in keeping shooting sports alive and well in Oklahoma. Grants have been awarded to various 4-H clubs in Oklahoma since 1995. Since its inception, the Friends of NRA have granted over 460 grants totaling more than 1.8 million dollars in equipment to help further shooting sports in Oklahoma. Without these grants, fewer 4-H participants would be able to afford to participate in the program. The grant program is funded by donations made to the FNRA during banquets held throughout the state of Oklahoma. For more information: https://www.friendsofnra.org/eventtickets/Events/Index/37
McIntosh County held their first spring archery blowout contest on March 24th. The contest was held at the McIntosh County Fairgrounds in Eufaula. McIntosh County 4-H Archery club hosted the contest and had a great crew. This contest was open to the state and had a great turnout. Contestants had the opportunity to compete in 3D, field and FITA. The 3D archery course was excellent. The course offered difficult shots including many downhill shots. The field course was set up nicely and challenged the best of archers. 1st place received beautiful belt buckles, while 2nd and 3rd places were awarded beautifully decorated clovers. The weather was a little chilly and humid, but overall it was a fantastic day for archery. Look for details on this shoot next spring. You do not want to miss this one!

Coach Spotlight ~ Rick Syzemore

Rick Syzemore has been in the 4-H shooting sports program for over 23 years and has contributed a large majority of his time volunteering. Rick is currently a level 3 archery coach in 4-H. His journey in 4-H started in 1964 in his high school years. The high school Rick attended required everyone to be in 4-H in some capacity. He participated in dress review, public speeches and surveys. He stayed with it until he joined the FFA program. In 1998 Rick decided he wanted something for his kids to participate in, and he turned to 4-H shooting sports. He was certified as an archery and shotgun coach in the year 2000. Rick excelled at coaching and became a level 2 coach in 2003. He applied to be a national instructor in 2013. Following an interview and continued training he became Oklahoma’s 1st level 3 instructor. Rick’s favorite parts about the program include getting to work with the kids and seeing them smile as well as getting to hear about their achievements and successes. Rick says “I’ve seen a lot of changes in the program since I started most of them for the best. I sure wish shooting sports was around when I was a kid, that would’ve been amazing for me and my classmates. There’s more to 4-H then just dress review and cattle shows, it shapes young talented and fine young persons into respectable and responsible people, and does a pretty excellent job of not having bench warmers.” Thank you, Rick, for your continued dedication to the 4-H Shooting Sports Program!
Conratulations to this year’s State Contest Winners!

**.22 Rifle ~ Sr**
- Marissa Bensch ~ Payne
- Shayla Boatman ~ Payne
- Kolt Scalf ~ Rogers

**.22 Rifle ~ Int**
- Will Palmer ~ Woodward
- Molly Adams ~ Woodward
- Rebeka Breger ~ Logan

**.22 Pistol**
- Kolt Scalf ~ Rogers
- Jake Bowman ~ Logan
- Christian Bensch ~ Payne

**Shotgun ~ Sr**
- Payton Meyer ~ Garfield
- Jesse Saxon ~ Marshall
- Blake Randall ~ Oklahoma

**Shotgun ~ Int**
- Connor Morris ~ McClain
- Clay Laughlin ~ Bryan
- Carson Miller ~ Jackson

**Shotgun ~ Jr**
- Baylee Pence ~ Jackson
- Clayton Porterfield ~ Carter
- Jordan Harrold ~ Jackson

**Hunting Skills ~ Sr**
- Kolt Scalf ~ Rogers
- Joe-Z Jones ~ Major
- Colten Smith ~ Rogers

**Hunting Skills ~ Int**
- Clay Laughlin ~ Bryan
- Cooper Parr ~ Grady
- Chase Stephens ~ Adair

**Hunting Skills ~ Jr**
- Kody Pruitt ~ Bryan
- Jackson Taylor ~ Mayes
- Kaden Weger ~ Bryan

**Muzzleloader**
- Noah Spence ~ Payne
- Kamryn Akers ~ Garvin
- Samuel Spence ~ Payne

**Air Rifle ~ Sr**
- Marissa Bensch ~ Payne
- Zachary League ~ Texas
- Shayla Boatman ~ Payne

**Air Rifle ~ Int**
- Blaine Smith ~ McIntosh
- Madison Geoppinger ~ Wagoner
- Clarity Lamb ~ Murray

**Air Rifle ~ Jr**
- Logan Keegan ~ Murray
- Hunter Barton ~ Logan
- Reese Edgar ~ Murray

**Air Rifle Mail-In**
- Zachary League ~ Texas
- Cassidy Allen ~ Murray
- Marissa Bensch ~ Payne

**Outdoor Archery ~ Sr**
- Logan Stephens ~ Adair
- Joe-Z Jones ~ Major
- Michael Bird ~ McClain

**Archery Indoor Mail-In Sr Compound**
- Anna Lee ~ Blaine
- Joe-Z Jones ~ Major
- Clay Laughlin ~ Bryan

**Archery Indoor Mail-In Sr Recurve**
- Ethan Satterfield ~ Haskell
- Landon Weeks ~ Hughes

**Archery Indoor Mail-In ~ Sr Genesis**
- Jacob Resendiz ~ Haskell
- Gage Cooper ~ Haskell
- Torie Thomas ~ Haskell

**Archery Indoor Mail-In Int Compound**
- Blaine Smith ~ McIntosh
- Colby Erickson ~ Muskogee
- Logan Nusser ~ Woods

**Archery Indoor Mail-In Int Recurve**
- Eric Quisenberry ~ Ellis
- Ethan Milton ~ Ellis
- Rowdy Rinehart ~ Ellis

**Archery Indoor Mail-In Int Genesis**
- Cole Wise ~ Haskell
- Emily McDonald ~ Haskell
- Boyd Wynn ~ Creek

**Archery Indoor Mail-In Jr Compound**
- Oakley Gross ~ Payne
- Easton Barclay ~ Okmulgee
- McKenna Wright ~ Garvin

**Archery Indoor Mail-In Jr Recurve**
- Anna Tate ~ Major
- Kina Black ~ Blaine
- Tate Charmasson ~ Ellis

**Archery Indoor Mail-In Jr Genesis**
- Faith Resendiz ~ Haskell
- Mckinlee Myers ~ Haskell
- Cadence Myers ~ Haskell
Oklahoma 4-H Shooting Sports Pioneers ~ Marie Ketchum & Darrel Scott

Marie Ketchum was instrumental in getting the 4-H shooting sports program started in Oklahoma. Marie always brought fresh ideas to the table. Marie is the type of person we all strive to be: kind, honest, passionate, and always there for a friend. While Marie was living in Duncan, Oklahoma, she worked very hard to start a trap program. Marie started her journey in trap shooting with her husband Jack Ketchum in 1969. She was one of the only women recorded to compete at trap shoots in Oklahoma at the time. She most likely received many strange looks at the beginning of her career, but soon proved herself to be quite an excellent shotgunner. Marie loved to shoot shotgun! One thing she loved even more was getting to work with kids. After four years of coaching at the gun club, Marie and a former 4-H southwest district specialist, Guy Harlow, planned to implement trap-shooting into a 4-H program. As one of the results of Marie’s coaching, Carolyn Koch-Paramore, one of her students later went on to the Olympics. Marie Ketchum will always be remembered for her hard work and her passion for shooting sports.

Darrel Scott was a passionate man who cared deeply for those around him. He was one of the contributors to help start the shooting sports program in the state of Oklahoma. I was fortunate enough to know him through the shooting sports program he helped to create. He was an outstanding shotgun coach and an interesting person if you ever took the time to sit down and get to know him. There wasn’t a day that went by that he wasn’t helping the program in some way and he always gave good advice and tips to the shotgunsers that came to shoot at the range. Darrel ran the shotgun club during practices in Garfield county for over twenty years before he passed away in the year 2015. Darrel will be forever remembered for his passion for trap shooting and getting kids involved in 4-H shooting sports.

There are a total of 10 different disciplines in 4-H shooting sports. Each one is unique, but most of them have the same fundamentals. Every discipline centers on learning safety, responsibility and life skills through positive youth development and STEM.

**Air rifle:** Air rifles must be .177 caliber. 9-11 year old’s have the opportunity to compete in the 3 positions contest. Intermediate and Sr participants enjoy shooting 3 position, standing and silhouettes.

**Archery:** Archery has two different seasons. The indoor contest is usually held in January. Outdoor contests are held in the fall and spring. This discipline includes Genesis, recurve and compound archers. Archers may start this discipline on their 9th birthday.

**Shotgun:** Participants can begin shotgun when they reach the 4-H age of ten years. There are three state events held for this discipline. Sporting clays is held in August at McCloud. Oklahoma City gun club hosts the skeet contest is September. Trap is hosted at the Oklahoma Trap & Skeet Association in El Reno during the month of October.

**Air Pistol:** Participants who have reached the 4-H age of 12 may participate in this discipline. Air pistols must be .177 caliber. Upon completion of certification, participants can compete in slow fire bull’s-eye, single shot rapid fire and silhouettes.

**.22 Rifle:** Participants who have completed their air rifle training and have reached the 4-H age of 12 can start their journey in .22 rifle. Upon completion of the .22 discipline, participants will be able to compete in 3 position, CMP and Silhouettes.

**.22 pistol:** Participants must have reached the 4-H age of 14 and have completed the air pistol project in order to enjoy and learn the .22 pistol discipline. Upon completion of the .22 pistol certification, participants can compete in slow fire bull’s-eye, Camp Perry and Silhouettes.

**Muzzleloader:** “Powder, patch and ball, or it won’t shoot at all” is the phrase to remember when using these rifles. Participants must be 4-H age of fourteen years and older to start this discipline. Participants will have the opportunity to enter the challenge of slow fire bull’s-eye, critters and bottles and silhouettes.

**Hunting Skills:** Hunting skills includes: shotgun, .22 rifle, archery, orienteering, wildlife Identification, game calling and exams on ethics and laws. Every portion of this contest is centered around hunting and wildlife.

**Western Heritage:** This discipline resembles cowboy action for 4-H. Participants get to dress up, use old fashioned firearms and equipment, and learn more about their history.
State Contests:
April 8th 2017 ~ Oklahoma 4-H Outdoor Jr & Int Archery Contest & Sr FUN Shoot ~ Payne County Fairgrounds, Stillwater, OK
   Senior Recurve will be filling a spot on the 2017 National Team for Oklahoma 4-H

May 13th 2017 ~ Oklahoma 4-H Spring Muzzleloader Contest ~ Oklahoma City Gun Club
   Muzzleloader will be filling 1 to 2 spots on the 2017 National Team for Oklahoma 4-H

Archery Outdoor Mail-In Contest ~ Registration & Payment Due by April 8th ~ Scorecards due April 22nd

Extra 4-H Shooting Sports Events:
April 22nd 2017 ~ McClain County Sporting Clays Contest ~ Quail Ridge Sporting Clays

April 22nd 2017 ~ Grant County Invitational ~ Grand National Gun Club

April 29th 2017 ~ Noble County Invitational Archery Contest~ Lake Perry CCC Campgrounds

April 29th 2017 ~ YHEC ~ Aline, OK

May 6th 2017 ~ Duncan Trap Contest ~ Duncan Gun Club

May 6th 2017 ~ Northwest District Trap Shoot ~ Grand National Gun Club ~ NW District ONLY

May 19th 2017 ~ SE District Skeet Shoot ~ SE District ONLY

May 20th 2017 ~ Pawnee County Trap Fun Shoot ~ Oklahoma Trap & Skeet Association

May 20th 2017 ~ SE District Trap Shoot ~ SE District ONLY

May 20th 2017 ~ YHEC ~ Tri City Gun Club

Coach Recertification Clinics:
July 22 2017 ~ Payne County Fairgrounds ~ Stillwater

A special thank you to the Friends of NRA for their continued support of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program!
Oklahoma 4-H Shooting Sports Dress Code

Participants and coaches are expected to dress appropriately for the events in which they participate. Club uniforms or shirts are encouraged but not required. Both young people and adults should wear attire appropriate for the weather while remaining modest.

Pants: jeans and slacks (without holes). Shorts, skorts and skirts must be no more than 5 inches above the middle of the knee so that modesty is maintained at all times.

Shirts: Plain shirts with a collar or a plain t-shirt which either are without any advertising slogan(s), product(s) advertising, other organization logo(s), other business logo(s) or other business or organization lettering are allowed. 4-H collared shirts or t-shirts are allowed.

Sponsors, who provide shirts for members of the club, may have a logo embroidered or printed on the left sleeve of the club shirts. The logo, wording included, must be no taller than the smallest 4-H clover displayed on the shirt and must not exceed the maximum size of 2 inches tall by 4 inches wide. Sponsor logos will not be allowed to be displayed in any other manner on any other article of clothing or accessories.

Shoes: Casual shoes, tennis shoes, or boots. Shoes must cover the entire foot and must be closed toe. NO FLIP FLOPS!

Tank tops, muscle shirts, bare midriffs, low necklines, spandex, miniskirts or otherwise revealing clothing will not be allowed!

Clothing with sexually suggestive wording or graphics and alcohol or tobacco advertisement is not appropriate and will not be allowed!

Range officials, coaches and shoot organizers will enforce dress codes if required. All participants and coaches must remember they may be photographed. Let’s do all we can to make sure we promote a positive image!

http://4h.okstate.edu/projects/shooting-sports-2