



# Welcome Letter

Written December 2020

Dear 4-H Families,

Welcome to the Grant County 4-H Shooting Sports! South Dakota offers shooting sports disciplines of archery, rifle (air and small-bore), shotgun, pistol, and outdoor hunting skills. The focus of all 4-H programs is the development of youth as individuals and as responsible, productive citizens. Our shooting sports program stands out as an example. Youth learn marksmanship, the safe and responsible use of firearms, the principles of shooting and archery and much more. The activities of the program and support of caring adult leaders provide young people with opportunities to develop life skills, self-worth, and conservation ethics.

The current pandemic has made us adjust our well-oiled shooting sports program. However, the Experiential Learning model—which 4-H has used for many years—can be succinctly defined in three words: safety, education, and fun. Think of it as a three-legged stool, in that if the stool is in balance the whole learning process works in harmony. So, if youth feel safe at an activity, their minds are open to learning and expanding friendships with their peers. If youth are actively learning (often with several their senses engaged simultaneously), they want to come back and learn more the next time. If youth have fun during an activity, the lesson soaks in better and they build stronger social connections. This simple three-part model articulates the way we “learn” in 4-H...and why it has worked well for decades.

We are working collectively to make simple modifications to generate a more positive 4-H experience for our members. Now, for the 800 lb. elephant in the room: practicing distancing and wearing masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at indoor 4-H events. These short-term modifications derive from the same Experiential Learning model we’ve long used! Via these simple, cost-effective safety modifications, we are able to properly balance safety, education, and fun so that 4-H members can continue to enjoy the program in the near and long-term. From a near-term perspective, the alternative is shutting down in-person 4-H until the weather warms in April/May; this would clearly diminish opportunities for education and fun this winter! From a long-term perspective, the alternative is needlessly placing youth at an increased risk for diabetes, myocardial infarction, or other as yet unknown long-term effects associated with COVID-19 infection.

South Dakota 4-H will continue to balance safety, education, and fun throughout the COVID-19 era. Early on, that meant we were fully virtual until the science of COVID-19 spread became better understood. Today, the science is clear, and we have some simple tools/modifications (i.e., frequent handwashing, physical distancing, facial coverings) we can use to safely meet in-person. Thank you for doing your part as we navigate the remainder of this era together.

Sincerely,  
Sara Koepke  
Grant County 4-H Youth Program Advisor

Melissa Mueller  
Grant County 4-H Support Staff

# Contact & Resource Information

## Extension Office Contact Information

Office Phone: 605-432-9221

### Email Contacts:

Sara Koepke—[sara.koepke@sdstate.edu](mailto:sara.koepke@sdstate.edu)

Melissa Mueller—[grant.county@sdstate.edu](mailto:grant.county@sdstate.edu)

## Grant County 4-H Office Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Grant County 4-H

Courthouse Basement

210 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Milbank, SD 57252

### Website References:

4-H Online—<https://v2.4honline.com/>

SDSU Extension—<https://extension.sdstate.edu/>

## State 4-H Office Contact Information

Mailing Address:

SD State 4-H Office

SDSU Berg Ag Hall

SAG 109, Box 2207E

Brookings, SD 57007



## Important Dates

Schedule of Events for 4-H Shooting Sports

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>
4-H Shooting Sports Registration OPENS	Dec. 14	4H Online
4-H Shooting Sports Registration CLOSES	Dec. 31	4H Online
4-H National Team Archery Qualifier Workshop	Jan. 9-10	NFAA Yankton Archery Center
Meeting for 1 <sup>st</sup> time archery participants	Jan. 11	Bent Arrow Archery
4-H Shooting Sports Certification	Jan. 16	4-H Exhibit Building
Grant County 4-H Shooting Sports Starts	Jan. 18	
Match 1 Deadline	Feb. 15	
Match 2 Deadline	March 15	
Safety scores and Registration Deadline	March 15	
State Match Registration Opens	March 16	
Match 3 Deadline	April 15	
State Match Registration Closes	April 16	
State 4-H Shoot	April 23-25	Fort Pierre
National 4-H Shooting Sports	June 20-25	Grand Island, NE
Match 4 Deadline	July 15	
Safety scores and Registration Deadline	July 15	
Match 5 Deadline	Aug. 31	
State Match Registration Closes	Sept. 1	
Fall State 4-H Shoot	Sept. 11-12	Mitchell

## Locations and Practices

### Archery

**Practice Location:** Bent Arrow Archery Range & ProShop

307 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Milbank

**Practice Times:** Monday nights at 5:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m. and 7:45 p.m.

### Rifle and Air Pistol

**Practice Location:** Grant County 4-H Grounds Exhibit Building

517 Flynn Drive in Milbank

**Practice Times:**

- BB Gun – Monday nights at 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.
- Air Pistol – Tuesday nights at 5:30 p.m.
- Air Rifle – Tuesday nights at 6:45 p.m.

# Event Management

## Best Practices for Grant County 4-H Shooting Sports

The 4-H program in each state is statutorily entrusted to its land-grant public university (e.g., SDSU in South Dakota). As a result, the 4-H program folds into many of the state statutes that govern student safety in public higher education. Thus, we must make decisions from an evidence-based safety framework. During normal times, this framework makes 4-H a highly valued and trusted institution for parents, businesses, and community leaders. During the current era, this framework is a tougher pill to swallow in a state that places a high value on independence and personal responsibility. Though we understand the frustration, “safety-first” will continue to serve as our decision-making framework.

### Current 4-H Shooting Sports COVID-19 Guidance:

1. Face coverings required regardless of site.
  - a. Member Tip: The tighter the covering the less of a potential nuisance it will be to archers who are “cheek aligning” just prior to firing down range.
2. Maintain physical distancing (except for the beginner with instructor relationship).
3. Properly sanitize any shared-use equipment between users or sessions.

*Note: subject to change per local/community health metrics or University protocols*

### GENERAL PRACTICES

The phrase “good hygiene practices” arises anytime an in-person activity is considered. As we prepare for future in-person events, the following Centers of Disease Control (CDC) precautions pertain:

- Stay home if showing any signs of illness
- All persons in attendance wearing facial covering; rule of thumb should be anyone that gets out of a vehicle must wear a mask for the duration of the event
- Contactless hand sanitizer or hand washing stations readily available
- Replace hand-to-hand contact with other appropriate gestures (e.g. greet with a wave, thank a judge with a light bow)
- Though stated elsewhere many times, maintain 6 feet of separation between non-family members.

### PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

#### 1. Register on 4H Online.

- a. Enrolling on 4H Online takes care of the proper documentation need such as, waiver, insurance statement, code of conduct, and media release.
  - i. Please utilize the help sheets located in the back of this document. (Appendix: Adding a new member)



- b. This must be completed before starting practice. This statement is dependent on when the youth begins shooting sports.
  - i. Likewise, youth participating in the Fall Shoot must be completed by July 15.
- 2. Register to participate in a 4-H shooting sports discipline.**
  - a. There will be no formal paper registration like in past years.
  - b. Youth must complete this step to schedule a time for practice.
    - i. If there becomes a scheduling conflict, it will be the youth and their family's responsibility to communicate to the 4-H Office by Friday noon prior to the shooting week.
    - ii. To sign up for a shooting time, please reference the help sheet in the back of this document. (Appendix: Registering for an event in 4-H Online)
- 3. Youth must complete a test.**
  - a. A list of youth and pass/fail status will be submitted by March 15 for spring and July 15 for fall. A 70% on a written test is passing.
  - b. Youth must have a passing score submitted before they are scheduled for a state shoot time.
    - The safety test will be forthcoming in an electronic version. The test will need to be completed before youth starts first practice.

### COVID-19 RANGE ADJUSTMENTS

- **Before youth arrives to the range:**
  - Please complete a symptom self-screening. If you answer yes to any below questions, please adhere to the CDC guidelines.
    - Do you have new or worsening shortness of breath?
    - Do you have a new or worsening cough?
    - Do you have a fever of 100.4 or greater?
    - Do you have chills?
    - Do you have diarrhea?
    - Do you have unexplained muscle pain?
    - Do you have a headache (not related to a known health condition i.e. migraines)?
    - Do you have a sore throat?
    - Do you have a new loss of taste or smell?
    - Have you been vomiting or is experiencing nausea?
      - ❖ If you have been placed in quarantine for a positive COVID-19 result **OR** close contact exposure, please **do not** attend practice until you are cleared.
  - Do you have your gaiter or face mask?
  - Do you have your safety glasses?
    - *Youth participating in trigger points are required to wear safety glasses while on the line. Youth who wear prescribed eyewear do not need to wear additional safety glasses.*
    - *Youth will be given a gaiter, a pair of safety glasses and assigned equipment, if needed, during the first night of practice.*
  - Do you have your shooting equipment?
  - Are you on time?

- **When youth arrives at the range:**
  - Sign in. This allows us to identify who was in the range at a given time if a concern arises.
  - Hand sanitize before going to your assigned lane.
    - If you lease equipment, you may get your assigned equipment before going to the shooting lane.
  - Place any outerwear in your assigned area.
  
- **When youth are at the range:**
  - Please stay in your assigned lane.
    - Youth will be assigned in family pods.
  - One parent allowed on the line per youth.
  - When possible, coaches should minimize the amount of time spent within close proximity to members but **MUST** maintain safe control at all time.
  
- **When youth leave the range:**
  - Turn your targets into your assigned mailbox for scoring
    - Scores will be posted online by Thursday 5:00 p.m. each week. Online link will be forthcoming after the first night of practice has concluded.
  - Please utilize sanitize wipes to wipe down equipment before returning or leaving.

## MATCH QUALIFICATION

Match scores serve multiple purposes. They are to set a minimum qualification level for participation at state shoot and as an in-season opportunity to compete against peers involved in the Shooting Sports program throughout the state. It is acceptable to compete in every match or to only choose to compete once. Matches allow for individuals to compete for awards.

We encourage youth to submit multiple match scores; however, there is a cost associated with that competition.

The registration cost assists in covering materials and supplies throughout the program. In addition, registration fee may cover match and state shoot scores.

*SDSU Extension programs are open to all South Dakota residents regardless of their ability to pay registration fees or other program fees as identified. Please contact the Grant County 4-H office for more information.*

Our motto is to create opportunities for consistency and fairness. Therefore, youth participating in the Grant County 4-H Shooting Sports program, **qualifying scores must be shot in a stated practice location above and witnessed by a certified instructor. Scores shot outside the practice facility will not be submitted.**