



Shotgunner's Talk

Larry Wagoner

There continues to be a serious controversy about leads when shooting at moving targets. We Shotgunners most always shoot at moving targets, so the subject of lead continues to be an area of disagreement. It may be that we will never all agree on the subject but, at least, we can attempt to understand that lead is a **perception** and since we are all different, our concepts of leads are different. Your perception may not be the same as that of your buddy but you both shoot well. When one talks "lead", the other disagrees. ??????

The difference, of course, is "Gun Speed". Here is where shooting styles come into play. The "swing through" shooters, the "pull ahead" shooters, and the "sustained lead" shooters will see different leads because of gun speed. The "swing through" shooter is moving his gun faster than the target and depending on gun speed, he may not see any lead at all and he does not stop his gun as he swings through it. The "pull ahead" shooter has a different perception of lead. His muzzle is exactly on the target and his gun speed is the same as his target. Just as he pulls the trigger, he increases the speed of his gun to pull ahead of the target. His lead may appear to be inches, or feet, or nothing depending on target speed. The "sustained lead" shooter uses the most scientific method. His perception of lead is based on perception of target speed. He matches gun speed with target speed and adjusts a sustained lead ahead of the target. He sees lead totally different than the others, as he keeps his target behind his muzzle and fires when he sees his lead as being correct.

Shotgunners know that lead is absolutely necessary, unless we have Shotguns that send out a shot string at the speed of light, but let's not get wrapped around the axle about it. Lead is a learned perception depending upon the shooter's style or method of shooting. It seems amazing, and unbelievable, that the lead on identical targets can be perceived by one as three feet, and to another as inches, and still another as the length of an 18 wheeler.

What is important to remember is that leads are perceived. Math can be used to verify positive leads but how that lead is developed in an individual thing. What works for you may not work for your buddy. We all need to analyze, establish logic, reason, determine best methods for us, justify, consider, estimate, judge and decide.....then let the biological computer take over. Lead comes in #3 on the all important "to do" list. #1 is keeping your head on the stock of your gun, "wood on wood" so that you can see where your muzzle is pointed. #2 is keeping your eyes on the target so that your biological computer can go to work. #3 is lead and lead is a product of that biological computer – perception!