



HAPPENINGS

UNIVERSITY PARK, (Centre Co.) — With an estimated 200 million firearms in homes in the United States, it's more important than ever to teach young people about gun safety, says Earle Robbins, Tioga County extension agent and state shooting sports coordinator for Penn State Cooperative Extension.

"Many shooting deaths are accidental," Robbins said recently. "Teaching youth about gun and archery safety can save lives. This is the primary emphasis in all 4-H shooting sports programs."

About 100,000 youth in 33 states are enrolled in 4-H archery, air pistol, air rifle, .22 rifle, black powder rifle and shotgun sports. In Pennsylvania, about 1,715 boys and 496 girls participate in 4-H shooting activities.

Robbins works with 4-H'ers ages 8 through 19 in the shooting sports program. He also is a Pennsylvania Game Commission hunter-trapper education instructor and a National Rifle Association training counselor, certifying instructors in shooting sports.

"Youngsters in the program learn to always be aware of people around them when they're shooting and to treat every gun as though it is loaded," Robbins said. "They learn to always point guns and archery equipment in a safe direction and to be sure of their targets and backstops before releasing the arrow or pulling the trigger."

By striving to improve their marksmanship, participants also get experience in establishing goals and working toward them. They learn that practicing is the only way to excel. "You have to practice keeping track of five or six things at once when you're shooting," said Robbins. "It takes a tremendous amount of self-discipline."

Developing good sportsmanship is part of the experience too. "When you're developing a new skill or competing in matches, you have good days and bad days," Robbins said. "When kids learn that, they can keep things in perspective. They can apply this insight to other areas of their lives."

In addition, participants learn about wildlife habitats and natural resource conservation. "Some of our 4-H'ers get involved in hunting, so we emphasize ethical hunting practices and respect for nature," said Robbins.

4-H'ers in the shooting sports program also can participate in county, regional and state competitions. After graduating from the program, they can become one of the nation's 10,000 adult volunteer 4-H instructors.

4-H in Pennsylvania is coordinated by Penn State Cooperative Extension through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is open to all youths between the ages of 8 and 19, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or disability. If you are interested in enrolling your child in 4-H, or becoming an adult 4-H volunteer, contact the Penn State Cooperative Extension office in your county.

4-H Horse Program Offers Equine Educational Exhibits

For a second year, the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Show in Harrisburg provided an opportunity for 4-H youth to exhibit acquired horsemanship skills through equine educational exhibits.

Each county was invited to enter one educational exhibit to be put on display throughout the horse show for exhibitors and spectators to view. This year, exhibit themes ranged from fire safety around the barn to different types of horse shoes.

Judging the exhibits this year was Dr. Stan Curtis, department head, dairy and animal science, Penn State.

Westmoreland County won the overall grand champion award and was presented a perpetual trophy donated by Hoy's Awards and Trophies of Export. The overall reserve champion was Berks County. Receiving third place overall was Franklin County. All three counties received a permanent plaque and ribbons.

The following counties won a blue ribbon in their district for their exhibit: District 1, Berks County; District 5, Clinton County; District 6, Franklin County; District 7, Blair County; District 8, Elk County; District 9, Mercer County; and District 10, Westmoreland County.

All counties are encouraged to participate in the Equine Educational Exhibit Contest during the 1995 State 4-H Horse show next October. For more information regarding this educational contest, contact Beth Lair, (412) 662-3141 or your county extension office.

FFA HAPPENINGS

Maryland State FFA Convention
The 66th Annual Maryland State FFA Convention was held in June at the Ramada Inn in Hagerstown, Md.

More than 300 FFA members and guests participated in convention activities, including delegate sessions, committee meetings, leadership contests, and chapter competitions.

The convention activities were directed by the 1993-1994 State FFA Officer Team.

Special activities of the convention included presentations by the National FFA vice president, Steven Mitchell, and the retiring addresses of the state officers. Other activities included the record book awards program sponsored by Maryland Farm Bureau and the American Royal Ambassador Scholarship Program sponsored by the Farm Credit Bank of Baltimore.

Recognition of individual FFA members included state agriculture degree recipients Brian Spielman and Heather Cronice of Boonsboro; Matthew Ernst and Chuck Munday of Clear Spring;

You Ask ? ? ? ? ?
? ? ? ? ? You Answer

This column is for readers who have questions but don't know whom to ask for the answers.

"You Ask — You Answer" is for non-cooking questions. When a reader sends in a question, it will be printed in the paper. Readers who know the answer are asked to respond by mailing the answer, which will then be printed in the paper.

Questions and answers to this column should be addressed to You Ask — You Answer, Lou Ann Good, P.O. Box 609, Ephrata, PA 17522.

QUESTION — A reader from Manheim would like to know where to purchase a blackboard that is about 3x2-feet.

QUESTION — Henry F. Stoltzfus, 24 Queen Rd., Gordonville, Pa. 17529, would like to know where he can buy paw paw fruit, seeds and seedling trees.

QUESTION — Nelson Austin, Shinglehouse, has black walnut trees, but he cannot get the nuts to dry without them molding. What must he do to dry them and remove the green shucks?

QUESTION — Harriet Brown, Mifflintown, would like the address of the Echo Prestige Stainless Cookware. The cookware was demonstrated in the home by preparing a dinner with it. The hostess invited friends and neighbors to the demonstration and to enjoy the dinner. She needs the address.

QUESTION — A Lehigh reader writes that she has a poinsettia plant with some problems. After it bloomed, she cut it back and new green leaves appeared, but now some of the leaves turned yellow and are falling off. Some leaves have white on them that look like mold. Is there an organic way to solve this problem?

QUESTION — Bob of Bob's Radiator Repair in Woodstown, N.J., writes that his daughter is collecting wood items called Woody Woodpecker. She has a few pieces such as a knife holder, canister set, and wax paper holder. She would like to know how many pieces are in the whole set and what each piece is named.

QUESTION — Stanley Siedlecki, Jarrettsville, Md., writes that his woodburning stove emits a strong wood burning smell during humid days and nights. The flue has been cleaned. Is there something that can be done to prevent this odor or condition?

QUESTION — E. Otis Dyer, Rehoboth, Mass., would like to know the name of the company in Pennsylvania, the address, and if the company is still in business — the one that makes a farm fence kit consisting of two channel irons and hinges. The farmer supplies the wooden cross piece measuring 2x8-inches and barbwire strands.

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GOOD DEALS

from Good Dealers

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