

Shooting Sports and Air Guns Frequently Asked Questions

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources



11/2014

1. Why does 4-H have a Shooting Sports Program?

4-H utilizes the Shooting Sports Program as a vehicle to teach youth development. The program is valuable for helping young people develop self-confidence, discipline, responsibility, team work, self-control and sportsmanship.

2. What are air guns/BB guns or pellet guns?

Air guns are BB guns or pellet guns and use compressed air, gas or a spring piston to propel a skirted lead pellet or a copper plated BB. The average maximum effective range of a BB gun is 15 feet and a pellet gun is 33 feet. Firearms, on the other hand, use gun powder to propel a projectile at a higher velocity for a much farther distance.

3. Why are air guns used in shooting sports?

The basic techniques of marksmanship skills can be taught utilizing air guns. They can be used on small acreage or indoors and they are less expensive. Security, although important, is not as critical as with firearms. It is also easier to supervise novice shooters using air guns.

4. What are the legal ownership and transfer requirements for air guns?

The only restriction for air gun purchases and transferring between owners is that the owner must be 18 years of age. There is no paperwork involved. Firearms, on the other hand, are closely restricted by federal, state and municipal laws and ordinances.

5. Can 4-H VMOs and units purchase air guns/BB guns?

Yes, with permission and approval of the county director or designee. See Air Gun Purchase Request Authorization Form

6. What is the process for the purchase of air guns/BB guns?

4-H VMOs (e.g., councils) and units (e.g., clubs) may purchase air guns with 4-H funds as long as the purchaser is an approved appointed adult volunteer over the age of 18. Reimbursement for the purchase must follow 4-H financial policies.

7. Who can teach shooting sports utilizing an air gun/ BB gun?

A California 4-H YDP certified shooting sports adult volunteer is the only authorized adult volunteer who can conduct an air gun/bb gun project or activity.



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8. Who can purchase ammunition for the 4-H Shooting Sports Program?

The County Director must approve the purchase and may designate an adult volunteer or staff person to make the purchase. See Ammunition Purchase Request Authorization Form.

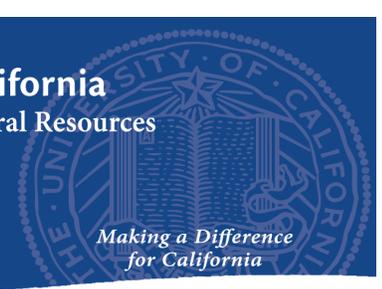
9. Can archery equipment be purchased by a 4-H VMO or unit?

Yes, but must be included on the council or club inventory.



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