

December 18, 2017

Dear 4-H Shooting Sports Administrative Teams,

Partnership between volunteers, parents, youth and Kansas 4-H Youth Development have enabled a variety of projects and programs to grow for over 100 years – empowering and training youth to become excellent in their individual pursuits and in turn benefitting local communities. Shooting sports education is one of the state’s most popular project areas and is a prime example of engaging youth and adults in partnership learning life skills and making a difference in local communities. Volunteers, like you, are a valuable partner investing in youth across Kansas. For that, I say, thank you.

Each of you has provided a valuable foundation from which Kansas 4-H Shooting Sports Education is growing. The challenge lies in aligning structurally for that growth and continuing to provide excellence in training and education, to both youth and volunteer stakeholders.

As I have been listening to 4-H program participants during this past year and most recently through the 4-H Prioritization Survey, I have heard repeated concerns from varied constituents across the state about the current 4-H Shooting Sports governance structure not working effectively to address organizational needs and educational opportunities for youth and volunteer participants. I have consulted with the co-signers of this letter and with Extension Administration including Associate Director Gregg Hadley, as to how to best position the organization for future success.

Effective December 18, 2017, the Kansas 4-H Shooting Sports Program will be reorganized to better position the organization to accomplish its youth development/educational mission, provide more options for youth participants to display their learning, and accommodate future growth and volunteer development.

1. Effective immediately is the dissolution of the current 4-H Shooting Sports Committee and 4-H Match Committee.
2. A task force will be appointed by the State 4-H Office by January 2018 to investigate, study and recommend an advisory structure to address the following:
 - Extend STEM education & 4-H Formula Priorities into 4-H Shooting Sports Education programming
 - More closely align Kansas 4-H Shooting Sports Education with National 4-H Shooting Sports Education Program Standards and Volunteer Development Standards.
 - Improve knowledge, awareness, communication, training, and interaction of 4-H Shooting Sports programs with local units and state-wide efforts
 - Align educational opportunities with competitive events
 - Sustain welcoming and dynamic learning environments for all Kansas youth in accordance with university and USDA policies
 - Address program growth and develop a diverse array of youth showcase opportunities
 - Actively demonstrate the public value of 4-H Shooting Sports Education
3. Monies raised for 4-H Shooting Sports Education within the Kansas 4-H Foundation will continue to be spent for the development and enhancement of the program under the guidance and advisement of current state coordinator/treasurer, Ray Bartholomew.

4. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Championship Coordinators, Nancy Becker and Rod Deeken will continue with organizing the Kansas National Teams.
5. The 2018 Spring Match and state qualifying events will not be affected.
6. The 2018 Spring 4-H Shooting Sports Certification Training planned April 6–8 at Rock Springs 4-H Center remains unaffected.
7. I have approved the following recommendations by 4-H Shooting Sport Education Coordinator, Ray Bartholomew that the lead discipline instructors remain the same as 2017 for continuity.
 - Archery - Eric Kratzer
 - Coordinator - Ray Bartholomew (Pam Van Horn assisting)
 - Hunting Skills - Wayne Hubbard & Beth Alloway
 - Muzzleloader - Mike Adams
 - Pistol - Charlie McIntosh
 - Rifle - Richard Becker & John Reh
 - Shotgun - James Eberwein
 - Western Heritage/Cowboy Action - Belinda Adams & John Torrance

Speaking for those signing this announcement, we appreciate and thank you for your dedication to this dynamic 4-H youth development program. We have a rich history, dedicated volunteers, and tremendous opportunities. Through this action, we are confident that we can continue to grow and position this organization to improve the quality of the educational experience that youth and volunteers have within 4-H Shooting Sports Education.

It is our hope that if asked to contribute to this reorganization process, that you will continue to exhibit your passion for the Kansas 4-H Shooting Sports program by offering your expertise to this refining process. We are grateful for your contributions to the Kansas 4-H Shooting Sports Education Program and we hope you join us in helping give positive shape to this change.

Respectfully,

Wade M. Weber
State 4-H Program Leader
Department Head

Pamela I. Van Horn
Shooting Sports Education
Extension Specialist

Ray E. Bartholomew
4-H Shooting Sports Education
State Coordinator/Treasurer

Cc: State 4-H Shooting Sports Committee,
State 4-H Match Committee,
State Discipline Lead Instructors