

Shooting Sports is Creating a Big Bang

Sevier County



Dirt work, concrete, and metal are the beginning of a 100 meter range

Impacts

- During the past year the number of trained 4-H Shooting Sports instructors has grown from three to eight with some of the instructors crossed-trained in two different disciplines.
- All of the five shooting sports: muzzle loading, shotgun, rifle, air pistol, and archery disciplines are covered.

Sevier County has limited areas for individuals to shoot, unless they have their own land. A project that was started a few years ago actually became reality during the past year. Sevier County 4-H Foundation received 60 acres of land from a local benefactor with the stipulation that the land be used for youth in the county. The land is located north of DeQueen on Highway 71 in what was called the Gravel Pit.

Land alone does not make an approved area for activities—especially youth activities and a shooting range. To remedy the problem, a *4-H Shooting Sports Booster Club* was created. The club members planned the facility and worked on construction of the ranges. The county wrote two grant proposals for range development and equipment to the National Rifle Association. The grants were funded: \$2,000 was granted for equipment and \$2,000 was granted for range development. After funds were received in 2004, the Boosters Club contacted community businesses and local organizations for help with dirt work and foundation work on the concrete pad. In November 2004, the first 100 Meter Rifle Range was ready for use by 4-H members.

This is the first phase; we have plans for the Shotgun Range to be started in 2005 and future ranges will be developed as funds are available.