

4-H members aim high in shooting sports programs

When people think about 4-H, it's easy to picture members engaged in livestock, sewing, cooking, and even photography. However, more and more 4-H youth are finding a niche in the world of 4-H shooting sports. That was true for Radley Griggs and Carter Eynetich.

At last year's state competition, Morrow County Shooting Sports member Radley Griggs earned his way to the 2023 4-H Shooting Sports National Competition in Grand Island, NE. There, he placed in trap shooting in a four-way tie for second place, as well as placing seventh overall in the hard shoot-off.

Carter Eynetich, a member of Ione's Rural Rowdy Community Club, was the top shooter in intermediate trap shooting this year for the Oregon mail-in tournament; the mail-in tournament is what qualifies youth for the state shoot.

Shooting sports first started in Morrow County in 2017. In the 2022-23 club year alone, the county saw more than 20 members sign up for shooting disciplines that ranged from shotgun to barebow archery.

In the shooting sports project area, youth learn the safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment under the guidance of certified shooting sports leaders. While the disciplines offered by a single club depend on the instructors available, discipline areas statewide include air pistol, air rifle, archery, hunting skills, muzzleloading, shotgun, smallbore pistol, smallbore rifle and Western Heritage.

Morrow County 4-H members who participated in the state competition in Albany in June were:

In shotgun, Jonathan Ashbeck scored red in trap and red in five-stand; Preslie Bowles scored blue in trap and white in five-stand; and D. Kalvin Rietmann



Morrow County Archery members take aim in Lexington



Morrow County Shooting Sports members practice rifle shooting at the Lexington Gun Club in 2020.

scored red in trap and red in five-stand.

In smallbore pistol, Mary Ashbeck scored a blue in bullseye and blue in Camp Perry, with her high point in bullseye.

In smallbore rifle, Jonathan Ashbeck took white in 3-P and red in CMP; Preslie Bowles took white in 3-P and blue in CMP; and Madelyn Campbell took white in 3-P and white in CMP.

In compound archery, Novalee Campbell scored red in FITA and white in 3-D; KayeleeJean Espinola scored red in FITA and white in 3-D; Keltie Rietmann scored red in FITA and white in 3-D, and Kinasyn Rietmann scored red in FITA and white in 3-D.

Other members qualifying for the state shoot were Jace Wilson (shotgun and smallbore rifle), Joel Wilson (smallbore rifle), Callahan Baker (smallbore rifle), Brayden McNeil (compound archery) and Zion Ramos (compound archery).



Taking aim with pistols in Morrow County Shooting Sports.