

19:59:12 all right. We will give about one more minute, and then we will get started all right.

20:01:15 It is 8 o'clock, so we'll go ahead and get started tonight.

20:01:18 We are recording. Just so everyone knows we're gonna record this and then post it to the website for anyone that is unable to join us.

20:01:25 But would still like the information about hunting skills so tonight.

20:01:31 We're going to go over our hunting skills discipline, our project area just as a general overview, and then we are going to talk about our State match updates.

20:01:41 Some things have changed with the state match to help it be a little more friendly to those that are coming into the project, and they've spent a lot of time trying to lay that out and make it as streamlined as possible so we will

20:01:55 discuss that as the end. So I am Shannon Rogge, for those who don't know I am the 4-H Program Coordinator for Shooting Sports, and I also do other parts of natural resources.

20:02:15 But you hear from me with shooting sports quite a bit so oftentimes. I'm.

20:02:21 I'm the one that emails out to coordinators and families, or any announcements such as this you hear from me.

20:02:29 And then we also have Beth Alloway joining us tonight.

20:02:31 She is a Level 2 nationally trained hunting skills instructor. Level 2 means that she is the one that trains at instructor training.

20:02:40 The level 1's that are interested in the discipline, she trains those as well, and then works with other level 2s across the nation.

20:02:52 In helping kids get to national match residue, which is held in Nebraska.

20:02:58 Every June. Also she is our steering group chairperson for hunting skills.

20:03:04 So as a steering group they help hold the State match because that is volunteer, ran

20:03:14 So she helps coordinate that as well. and then we have Austin Becker joining us tonight.

20:03:19 He is a level 1 hunting skills instructor and he is gaining experience as interested to be level 2 nationally trained as well.

20:03:29 So he's joining us from his perspective. Great I will let Beth take over from here.

20:03:39 She can kind of tell you a little bit about her experience in the years that she has spent developing hunting skills and seeing it grow as a discipline overall.

20:03:51 And then kind of talk about what the discipline is itself, and how it looks in Kansas.

20:04:11 Okay, I'm Beth Alloway I got started in Shooting Sports in the late 1980s.

20:04:18 When I had a daughter sign up for it I really didn't get involved in hunting skills until probably the early to mid 2000s.

20:04:32 And it just it's become the discipline that I'm most interested in.

20:04:39 I really enjoy it. It covers a lot of information, and just has a lot of interesting things for the youth to do.

20:04:50 It is one of the 10 Shooting Sports disciplines offered in Kansas.

20:04:54 It's unique in that, you don't have to do in a shooting, and you don't have to be a hunter to take hunting skills, although that is offered in the discipline. It's led by a

20:05:13 certified instructor. One of the big things is that it teaches an appreciation of wildlife and conservation principles.

20:05:23 It has a wide range of areas of outdoor interests, other programs that are similar.

20:05:30 If you're familiar with them, are the WEP it's a Wildlife Education Project.

20:05:38 Also YHEC, the Youth Hunter Education Challenge. Those are very similar, and we kind of work with those along with 4-H hunting skills.

20:05:51 It does help youth learn to become ethical hunters and learn basic survival skills.

20:05:58 We teach them that hunting is not necessarily defined by harvesting game.

20:06:05 There are a lot of ways to go hunting.

20:06:11 In fact, one of the classes is that photography heading,

20:06:16 because you still have to know an animal's habitat and behavior in order to get a good picture of wildlife.

20:06:26 The basic first aid and survival skills are ones that are useful in any situation.

20:06:32 When you're in the outdoors so it kind of covers those types of things, the thing I try to make sure.

20:06:42 Instructors know is that it's designed to be a multi-year teaching, learning discipline, and you build on knowledge each year. It's something that you can't teach in one year nor do

20:06:54 you have to know all of the information you can bring in specific instructors to teach specific ideas. There are wildlife specialists that are glad to come in and and teach things.

20:07:10 And you can just have a class and bring in an expert on a specific topic.

20:07:16 We've had game wardens come in at various times, other wildlife specialists, so you can build on on things that you may not be an expert in, but you can teach it in your class.

20:07:35 I think. Move to the next slide, please. I will add real quick before you

20:07:56 continue, Beth. If anyone has any questions, go ahead and drop them in the chat, and then we'll stop about halfway and address any questions that is

20:08:04 put out there. Thank you Shannon I forgot to mention that. One of the first things that we try to emphasize is that this is not a hunter's education class.

20:08:21 It. doesn't count as hunters ed the lessons do include information on shooting equipment for hunting, but hunting skills.

20:08:33 Training does not certify an instructor in any of the shooting disciplines.

20:08:38 With that being said because there is shooting live-fire shooting included in matches,

20:08:49 The youth have to be trained for those disciplines by a certified instructor.

20:08:57 One of the ways we restructured the hunting skills

20:09:00 discipline is that if a youth enrolls in hunting skills and no one, none of the hunting skills instructors are certified in a shooting discipline, the youth can go and take the

20:09:20 shooting discipline classes from a certified instructor in that shooting discipline.

20:09:26 For instance, if you don't have a shotgun instructor as one of your hunting skills instructors, you can work with the shotgun instructor and have them take instruction from them. It's just that they have to be taught

20:09:43 by an appropriate certified instructor. At this time, Shannon.

20:09:49 I would like to have Austin expand on that a little bit because he's already worked with that. So like Beth said, just because you're certified in hunting skills doesn't necessarily mean that you're

20:10:10 certified to teach the shooting disciplines that are required for competing at the State match.

20:10:20 One of the things I've only been trained as an instructor in hunting skills, but I have junior apprenticeship in rifle.

20:10:30 I've worked with our county instructors in small bore rifle, shotgun, and then archery to make sure that our shooters have had practice shooting the types of targets that they will experience at hunting skills

20:10:49 qualifiers and hunting skills State match. This is also a good opportunity to collaborate with other instructors in your program, especially if you're not certified yourself in those shooting disciplines.

20:11:03 It can be a great way to teach these other instructors different types of targets that we can use in hunting skills.

20:11:12 And it potentially will help draw interest from youth that are in those disciplines.

20:11:21 But it is important to note that you will not be certified in shooting disciplines, but you will need to know the types of targets that we use hunting skills.

20:11:32 That much will be covered. Beth is there anything else that you might want to add.

20:11:42 I, that covers important what we needed. So we can move to the next slide.

20:11:54 Okay, So talking about the shooting curriculum,

20:12:04 I told you about the live fire and that instruction. The classroom curriculum is a combination of classroom lessons and hands-on activities.

20:12:16 We use 4-H hunting skills, lessons. Instructors

20:12:21 get that at the training it's not available any any other place, and if you'll go to the outline, look at the outline on the side, what we consider the core curriculum is section A lessons 1 through 6

20:12:49 Section C lesson 1 and Section D lesson 4

20:13:02 Actually the the the real core is section A 1 through 6.

20:13:09 We chose those, because those are the basics of

20:13:15 The hunting skills, ideas and concepts. We start with history of hunting, why we hunt, hunting ethics, laws and regulations, and the hunter and landowner, those two kind of go together and in wildlife management.

20:13:38 And wildlife management is probably the the biggest one throughout the curriculum.

20:13:46 There's just a lot of information there and really interesting for the youth with the activities that we can talk about, and and how how it's important for all of us to have a stake in that wildlife management

20:14:06 We also use a pam pamphlet from Penn

20:14:10 State it's a Compass and Orienteering book, and we have a Brenton workbook from their compassing.

20:14:23 The big one is the NRA Hunters Guide.

20:14:26 It can be ordered from NRA a lot of the 4-H curriculum was actually taken from NRA Hunter's guide and just kind of reformatted for 4-H youth.

20:14:44 We try. We try to get the basics of those 4.

20:14:51 Excuse me of those 6 lessons in that first year but it's basics, you have to build each year.

20:15:03 It's not, as we said it's not designed to be a one-year type, learning experience.

20:15:14 So we try to cover what is basic, and then keep going the next year and build on that And that might be something again that Austin, could you touch on that just a little bit?

20:15:34 Sure. So as you look at this screenshot of the hunting and outdoors member manual like Beth said, it's really that A 1 through 6 category that we're looking at as what we would call the

20:15:53 introductory curriculum that we would use with first year

20:15:58 youth. In our discipline and my local program we've had shooters that have been the for more than 8 years, and each year we add on more and more material. That way

20:16:15 It's not just repeating the same thing over and over but it gives them an opportunity to learn more and to potentially branch out and find more interest in hunting and the outdoors.

20:16:29 One of the things that isn't included as part of that Member Manual was that Penn State compassing booklet, or the pamphlet.

20:16:42 These are other resources that we've identified through working in the program here in Kansas, but the compassing material is not as heavily emphasized in the hunting and outdoor skills part of your member

20:16:58 manual. So we've supplemented that with that Penn State compass and orienteering pamphlets.

20:17:07 Our local club has ordered a set of compasses that we can use at the same time.

20:17:13 So that all youth have a hands-on component where they can practice using a compass.

20:17:18 They're not just learning about it on a worksheet or on a piece of paper, but they can actually go out, and we use little flags out in fields, or out in flat areas around the fairgrounds and they can work

20:17:31 on using compasses to navigate and get around their surroundings.

20:17:41 Beth, is there anything else that you'd like me to add on this slide or?

20:17:47 I don't believe so one of the things I did want to say is, if you look there's a lot of sections.

20:17:55 They're talking about getting ready for the hunt and outdoor and hunting and equipment and skills and techniques.

20:18:02 We have not done that I believe in any of the programs that I've worked with.

20:18:14 There are some programs that have done some hunting trips, and that can be done

20:18:20 if you wanted to do that. There's a lot of information that we've not covered because our youth haven't been interested in doing that.

20:18:33 But it can be done. I believe, Shannon, were ready for questions over the curriculum.

20:18:44 Yeah, anything about the live fire instructions. So we don't have any questions in the chat.

20:18:53 But I did, you know. Think of a few things to maybe help clarify for anyone?

20:18:59 Any families that watch this now or later. So why why are those 3 disciplines related to hunting skills?

20:19:06 Is it because they're most real life of what you might use out hunting?

20:19:16 Yes, about the only one that's not covered is muzzle loading and and it actually was covered at the national level several years ago.

20:19:28 But they didn't have time to included in the competition anymore.

20:19:34 So it kind of got dropped. But there is, there is hunting with a pistol.

20:19:42 But the most of the time you're going to use a rifle, black powder, archery.

20:19:50 Or shotgun, and anyone who's a hunter if if if that's not correct, I I could be staying, I could stand.

20:20:05 But I believe that for Kansas, anyway, the permits are for firearms, archery, and muzzle loading, and the firearms.

20:20:22 This rifle. Okay? The other thing was It really sounds like like there's so much information here, you know it can be intimidated to someone.

20:20:37 Not Maybe once a start, a program or wants to get a kid involved that this is the first time they're they're seeing it.

20:20:46 But for those type of programs, whether it's management if you're looking at from a management perspective or a conservation, you can really build the or piece together the curriculum for what the kids are interested in so if you have kids that

20:21:02 are more conservation minded versus, you know,

20:21:09 hunting season, or you know, deer hunting, whatever that may be.

20:21:14 You can really customize that for whichever group of kids you have that year. Is that correct?

20:21:19 That's yes, that's correct we always said Austin was in the program for years, and even competed at the

national level.

20:21:33 And I don't think he's ever gone hunting, have you Austin? I've been hunting once every other hunting the trip has been with a camera rather than a shotgun.

20:21:45 I was unsuccessful that day, and I prefer hunting with a camera,

20:21:50 anyway. That being, said one of the good things about this curriculum is that there's so much material.

20:21:59 If you do have youth that have certain interests, you can spend more time, or we provide activities as part of the instructor training that you can use.

20:22:09 We do a few of them at the training, but we give you more than that for you to take back to your county.

20:22:15 You can find certain activities that you can do with those participants that would interact and have them engage and apply their own interests into that curriculum to help strengthen that

20:22:30 material. And I think that's one of the good things about having so much is that you can use that extra information to tailor it to the needs of your youth and the interests of your youth.

20:22:49 Okay, that's kind of what I just wanted to clarify to make sure.

20:22:54 It's part of our recording here and we talk about that.

20:22:56 Do you want me to go on to the next slide we can talk about state match?

20:23:01 I believe we're ready for that. Okay, so as we start discussing kind of the State match.

20:23:11 The link to the 2022 fall match rules was sent out in the emails with this webinar announcement.

20:23:24 So the things that we go over are referenced in those fall match rules. Alright.

20:23:31 Go ahead, Beth. Okay. So one of the concerns that has been expressed through the years on competition at the State level was that

20:23:43 If a if a youth was 14 years old, a lot of times, they really hadn't gotten into small bore rifle and they were maybe beginning shotgun although usually they've started around 12 or so, but some programs

20:24:06 didn't start until a little later and so it used to be the requirement was, if you went to the state match as a senior, you had to shoot all 3 disciplines, or you couldn't go and you had to go to

20:24:19 a qualifier in the 3 shooting disciplines and shoot the qualifying score.

20:24:28 The problem with that was that we shoot different targets in hunting skills.

20:24:35 It's it's not really a precision match in that you don't shoot for a score of 10.

20:24:43 Most competitions, and especially at the national level are hit or miss, as in shotgun, so shotgun was the only one that really compared to what a hunting skills person would be doing.

20:25:01 The other thing was that sometimes we had seniors who had just gotten started in the program, 13 or 14 years old, and for them

20:25:15 they weren't ready for the shooting discipline yet so what we wanted to do was allow seniors if they wished to still be able to go to the state match and get the experience of the curriculum classroom

20:25:35 curriculum whether they shot or not. The reason the shooting is there is that in order to go to the national match, they do have to shoot all 3 disciplines of archery, shotgun, and small bore rifle so

20:25:54 after a lot of discussion around the State, we decided that we would have have basically the 3 sections of wildlife

20:26:06 ID, hunter knowledge, and compassing in maps each have a 100 points, and that would be kind of the classroom section, although the wildlife ID the major portion of that is identifying wildlife specimens and then

20:26:23 there's some wildlife knowledge the compassing and maps,

20:26:28 the major portion of the points from it are from a compass course, and then there's some knowledge of compassing and maps for the other points.

20:26:41 Hunter knowledge is a combination of it's been mostly classroom questions, but we've also in the past had some activities that they had questions over after doing the activity for archery, shotgun, and small bore

20:27:05 rifle. It will be hit or miss, and they must have shot at a hunting skills qualifying match.

20:27:14 We have, we're asking for a minimum of 3 qualifying matches.

20:27:24 We had 3 last year.,and we should have at least 3 qualifying matches for hunting skills, this year. For juniors the shooting scores won't be used in the aggregate scores in previous years juniors have not been able

20:27:40 to shoot at the State match unless they were 13, and would be 14 before the end of the year.

20:27:50 Seniors, they're shooting scores are added to their aggregate scores.

20:27:56 The shooting score is worth 90 points. so they'll have a total of 390 points, and they must shoot 3 in order to be eligible for nationals.

20:28:09 However, the seniors don't have to shoot the 3 disciplines if A. they are not not ready, they don't.

20:28:21 They haven't been signed off to shoot or they're really not interested in going to nationals.

20:28:29 They want to compete in the the the knowledge based part of the competition. If they don't shoot it specific discipline, they would take a 0 that score, but they could go and shoot and whatever they shot at in at a hunting skills qualifying

20:28:51 match. I want to make sure I covered all those Oh!

20:29:03 And the the seniors that would include the 13 year old juniors, who would be 14 by the end of the year.

20:29:09 So for the juniors who are 13 the shooting score wouldn't be used in their aggregate scores competing as a junior.

20:29:22 They would be added in later to see where their placement is for the national team.

20:29:28 If that's if they are interested in doing that I believe that's all on that slide.

20:29:44 Okay, so in order to go to the State match they must participate in approved hunting skills

20:29:52 qualifier and in that qualifier the the host county will have all 3 disciplines available to shoot.

20:30:02 There is no qualifying score at this time. Shotgun will be trap.

20:30:14 Small bore rifle is a 2D animal

20:30:18 target, archery can be either a 2D animal target, or if the host county has 3D animal targets, they can be used.

20:30:27 It just depends on the facility. Our concern is that we see the youth shoot at us at a state qualifying event.

20:30:38 We make sure that there are being signed off on as being safe, that they know how to use the equipment.

20:30:47 I've been at the national match about I don't remember 5 or 6 years now, Austin, and I are both on the core team for hunting skills, and there are a lot of states that send their youth there that they they haven't

20:31:04 even seen the equipment until like the week before they come there, and and it's it's not what we as Kansas want to do.

20:31:14 So we want to make sure that we have have youth who know their equipment and know how to shoot.

20:31:25 They may not be the best at it, or the top shooters, but but they are,

20:31:33 they will represent us well. They must compete in the shooting discipline at an approved Hunting Skills qualifier in order to compete in that discipline at the State

20:31:46 Match. So if a youth says well I'll go and I'll shoot archery and shotgun but I'm not ready to shoot small bore rifle yet,

20:32:01 they can do that. But they could still, they could not shoot small bore rifle at the State match.

20:32:10 Alright, and then we are going with the live fire

20:32:14 age requirements that are in in the actual shooting disciplines.

20:32:19 Archery is 9 years old, shotgun, 10 years old, and small bore rifle is 13 years old.

20:32:31 And I believe that completes the changes we've made in the State match we are going to have it on its own day.

20:32:44 The plans are to have it at Geary County Sportsman Acres, which is just north of Junction City, and they have a they have a really good facility there.

20:32:58 They have some they have the Milford Nature Center which is within 10 minutes.

20:33:04 We've got several things that we can do for activities during the day.

20:33:11 The way we have done it in the past and planned to continue is that

20:33:18 we do the shooting first, and then everybody takes the tests. At the same time.

20:33:22 This year we'll be able to do the shooting in the morning, and we can do the tests in the afternoon.

20:33:32 We can have some activities between those events. Am I leaving anything out, Shannon.

20:33:46 I don't think so. You know we might bring in what they K-State wildlife specialists that weekend just to have a little kind of a that conference educational type feel, but also part of a state qualifying

20:34:02 match for those that are interested in nationals so kind of a dual purpose by moving the hunting skills to its own day.

20:34:11 And kind of spread out from the others it's it's scheduled for the end of August.

20:34:16 You know we have a little bit more flexibility to do that.

20:34:21 And really provide a good experience for the kids that are interested in hunting skills instead of, you know, juggling other things they might be wanting to do at the Topeka match.

20:34:40 So I believe we do have a question in the chat Let me read it here.

20:34:45 So Jenna asked, If you have others come in for different topics, is it possible to have a hunter safety course provided through this project program?

20:34:57 So I think the question is, can you have someone come in and teach Hunter safety, and that be kind of a a segment of this this project.

20:35:08 Are you talking, hunter's safety or hunter's education course, says Hunter's safety Jenna, are you still on?

20:35:20 Do you want to clarify? Either, she says either I think she's thinking of people that can come in and provide some content.

20:35:34 Yeah, I mean yes, you could bring in people for hunters safety. The reason I'm asking about the hunters education is that I, my understanding is that they have specific class time set up.

20:35:49 And I don't know how they I don't know how those are done.

20:35:54 But if you're if you're wanting to have a specific, let's say you wanted to have somebody to come in and talk about

20:36:07 any type of hunter safety. Yes, you could you could bring in specialists, or someone who's very knowledgeable.

20:36:19 I was trying a few years ago to contact and and and get someone in who is a survivalist

20:36:31 and have him come and talk about surviving in the outdoors, and you can do things like that.

20:36:36 Does that answer the question. I think it gets to it's getting there.

20:36:49 We'll see if Jenna has any other questions if anyone else has any questions they've thought of

20:36:54 go ahead and drop them in the chat, and we will answer them as well.

20:36:57 I do think that brings up a good point, though, through the project, learning, you know, regardless of

20:37:05 if the kids want to go to qualifiers or not you don't have to be a specialist in all things. So you know, you might have a passion in a portion of this hunting skills curriculum, but you know don't

20:37:22 think you have to know everything you can bring in those other content areas.

20:37:28 And other people that are passionate about other just other topics.

20:37:37 They can provide their own knowledge for the kids as well and I think that's really important.

20:37:44 I've said I'm not a hunter I've never gone hunting, but I love the hunting skills project because it's more than just about harvesting

20:37:58 game. It can be about that if that's what the youth are interested in, but it doesn't have to be.

20:38:20 Do we have any other questions? We would just like to see

20:38:31 I, I would just say we would love to see more

20:38:37 more counties get involved, and youth get involved we've had a a really good program over the years, and really would like to continue it.

20:38:51 So what kind of resources? So if if they because if they do shooting disciplines, you know, obviously there's some, you know, equipment resources there that they need.

20:39:05 But for for the classroom and the kind of book type learning and activities that you provide, what kind of resources and funds and stuff are involved in in getting something started?

20:39:21 I am just now getting ready to start classes, and Johnson County and the Extension Office has been really good about copying the lessons for me.

20:39:37 The instructors get that curriculum at training, and what I do is, I ask the youth to each have a 3 ring binder, and for whatever lesson that I'm having I copy that curriculum and give it

20:39:59 to them as we're doing that lesson so they basically are building their curriculum book as we are learning it.

20:40:11 The NRA hunter's guide can be ordered we generally order it through the county, and then and then they each family is asked to pay for the book.

20:40:27 It's about I think it's \$10 may be a little bit more with shipping that.

20:40:33 But if we order it in a bundle it's less expensive to do it that way.

20:40:41 The Penn State pamphlet can be copied I mean it's it's I I have the link to where you can get it.

20:40:52 The Brenton. We got that when we ordered our,

20:41:00 you can get a compass kit and there's I don't remember?

20:41:08 Is there 12 compasses in it Austin, or 10? There's 12 compasses in it, and it also comes with a larger model compass for you to stand up in the front of your room, or wherever your hosting your

20:41:23 meetings, and to demonstrate for the youth as they follow along on their own personal compasses.

20:41:29 But that Kit comes with the instructor compass and the 12 additional couple compasses, and the workbook.

20:41:36 Yes, other materials I'm sure there's a lot out there.

20:41:44 Those are the ones that we've used the most. As you build your program.

20:41:53 you can reach out to those other experts we've gotten things in Riley.

20:41:58 County over the years from other members who have collected, for example, first aid little helpful booklets.

20:42:10 They go over first aid procedures what to do in certain situations.

20:42:13 Little pocket guides or other things that we've found on the internet where we found a really helpful resource.

20:42:25 The other thing is, you have any organizations, or any volunteers that may be near you that have hunted for

wildlife

20:42:36 ID, Riley County borrows specimens from the Milford Nature Center, and we use those to practice identifying specimens.

20:42:47 So having any sort of volunteers that may hunt, and you may ask them to keep a wing that way you have, and you can start to build up a collection for your own county.

20:42:59 But that's just one additional resource for the wildlife ID portion of the curriculum.

20:43:16 There are a lot of nature centers that have wildlife

20:43:21 ID specimens and I know the one that is here in Johnson County. They're willing to come and give presentations.

20:43:37 They let us borrow there specimens. That's one of the activities that all of our youth have really enjoyed doing over the years. Any other last thoughts from Austin or Beth?

20:44:09 Yes, hopefully, we can get some more instructors trained throughout the State.

20:44:22 Sure. Okay, we will. We'll go ahead and end the recording and this will be posted on online and we'll send out an email

20:44:34 to have a direct link where that is posted, especially for coordinators

20:44:39 if you have families that weren't able to make it tonight, they come back and and listen to this. So other than that, we will, you know, if you if you think about things afterwards feel free to email, Beth or I and we can get those answered, especially

20:45:01 if you're interested in starting a program, if you do have an instructor on the fence about going to training, training is, registration is due on Friday.

20:45:13 So we have a couple more days for that like say I said if you have any questions

20:45:18 just feel free to reach out. And with that we'll go ahead and end, and thank you for joining us and have a good night. Thank you.