



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
EXTENSION

# SOUTHERN UPDATE



Ron Waldrop discusses rifle safety during the 4-H Shooting Sports Training held recently in Sparta.

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## 4-H Shooting Sports Program Will Reach New Youth, Adult Audiences

The 4-H Shooting Sports Program has the potential to reach new youth audiences as well as new volunteer adult leaders. The program can also create an environment for a caring relationship between a young person and a significant adult—whether a family member, other adult, or teen volunteer.

The U of I Extension 4-H Shooting Sports Program provides instruction in the safe handling of firearms and archery equipment. The program teaches self-responsibility, decision-making, self-discipline, goal setting, teamwork, and safety.

Approximately two-thirds of the homes in the U.S. have firearms, so teaching safe, responsible use of firearms and archery equipment is vital to preventing accidents in the home and in the field.

The Illinois 4-H Shooting Sports Program is not an individual 4-H project, but is taught as a group project.

Trained certified instructors are present when any planned 4-H Shooting Sport activity is conducted.

The disciplines of archery, shotgun, rifle, and coordinator are taught by the Illinois Shooting Sports Committee. Adult volunteers who complete the training and become certified then offer programming in their local counties. Competitive shooting events are optional and are not the main thrust of the program.

The Shooting Sports Training was held in Southern Illinois during November, at the World Shooting Complex near Sparta. The training drew 39 participants from throughout the region and other parts of the state.

John Pike and Mike Plumer, from the Carbondale Center, serve on the state training committee. If you'd like to learn more about how to implement the program in your county, contact them.

The spring training will be April 9–11 at the Monticello 4-H Camp.



## Calendar Items

Telenet with State Director  
January 7

\*Academic staff members  
encouraged to participate.  
See 12/3/09 email from  
Dale Law

State Director to Meet with  
Southern Region  
Academic Staff  
January 22  
Jefferson County Office

Regional Meeting  
February 23  
Jefferson County Office

## eXtension Website Worth a Visit

If you haven't yet visited the **eXtension** website, take some time to get familiar with it. The site provides objective and research-based information as well as learning opportunities that help people improve their lives. It is an educational partnership that includes 74 universities in the United States.

Recently, the eXtension National Conference was held in St. Louis. Those attending from the Southern Region were Dale Law, Carol Schlitt, Susan Hayden, Steve Wagoner, Jody Johnson, and Pam Jacobs. Special recognition to **Jody** as a session presenter on the Disaster Preparedness Conference that was held in the AJMPU unit.

Log on to eXtension at [www.extension.org](http://www.extension.org) and use the resources that are available.

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## New Tool for Instant Messaging

Extension is abandoning Communicator . . . Pidgin is the new instant messaging tool that we are to start using now. This software lets you instant message Extension staff as well as campus personnel.

If you haven't yet changed to Pidgin, see the October 23 emails from Peter for more information about installing and using the program. Contact him if you need assistance.

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## Personnel Update



Jeff Franklin, youth development educator in Jackson County, resigned December 31 to accept a position with SIU-Carbondale.

Julie Mumbower is the Interim County Director for Jackson County, effective January 1.

Ed Billingsley is the Interim County Director for Jefferson County, effective January 1.

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Take the plunge, help outside of your program area by collaborating with co-workers to build an even bigger, better program . . .  
*brought to you by thoughts we generated at the FISH Market Place.*