



At the Oberlin Gun Club off of U.S. 36 in Decatur County, Kaine Fredrickson tried his hand at trap shooting while Gary

Bruggeman looked over his shoulder.

— Photo by Sarah Fredrickson/The Oberlin Herald

Safety

By Erica Bradley

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Kansas hunters now have the option of taking hunter education courses in traditional classes or online, depending on their schedules. By law, the course is required before people can buy a license or hunt.

Online courses can be completed through three firms. The International Hunter Education Association offers a free course through its Web site, homestudy.ihea.com.

Commercial online courses are offered through Hunterexam Kansas and Hunter-Ed Kansas. Hunterexam Kansas (www.hunterexam.com/usa/kansas/) costs \$24.95 and Hunter-Ed Kansas (www.hunter-ed.com/ks/index.htm) costs \$19.50.

The online and classroom sessions teach about hunting safely, responsibility, outdoor safety, wildlife conservation and hunting opportunities.

Wayne Doyle, state hunter education coordinator, said online classes have only been available for the last five years, and they are starting to become more popular.

"We've offered it as an option for instructors. More and more of them are opting to do it," he said.

Troy Mannis, an online hunter education in-

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Instructor in Goodland, said students participate in six hours of coursework at their leisure and attend a four-hour field day. Students have to complete an online quiz after each chapter and pass the pretest before participating in field day. They have to take the final test after passing the pretest.

He said there are 25 questions on the pretest, and students have to get 22 correct.

Mannis said the online courses allow people more flexibility. He said more kids are enrolling in the online courses because they can balance that with other extracurricular activities.

Doyle said the online classes give students a basic understanding of hunting guidelines before they participate in field day. This allows everyone to be on the same level for the exercises.

Doyle said students have to register with an instructor, complete the online course and participate in the field day to earn their certificate.

Mannis said he has been a hunting instructor for more than 12 years, but this will be his first year teaching an online course.

"This is a new deal for me, but they had it in Colby last year," he said. "It was a huge success."

Traditional classes are still available.

Doyle said hunter education is required for anyone over than 16 and born after July 1, 1957, to buy a license, although there are some exceptions.

An apprentice license can be obtained for those who want to try hunting out. It is valid for one year.

Kansas accepts certificates from other states. Hunters under the age of 16 do not have to complete the class but must be supervised by an adult until they do.

According to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, hunter education courses



A worker with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks talked with kids about hunter education and safety at the Oberlin Gun Club. People can choose to take the hunter

education course in person or online.

— File photo/The Oberlin Herald

teach respect for wildlife, firearms, he law, game, landowners, the future of hunting and respect for yourself.

Mannis said he plans to hold an online

course with the field day on Sunday, Nov. 1, in Goodland.

A list of hunter education classes can be found on the department's website at www.kdwp.

state.ks.us/news/Other-Services/Education/Hunter/Class-Schedule/Region-1.



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