

'Lawdogs' and 'Cowboys' donate to 4-H shooting sports

By the Star-Tribune staff

Two Natrona County shooting groups donated \$420 to benefit their county's 4-H shooting sports program. The funds will help purchase a trailer to store and transport 4-H supplies to shooting events.

The Bessemer Vigilance Committee, a cowboy single-action shooting group, and the Lawdogs, comprised of local, county, state and federal law officers in Natrona County, square off each summer in a friendly competition.

They donate proceeds of their annual shoot to 4-H shooting sports. Members of the groups presented this year's check in late November.

"It's great to have a partnership with these two groups so we can show youths how to develop a love of shooting sports whether for a hobby or a career," said Colleen Campbell, Natrona County 4-H and youth program associate.

4-H is the youth arm of the University of Wyoming's Cooperative Extension Service, and its state offices are in the UW College of Agriculture.

4-Hers in shooting sports serve lunch during each year's event, which is now dubbed "Lawdogs vs. Cowboys." That gives the youths a chance to earn money as well as see an exciting shooting sports meet, Campbell said. The donation is on top of what the 4-Hers earn for helping at the event.

"It's a friendly competition to see who does the best, the high techies or the old timers. They do have a lot of fun doing this," she said.

John Roszel, a member of the Bessemer Vigilance Committee, noted, "This is an annual event we all look forward to, and it's for a good cause. We know the 4-H shooting sports program is always in need of funds to continue in an efficient manner."

One of the organizers of the shoot is Natrona County Undersheriff Dave Kinghorn, who competes with the Cowboys.

"We picked 4-H shooting sports for our donation because we feel it is a good program. It's important for kids to have positive, structured things to do, and 4-H provides that," Kinghorn said.

Campbell said proceeds in past years have been used to purchase targets, guns, bows and other supplies.

"This gives kids a chance to try out the disciplines to see if they find them interesting or challenging without first purchasing their own equipment," she said.

There are approximately 75 youths in Natrona County 4-H shooting sports. "It's one of our largest enrollment areas," Campbell said.