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I am writing on behalf of the Choctaw FFA Chapter to propose the establishment of a Sporting Clays Team within our Agricultural Education program. As we continue expanding opportunities for our students, this team will provide a valuable, career-connected experience that aligns directly with the mission of Agricultural Education and the National FFA Organization.

The Choctaw Agriculture Education Department is committed to offering programs that promote premier leadership, personal growth, and career success for all students. A sporting clays team would further this mission by helping students build responsibility, discipline, and confidence while participating in a structured, safety-focused competitive activity.

Sporting clays is a rapidly growing discipline in youth agriculture programs across the country and is recognized in many states as a Career Development Event (CDE) within FFA. Forming a team would allow our students to compete at local, regional, and state levels while representing Choctaw FFA with pride. Additionally, the activity offers leadership roles—such as team captains, safety officers, and peer mentors—that support the development of strong student leaders.

There is a clear and direct connection between sporting clays and the curriculum taught in Agricultural Education. Students enrolled in courses related to Wildlife and Natural Resources Management gain knowledge of habitat conservation, game species identification, and ethical outdoor practices. Sporting clays reinforces these lessons through practical, real-world application. Similarly, students develop mechanical and safety skills that align with Ag Mechanics, particularly through the safe handling, maintenance, and operation of equipment.

The team naturally connects to courses such as:

- Natural Resources and Wildlife Management
Introduction to Agriscience
- Agricultural Leadership
- Intro to Agriculture for 8th/9th grade students
These classes already discuss ecology, conservation, safety, and responsible recreation—topics

reinforced by sporting clays involvement.

The sporting clays discipline also plays a significant role in the agricultural and conservation industries. Outdoor recreation, including shooting sports, contributes billions to the national outdoor economy and supports careers in wildlife biology, land management, conservation enforcement, and recreation services. A team would expose our students to these pathways and create stronger career connections early in their educational experience.

Beyond academic ties, a sporting clays team would increase student engagement within the FFA chapter, particularly among students who may not otherwise participate in traditional events. It would also strengthen community partnerships with local ranges, conservation groups, and outdoor recreation businesses. The team would additionally create scholarship opportunities, as many colleges and organizations now support clay target athletes.

Sporting clays attracts students who may not otherwise participate in FFA. It appeals to:

- Outdoor-oriented students
- Students interested in wildlife biology or conservation careers
- Students seeking team-based competition

To implement this program, our department would secure the appropriate advisor certifications, partner with a local range, and ensure that all participating students complete firearm and range safety training. Equipment needs would be met through fundraising, sponsorships, and grant opportunities. In relation to firearm and ammunition storage, all firearms and ammunition will be stored at the homes of the students who are participating or in the home of the FFA Advisor if they are owned by the chapter. All firearms and ammunition will be brought to the practice site and taken home directly after. At no time will a firearm or ammunition be permitted on CNPS property for any reason.

Implementation Plan

1. Secure advisor certification in youth shooting sports safety (NRA, ODWC, SCTP, etc.).
2. Partner with a local range for training and practice.
3. Recruit interested FFA members and ensure all students complete safety training.
4. Acquire necessary equipment (shotguns, ammo, clays) through fundraising, grants, and sponsorships.
5. Attend regional and state FFA shotgun or wildlife CDE events.

In conclusion, a Sporting Clays Team would be a meaningful and educational addition to the Choctaw FFA Chapter. It supports the mission of Agricultural Education, enhances the learning experiences of our students, and provides career-relevant opportunities in a safe, supervised environment. I believe this program will enrich student engagement and continue our commitment to excellence within Choctaw's Agricultural Education Department.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. I welcome the opportunity to discuss it further.

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