

impact

University of Idaho Extension programs that are making a difference in Idaho.

Jefferson County youth increase shooting sports safety and knowledge

AT A GLANCE

Jefferson County 4-H youth have increased knowledge about shooting sports safety through programs offered by 4-H in Jefferson County.

The Situation

Shooting sports is an excellent format to teach youth about safety, education, sportsmanship and leadership that lends itself to the rural demographic of eastern Idaho. Youth in Jefferson County have been interested in shooting sports, but concerns about safety and training were expressed by parents and the community.

Our Response

In 2018, the Jefferson County 4-H program applied for and received a grant from the National Rifle Association to acquire more shooting sports equipment to be able to educate youth and grow the shooting sports program. The response from the 4-H youth and volunteers was very positive, with a growing interest in the program. Even more funding was sought and received in 2021 and 2022.

Through these efforts, a total of \$10,900 was awarded from the National Rifle Association which was used to purchase 18 rifles, six bows, 16 targets and various other shooting sports equipment. Twenty-one volunteers have been trained between 2018 and 2022, and six additional volunteers have been trained and led



Jefferson County youth participating in archery district shoot. Photo credit: Sue Walker.

two new clubs that are dedicated to the shooting sports program.

Program Outcomes

Enrollment from 4-H youth has greatly increased. Twenty-three youth participated in 2018, and more than 87 youth enrolled in the program in 2022.

Safety knowledge has greatly increased by those youth that were involved. Youth enrolled in 4-H archery were given a pre- and post-test. Thirty-three youth filled out the pretest and 16 youth completed the posttest. Scores improved on almost all questions (see Table 1), indicating that youth gained knowledge in shooting sports safety. Numbers on the table are expressed as a percentage of the total.

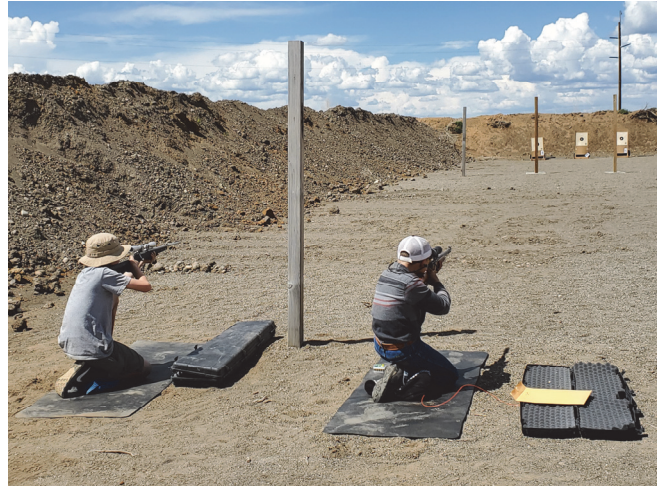
In addition to regular shooting sports clubs, approximately 80 youth per year are trained on shooting sports and firearms safety at Jefferson County 4-H camp.

Table 1. Safety Knowledge

	Pretest	Posttest
I know how to determine eye dominance	69%	100%
Safety glasses, arm guards, and finger protection are optional	27%	100%
I know the range commands	87%	100%
I should not dry fire my bow to make sure it is working	3%	100%
Draw weight of the bow doesn't matter	15%	75%
There is a right and a wrong way to carry an arrow	27%	75%
I feel confident handling my archery equipment	100%	100%
I know range rules and how to conduct myself confidently	96%	100%

The Future

The shooting sports program continues to grow in Jefferson County because of youth interest and strong leadership from volunteers. UI Extension in Jefferson County hopes to obtain a shooting range designated for 4-H youth, volunteers and clubs. The county also hopes to collaborate on a district invitational shoot with other counties in eastern Idaho, held annually.



Jefferson County youth participating in rifle shooting.

Cooperators and Co-Sponsors

The shooting sports grant was provided by the National Rifle Association.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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