

(Neb.)-Dawes County 4-H Club Receives Grant Worth Nearly \$2,000

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(DawesCounty)- Due to dramatic growth in the last couple of years, the Dawes County Super BB's 4-H Club has been running short on the regulation guns that are required for the sport. Thanks to the generosity of the National Rifle Association Foundation, the club received a grant of nearly \$2,000 with which to purchase more equipment. They were able to purchase five new BB guns and two new air rifles with extra air cylinders. Youth will be able to use these guns at practice and take them to matches so that everyone can participate.

A lot of youth purchase their own guns, but in these economically challenging times, not all families are able to. The club does not discriminate against any youth that is unable to purchase their own and try hard to have enough guns for everyone.

The Dawes County Shooting Sports program has 23 Nebraska state certified instructors, four of which are also nationally certified.

The 4-H Shooting Sports Program is a youth development education program that uses a prevention education model strongly emphasizing positive youth-adult interaction and peer leadership. It uses skills and disciplines of safe shooting and conservation to assist young people and their leaders in attaining knowledge and developing essential life skills. The program can enhance family communications and quality time together. It creates an environment for a caring relationship between a young person and a significant adult, whether this is a family member, other adult, or teen volunteer. These activities provide satisfaction and self-worth to the adults/teen leaders who act as role models for younger 4-H members.

The Dawes County Super BB's 4-H Club strives to teach young people how to safely and responsibly use firearms and archery equipment, to learn about wildlife conservation and habitat improvement, and to develop self-concept, as well as character and personal growth.

Every year, volunteers from across the country gather to raise money for the future of the shooting sports. Together, individuals form Friends of NRA committees and plan

banquets and other activities. Through the hard work of volunteers and the funds raised through the banquets, The NRA Foundation provides firearm funding on local, state, and national levels. Every year, the foundation allocates half of all net proceeds back to the state in which it was raised, where Friends of NRA State Fund Committees decide on programs and projects to fund on local and state levels.

State Committees are responsible for making grant funding recommendations to The NRA Foundation Board of Trustees. Grants benefit a variety of constituencies, including children, youth, women, individuals with physical disabilities, gun collectors, law enforcement officers, hunters, and competitive teams. State Fund Committees meet annually to review and recommend eligible projects for funding. This year, the Dawes County Super BB's 4-H Club was one of the lucky recipients!

--Submitted by Sandi K. Schiaffo

(Questions? Comments? E-mail roxie@chadrad.com.)