



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

EDITOR'S NOTE: Members of the media may contact Jeannette Rea-Keywood, Rutgers 4-H Youth Development by phone at 609-898-0928 ext. 11 or by email at reakeyword@njaes.rutgers.edu

NEW JERSEY TEAMS ATTEND NATIONAL 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Three teams and two individuals represented New Jersey at the 2016 National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships held recently (June 24-28) in Grand Island, Nebraska. The 12 New Jersey 4-H members from three counties (Hunterdon, Salem, Sussex) joined a total of 635 4-H youth representing 36 States. State teams and individual 4-H youth competed throughout the week demonstrating their skills in Shotgun, Air Rifle, Air Pistol, Smallbore Rifle, Smallbore Pistol, Compound Archery, Recurve Archery, Muzzleloading Rifle and the Hunting Skills, Wildlife ID/Management & Decision Making. The 2016 National Invitational was hosted by the University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension. The New Jersey State 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador Anthony Razzano of Hunterdon County assisted at the National event serving as an emcee and presenting awards.

New Jersey Air Rifle Team members consisted of Rachael Czerna of Alexandria Township, Sarah Szwed of Raritan Township, and Hannah Hill of Salem. Andrew Hill of Salem was team coach. Ninety-three competitors competed in Air Rifle. The team competed in three events Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) 3 Position, CMP Standing and National Rifle Association (NRA) Silhouette.

One-hundred-nine competitors entered the Shotgun Competition; the events consisted of 100 rounds Sporting Clays, 100 rounds Skeet and 100 rounds Trap. The New Jersey Shotgun Team consisted of Emily Malone of Branchville, Anthony Razzano of Stockton, Erich Neise of Delaware, and Trevor Wene of Flemington. Erich Neise, Sr was the Shotgun coach.

The NJ Air Pistol team was made up of Joshua Brunner of Stockton, Bryan Lederach of Flemington and Keegan Sahlin of Whitehouse and team coach was Sherrie Peterson of Flemington. Sixty three competitors competed in the following Air Pistol matches Slow Fire Bull, Single Shot Rapid Fire and NRA Silhouette.

NJ Individual in Small Bore Rifle was Alyssa Schilke of Whitehouse and the Coach was Ed Schilke. Smallbore Rifle events consisted of NRA 3 Position, CMP Rapid Fire and NRA Silhouette and eighty competitors.

Eric Gebele of Whitehouse attended as an individual in Compound Archery and his father Alan Gebele was his coach. Eric competed in Compound Field Match, Compound FITA, and 3D Archery events. There were 100 compound archers.

Top awards were presented to Bryan Lederach who excelled in Air Pistol. Bryan captured a Gold Medal in Single Shot Rapid Fire; a Bronze Medal in NRA Silhouette; and 5th Place in Slow Fire Bull. His overall placing was Bronze Medal; 3rd Place.

New Jersey team sponsors included Central Jersey Rifle and Pistol Club, Henry Reaping Arms, Salem Board of Agriculture, Quinton Sportsman's Club, Salem County Fair Association, Ryan's Auto Repair, Anderson Enterprise LLC, Lorenzos of Sussex, Croton Rod and Gun Club and TGI Solutions. Team also did multiple fundraisers including Hoagie Sale, Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, Shotgun tournament, and sale of applesauce.

National 4-H Shooting Sports Program operates under the auspices of the National Institute of Food & Agriculture and Extension System in the United States Department of Agriculture. There are active 4-H shooting sports programs



in 46 states with over 300,000 youth participating under the direction of several thousand trained volunteers. Like all 4-H programs, shooting sports is a partnership among the land-grant institutions, federal, state and local governments and business and industry. Funding for the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program is managed through National 4-H Council, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. Industry & Association partners who help currently support the National 4-H Shooting Sports program including the Invitational include: NSSF-National Shooting Sports Foundation; Federal Premium Ammunition; CMP – Civilian Marksmanship Program; Daisy Outdoor Products, Hodgdon Powder Company, Whitetails Unlimited, NWTf – National Wild Turkey Federation; SCI- Safari Club International, Grand Island Visitors Bureau and the City of Grand Island.

The focus of all 4-H programs is the development of youth as individuals and as responsible and productive citizens. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Program stands out as an example. Youth learn marksmanship, the safe and responsible use of firearms and archery, the principles and ethics of hunting, and much more. The activities of the program and the support of caring adult leaders provide young people with opportunities to develop life skills, self-worth and conservation ethics.

The Shooting Sports curriculum uses the resources of the land-grant university and the time, talent and dedication of Cooperative Extension Educators and certified 4-H volunteer leaders, instructors, and trainers who instruct 4-H members in firearms and archery safety and marksmanship. The shooting disciplines include: archery, muzzleloading, rifle, pistol, shotgun, and hunting. A National or State Certified Instructor teaches each discipline.

The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station - Cooperative Extension. 4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13(one year out of high school), on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, marital status, domestic partnership status, military service, veteran status and any other category protected by law.

For more information about the New Jersey 4-H Program visit the website at: <http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/>.

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