

## **Electric Trap Machines**

The Trius Trap has and will continue to be the basis of our modified trap program with 1000's of 4-H'ers being trained in shooting sports on these annually. As our program continues to grow, it has become necessary for our District and State level events to move to an electric machine to insure that we are offering a safe, fair, and valuable experience for our 4-H'ers while holding an event for 900 plus youth. Although many county programs may elect to purchase an electric machine to use locally, the Trius will still be the standard used on the local level due to its durability and cost effectiveness.

There are several models of electric machines that can be used for the 4-H Modified Trap Program. A county may elect to purchase any machine that they feel is most appropriate for their program. The Project S.A. F. E Development Committee has identified two machines manufactured by Champion Target Company that will meet the needs of most 4-H Programs. These machines have been selected based on their durability, ease of finding replacement parts and the long term relationship and support given by ATK/Federal to 4-H programs.

Electric machines for 4-H use are not limited to these two. Other commercial wobble trap machines may also be used since they will produce the same target range as the Champion machines.

### **Champion Easy Bird Six Packer:**

The Easy Bird Six Packer is the base machine model and comes standard with the oscillating base and cart from Champion. The machine operates on a 12-volt Deep Cycle Battery and offers horizontal movement of 45 degrees left and right of center and a vertical movement of 0-25 degrees. The target carousel holds 150 targets. The wobble attachment must be purchased separately.

The Easy Bird is a direct drive machine and is the most cost effective alternative for small county programs. Since this is the most cost effective alternative for throwing relatively small amounts of targets in a given year, the committee has selected the Easy Bird to be used at the State Modified Trap Event.

### **Champion Sporter 180:**

The Champion Sporter 180 is considered a club model and is designed to throw countless numbers of targets each year. The cart, oscillating base and wobble attachment will need to be purchased through ATK at retail prices or through a distributor such as Howell Shooting Supply.

The Sporter 180 has a horizontal movement of 45 degrees left and right of center and a vertical movement of 0-35 degrees. The machine is chain driven and although more expensive, would be more economical in the long run for counties with large programs throwing a high volume of targets each year.

## **FAQ's:**

### **What does an electric machine cost?**

Cost of automatic machines can vary depending on current promotions and sales. Depending on make and manufacturer, a good machine can be purchased for \$1000 - \$2500. For current pricing and promotional offers for 4-H, contact Mark Zeigler at the State 4-H Office, [mzeigler@uga.edu](mailto:mzeigler@uga.edu).

### **Why did the committees select to use the Easy Bird Machine for the state match?**

The cost savings of the Easy Bird Machine proved to be a better match for the state program since these machines will be used for 1-2 events per year. Currently, each machine at the state match only throws 1900 – 2200 targets for the event.

### **The Easy Bird only has an elevation range of 0-25 degrees. How will it be set at the state match?**

In order to create a consistent target from station to station due to land elevation, the machine will have to be adjusted by raising or lowering the back side of the cart. This will result in giving a true target elevation of no more than 35 degrees. Target elevation and the machine level can easily be adjusted by using shims under the rear of the cart frame.

### **What type of maintenance or operation cost will be incurred by these machines?**

Other than initial purchase, these machines are virtually maintenance free. Batteries will have to be trickle charged in order to maintain performance. The machines also make uses of bands that have to be periodically replaced due to stretching or drying.

### **Do these machines produce a consistent target?**

Target consistency for an electric machine is far superior to a manual operated one. The target is placed in the same location on the throwing arm each time, spinning the target out instead of pushing it out. This results in a more consistent flight path and reduces the “dancing” of the target.

### **Where can I learn more about these machines?**

Visit the Champion Website at: [www.championtarget.com](http://www.championtarget.com) or Howell Shooting Supply at: [www.howellshootingsupplies.com](http://www.howellshootingsupplies.com)

### **Where can I buy accessories for the Champion machines?**

Accessories may either be purchased through the Champion Website at: [www.championtarget.com](http://www.championtarget.com) or Howell Shooting Supply [www.howellshootingsupplies.com](http://www.howellshootingsupplies.com) You may want to check with surround counties to reduce shipping cost on items ordered.