

ASK BILL

Question

This month's question came in the form of a phone call from someone who had tried field archery for the first time last year. Until then he had mainly shot indoor archery and 3D outdoors. He said he enjoyed field archery and tried to get more people to try it. His concern was the number of 3D shooters who have not tried field archery and were afraid to try it because of a lack of information or incorrect information. He asked me if I could put something in the newsletter that would explain the rounds and targets so that maybe more people will want to give it a try.

Answer

A round of field archery consists of shooting two sets of 14 targets. Some clubs will have 1 set of 14 targets that you will shoot around twice and other clubs will have two different sets of 14 targets and you will shoot both sets one time each. Each set of 14 targets has exactly the same targets and distances but they will be arranged in different order. All shooting stations are marked yardage and you will shoot 4 arrows at each of the 14 targets in the set.

Each 14 target set has 10 targets that you will shoot all 4 arrows from the same position. There will be 3 more targets that are called walk-ups and you get to move closer to the target after each shot. That leaves 1 target where you will shoot all your arrows from one distance but will move laterally between each shot. This target is called the 35 yard fan.

The 3 walk-ups are 80-70-60-50 yards, 45-40-35-30 yards and 35-30-25-20 **feet**. That last one is called the Bunny target. The other two are known as the 80 yard walk-up and the 45 yard walk-up.

The targets where you shoot all 4 arrows from the same position are at the distances 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 and 65 yards. So the farthest distance, from which you will shoot all 4 arrows, is 65 yards.

Now for the targets faces. The targets have 3 scoring areas. The black bulls-eye is worth 5 points. The white donut around the bulls-eye is worth 4 points and the big black donut around the white donut is worth 3 points. Speaking of donuts, I just love donuts; I hope Pekin will have some in the concession stand at the state target shoot. Oh---back to field archery. For those of you who have only seen spot tournaments at 20 yards indoors and think you have to hit that little X-ring at 80 yards, there are a couple of good news items here. The first is that the farther you shoot, the bigger the target is. There are 4 sizes of targets in field archery. They are all officially sized in centimeters but I will tell you what they are roughly equal to in inches since most of us are more familiar with inches than centimeters. Remember that Bunny target? It is roughly, a 7-7/8" or almost 8" target with a bulls-eye that is a little bigger than 1.5". In fact, the bulls-eye is the same exact size as the indoor 20 yard X-ring and you get to shoot at it as close as 20 feet on out to 35 feet. The next size target is shot at 15 yards on out to 30 yards and it is a little bigger than 13.75 inches with a bulls-eye that is a little larger than 2.75 inches. From 35 yards to 50 yards you shoot at a target that is a little larger than 19.5 inches and it has a bulls-eye that is almost 4" in diameter. Then, for the 55 to 80 yard targets you get to shoot at a target that is more than 25.5" across with a bulls-eye that is almost 5-1/8" in diameter. Wow, a donut more that 2 feet across!

Remember I mentioned two good news items? The second is that we hardly ever use the X-ring for anything. That makes the bulls-eye the smallest thing we have to hit and it is quite a bit larger by comparison than the indoor X-ring. The rule book says the X-ring is used only for tie breakers as determined by the Tournament Chairman but all ties I have ever witnessed have been broken with a shoot off. So the groups I shoot with only use the X-ring for things like determining who buys soda, or ice cream or better yet-----donuts.

I hope this helps explain the distances and size of targets used in field archery.

There is another round we shoot known as the Hunter round. It also consists of the 14 target sets with the main difference being the target face looks differently and there are a lot of different distances but they are still all marked yardage.

From the shooting positions the faces look like a totally black piece of paper with a white bulls-eye. When you get close enough to the target face you can then see a faint gray line around the outside of the 4 ring and another one around the 3 ring. Aiming at this target face is more like aiming at the indoor white spot.

The distances are a little closer with the longest shot being 70 yards. There are only 4 targets where you shoot all 4 arrows from the same position (11, 40, 44 and 48 yards). There are 3 fans (28, 32 and 36 yards) and 4 walk-ups with the longest being 70-65-61-58. That leaves 3 targets that have two shooting distances 23-20, 19-17 and 15-14. At these targets you shoot 2 arrows at the longer distance, then 2 more from the shorter distance.

Comments

If you are a 3D shooter and enjoy it, I think it is great you are in archery and having a good time. I would in no way try to get you to stop 3D and shoot field archery instead. I am trying to get you to shoot field archery in addition to 3D because I **know** it will help your 3D scores. For those 3D shooters who think field archery won't help their 3D scores I would like for you to think about something. If you were a better shooter would you score better at 3D or is it all in the range estimation and bow speed? If you miss high or low you really may not know if you judged distance incorrectly or made a bad shot. Here is where I will bet you a donut that most 3D shooters will say they judged the distance incorrectly. Maybe they did and maybe they didn't. The good news is; you can get rid of some of those high and low shots on the 3D range if you had good shooting form and execution to go with your good range estimation. Bad shots can go high or low but bad shots also can go left or right. Are all your shots down the middle or do you sometimes miss to the left or right? Those left and right misses obviously are not due to incorrect range estimation and most of them didn't really hit a leaf or twig either. Most are due to poor form or poorly executed shots. Shooting 4 shots at a target will help you see whether your shooting is all you want it to be and gives you some incentive to improve. Do you want to improve your shooting or not? It is up to you.