

# 2026 Dane County 4-H Shooting Sports Handbook



**Air Pistol**

**Air Rifle**

**Archery**

**Muzzleloader**

**Shotgun**

**.22 Pistol**

**.22 Rifle**

**Miscellaneous Information**

This handbook is designed to inform Dane County 4-H Shooting Sports youth about department regulations, training dates/locations, fair events, and the wildlife ecology exam. For additional details, contact the Shooting Sports Committee at: [Dane4HShootingSports@gmail.com](mailto:Dane4HShootingSports@gmail.com) or the Extension Office at 608-224-3700

## 2026 Shooting Sports Open House Sessions

- Dates
  - Mon, Jan 26, 6:30 PM at Fen Oak
  - Thurs, Jan 29, 6:30 PM, via Zoom
- Topics:
  - Meet Dane County 4-H Shooting Sports Committee members
  - Learn about shooting sports options & regulations
  - Ask questions

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## 2026 Dane County 4-H Shooting Sports Classes & Fair Dates

**NOT ALL UPDATED YET**

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### Air Pistol

- Trainings at Stoughton Conservation Club
  - Saturdays: April 11, April 25, May 9, May 23, June 6
    - 8:30-10 AM: air pistol
- Fair event: June 27, 2026 at Stoughton Conservation Club

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### Air Rifle

- Trainings at Stoughton Conservation Club; 5-8 PM
    - Tuesdays: March 3, March 10, March 17, March 24, March 31
  - Fair event: May 16, 2026 at Stoughton Conservation Club
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## Dane County 4-H Shooting Sports

### **Archery-Indoor**

- Trainings at Poynette Bowhunters Association; 6-8 PM
    - Wednesdays: May 13, May 20, May 27, June 3, June 10, 2027
  - Trainings at Stoughton Conservation Club; 6-8 PM
    - Tuesdays: May 12, May 19, May 26, June 2, June 9, June 16, 2026
  - Trainings at Deer Creek in Mount Vernon 12-2 PM
    - Sundays: April 19, April 26, May 10, May 17
  - Fair event: June 27, 2026 at Stoughton Conservation Club
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### **Archery- 3-D (Outdoor)**

- Fair event: June 27, 2026 at Stoughton Conservation Club
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### **Muzzleloader**

- Trainings at Stoughton Conservation Club Rifle Range 5pm-dusk
    - Thursdays: May 7, May 14, May 21
  - Fair event: June 13, 2026 at Stoughton Conservation Club Rifle range
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### **Shotgun**

- Trainings at Stoughton Conservation Club; 6-8 PM
    - Tuesdays: May 12, May 19, June 9, June 16, June 23
  - Fair event: June 27, 2026 at Stoughton Conservation Club
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### **.22 Pistol**

- Trainings at Stoughton Conservation Club
    - Saturdays: April 11, April 25, May 9, May 23, June 6
      - 10-11:30 AM: .22 pistol
  - Fair event: June 27, 2026 at Stoughton Conservation Club
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### **.22 Rifle**

- Trainings at Stoughton Conservation Club at 7:15-9:00 PM
  - Tuesdays: March 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026
- Fair event: May 16, 2026 at Stoughton Conservation Club

## IMPORTANT Guidelines for ALL Disciplines

### **Age:**

- Participants must be at least 8 years of age and at least in the third grade to participate in most 4-H Shooting Sports. (Age as of January 1 of the 4-H enrollment year.)
- Youth must be at least 12 years old (Age as of January 1 of the 4-H enrollment year) and have successfully completed a hunters safety education course through the DNR to participate in any powder-burning discipline.
- Age classes (as of January 1):
  - Junior: ages 8 to 11
  - Intermediate: ages 12 to 14
  - Senior: ages 15 to 19
- Youth under the age of 16 should have an adult present at practices and fair shoot events

### **Fair information:**

- See the Dane County Fair Book for ribbon score ranges
- Separate fair shoot dates for each event
- Fair entries must be input via fair software
- Youth in ALL disciplines must take wildlife ecology exam yearly

**Enrollment:** All exhibitors must be enrolled in the specific shooting sports disciplines in 4HOnline and complete the associated consents.

### **Shoes & clothing & long hair:**

- NO open-toed shoes allowed at trainings or fair shoots
- Wear appropriate clothing for events
- Long hair should be pulled back so that it does not obscure vision or get caught on equipment


**Safety certification:** Participants **must** be certified by a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor. Green card must be signed at each meeting/training. The final decision to allow 4-H members to participate in the County Fair will be made by the county instructors and will be based primarily on safe firearms and bow handling procedures as appropriate for discipline(s) enrolled. Attending a minimum number of practices does not guarantee permission to take part in the shoot.

- Junior, Intermediate levels (all disciplines): 3 safety meetings required per discipline
- Senior level (all disciplines):
  - 1 safety meeting required if they have participated in that discipline for the previous two years.

## Dane County 4-H Shooting Sports

- Otherwise, 3 safety meetings are required.
- The 4-H Shooting Sports Committee reserves the right to require any Senior level shooter to complete 3 trainings (except for .22 pistol)

SPORT	CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR	DATE
Air Pistol	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Air Rifle	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Archery	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Muzzleloader	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Pistol .22	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Rifle .22	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Shotgun/Trap	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Shotgun/Skeet	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____



**DANE COUNTY 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS**

This card belongs to \_\_\_\_\_  
an active member of \_\_\_\_\_  
4-H Club located in \_\_\_\_\_

has completed the basic safety instruction and is eligible to compete in the following signed sports:

**A minimum of 3 sessions per sport is required to be certified in each sport.**

**THIS CARD EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 20\_\_\_\_\_**

**GUN AND ARCHERY SAFETY RULES**

Always treat every firearm as if it's loaded.  
Always keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction.  
Always be sure the area is safe before shooting.  
Always keep the firearm unloaded until ready to use.  
Always keep arrows in a quiver until ready to use.  
Always keep finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

I agree to act in a sportsmanlike manner and follow these safety rules when I participate in these sports.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

shootingSportsCard2012.indd (01/2012)

## **Wildlife Ecology Knowledge Challenge**

- Youth may enter and participate in this class. It is **NOT required** to receive ribbons, awards and premiums for all Department 16 Shooting Sports
- Topics: species identification, conservation terms, Wisconsin wildlife trivia, and more
- Ages/questions
  - Junior (age third grade through 11): 15 questions
  - Intermediate (ages 12 through 14): 20 questions
  - Senior (ages 15 through 19): 25 questions
- See Dane County Fair Book for dates & times

## Dane County 4-H Shooting Sports

### **Youth coaching by adults:**

- Allow adult coaches to coach; parents/guardians can observe in back of the room
- NO parents allowed on or near the line where youth are practicing or participating in fair shoot

## **Air Pistol**

**All exhibitors must have previously participated in air rifle or .22 rifle in order to participate in the pistol program.**

### **Equipment:**

- Exhibitors will provide their own eye protection
- Youth may use their own air pistol (no scopes); otherwise some are available from Dane County 4-H

**Age:** Must be at least 9 years old and in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade or older

### **Trainings:**

- \$3 per training, targets and pellets provided
- See page 2 for location, dates, times

**Fair event:** see page 2

## **Air Rifle**

### **Equipment:**

- Exhibitors will provide their own eye protection
- Youth may use their own air rifle (no scopes) if it has been inspected and approved by the range commander prior to the shoot
- Pellets .177 will be provided or you may provide your own and will be inspected by range commander

**Positions:** Each shooter will fire from four positions:

- Prone
- Kneeling
- Sitting
- Standing at 25 feet

### **Trainings:**

- \$3 per training, targets and pellets provided
- See page 2 for location, dates, times

**Fair event:** see page 2

## Archery & 3-D Archery

### **Equipment**

- Some equipment available for use; personal equipment preferred
- Own equipment is needed for 3-D Archery
- Notify shooting sports committee via email if need equipment for fair shoot
- Arrows:
  - Indoor archery: minimum of 6 arrows in case 1 malfunctions
  - 3-D: minimum of 3 arrows (6 is better)
- Arm guards recommended
- If siblings share equipment, register for separate fair shoot times

### **Ages (based on age January 1st of Fair year)**

- No cloverbuds
- Members MAY shoot in an older class; may NOT shoot in younger class
- Junior (age 8/in third grade through age 11): 10 yards
- Intermediate (ages 12 through 14): 15 yards
- Senior (ages 15-19): 20 yards

### **Classes**

- Barebow: recurve/longbow or compound
  - No sights or peeps, fingers only, no tape/marks on bow
- Limited: compound or recurve
  - Fixed sight, string peep, fingers only, stabilizers measuring 12" or less from front of riser, no magnified sights
- Bowhunter
  - String peep, mechanical releases, stabilizer measuring 12" or less from front of riser, no magnified sights
- Unlimited
  - All accessories acceptable

### **Trainings:**

- \$3 per training, targets provided
- See page 3 for locations, dates, times

**Fair event:** see page 3

## Muzzleloader

### **All exhibitors:**

- Must have successfully completed a hunter safety/education course through the Wisconsin DNR.
- Must be at least 12 years old as of January 1st

### **Equipment**

- Provide own ear & eye protection
- Rifles, Balls, patches & powder will be provided

### **Ages**

- Intermediate (ages 12 through 14)
- Senior (ages 15-19)

### **Trainings:**

- \$5 per training
- Number required
  - Intermediate: 3 trainings every year
  - Senior:
    - Not participated in past 2 years: 3 trainings
    - Participated in previous 2 years: 1 training
- See page 3 for locations, dates, times

**Fair event:** see page 3

## Shotgun

### **All exhibitors:**

- Must successfully complete a hunter safety/education course through the Wisconsin DNR.
- Must be at least 12 years old

### **Equipment**

- Provide own eye and ear protection. Limited amount available to use
- Provide own shotgun, 12 or 20 gauge permitted
- Ammunition
  - Provide own ammunition (some for sale at trainings and to use at the training)
    - Shot 7 ½ to 9 required
  - Ammunition provided free for fair shoot.
- Clays provided
- NOT PERMITTED: magnum, baby or reloads

## Dane County 4-H Shooting Sports

### **Ages**

- Members MAY shoot in an older class; may NOT shoot in younger class
- Trap
  - Intermediate (ages 12 through 14): 25 clay
  - Senior (ages 15-16): 50 clay
  - Advanced (ages 17-19): 50 clay
- Skeet
  - Ages 14-19: 24 shots/1 mulligan with 2 years of trap

**Trainings:** \$3.00 per round. See page 3 for location, dates, times

**Fair event:** see page 3

## **.22 Pistol**

### **All exhibitors**

- Must successfully complete a hunter safety/education course through the Wisconsin DNR.
- Must have participated in air rifle or .22 rifle for at least 1 year prior
- Must have participated in air pistol for at least 1 year prior

### **Equipment**

- Provide own eye and ear protection
- Some equipment available for use; personal equipment preferred
- S&W 22A and Beretta Neos 22 pistols
- Semi-automatic: 5 rounds in 2 magazines

### **Ages**

- Intermediate (ages 12 through 14)
- Senior (ages 15-19)

### **Trainings:**

- \$3 per training, targets & ammo provided
- See page 3 for location, dates, times

**Fair event:** see page 3

## .22 Rifle

### **All exhibitors:**

- Must successfully complete a hunter safety/education course through the Wisconsin DNR.
- Must be at least 12 years old

### **Equipment**

- Provide own eye and ear protection
- Bolt action .22 rifles with iron sight (no scopes) + ammunition will be available
- Hunting rifle:
  - Weighs less than 7.5 pounds
  - No scopes, slings, gloves or other accessories allowed
- Target rifle:
  - Weighs more than 7.5 pounds
  - May have slings, gloves, and accessories
  - NO palm rests or hookbutt plates allowed
- Member may provide own rifle
  - Must be capable of being loaded and fired in single shot fashion
  - Must be inspected by range commander prior to shoot
- Ammunition
  - Will be provided or may provide own
  - Will be inspected by range commander prior to shoot

**Positions:** Each shooter will fire from four positions (1 target shot at each position for score):

- Standing at 50 feet: 10 shots, 100 points
- Kneeling at 50 feet: 10 shots, 100 points
- Sitting at 50 feet: 10 shots, 100 points
- Prone at 50 feet: 10 shots, 100 points

### **Ages**

- Intermediate (ages 12 through 14)
- Senior (ages 15-19)

### **Trainings:**

- ALL members must complete at least 3 trainings each year, regardless of age/class/level
- \$3 per training, targets & ammo provided
- See page 4 for location, dates, times

**Fair event:** see page 4

## **Dane County Fair Wildlife Ecology Challenge**

- The Challenge will be offered during the fair shoot events.
- The Challenge is designed to be just that...a Challenge with a range of easy to difficult questions. No studying needed!
- Topics include:
  - Plant, bird, fish, reptile, and mammal identification and basic biology of each
  - Shooting sports equipment identification and ammunition knowledge
  - Fishing equipment, ie, lure identification
  - Orienteering
  - Bodies of water in Wisconsin
  - Questions specific to wildlife found in Wisconsin
  - Habitat identification
  - Trapping equipment

## **Miscellaneous Information**

### **Conservation Club Locations**

- Stoughton Conservation Club: 918 Collins Rd, Stoughton, WI 53589
- Poynette Bowhunters: 3197 State Highway 22, Poynette, WI 53955

### **Top Shot Award**

Given to a senior level individual member who shoots the highest combined total score in these 4 events: indoor archery, pistol (either air or .22), rifle (either air or .22) and either of the shotgun events at the Dane County Fair.

### **4-H Shooting Sports Website**

The Wisconsin 4-H Shooting Sports website is:  
<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wi4hshootingsports/>

Website topics:

## Dane County 4-H Shooting Sports

- News
- Certification workshops
  - Competitive shoots
  - Results/certifications
- National championships
  - Leaders
  - Resources

### **Volunteer with the 4-H Shooting Sports Project!**

Help is needed:

1. Discipline-certified leaders--SEE BELOW
2. Fundraising (funds for clays, targets, and equipment)
3. Fair shoots (check-ins, equipment help, scoring, entering scores in computer, sorting ribbons, food stand)

Sign Up to Volunteer at 2026 Stoughton Trainings (link coming soon)– check in youth, set up equipment and monitor youth

Sign Up to Volunteer at the 2026 Dane County Fair Shoot (link coming soon)- donate items, check in youth, monitor youth

### **Interested in becoming a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor?**

The information below was copied from the Wisconsin 4-H website -

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/shooting-sports/leader-certification-training-workshops/>

**A Wisconsin 4-H Shooting Sports Leader** may be certified in archery, coordinator, muzzleloader, pistol, rifle and shotgun disciplines. Leaders may only teach in the discipline in which they are certified. An adult leader cannot provide hands-on or safety instruction without a certified leader supervising the range.

## Dane County 4-H Shooting Sports

- Age 21 or older.
- Be an approved 4-H leader in your county through 4-H Online
- Complete National 4-H Shooting Sport Online training. (This one-time training is required for first-time volunteers only.)
- Register for a certification workshop of choice through 4-H Online and pay fee (only one certification can be obtained at a Saturday workshop)
- Attend the complete 8 hours of a Saturday certification workshop.

For more information about these help opportunities or to volunteer:

Contact the Shooting Sports Committee at:  
[Dane4HShootingSports@gmail.com](mailto:Dane4HShootingSports@gmail.com)  
or the Extension Office at 608-224-3700