

July 2026

Otero County 4-H Newsletter



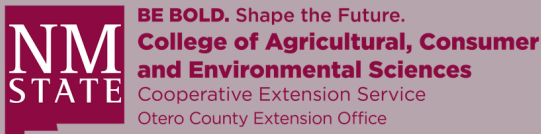
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4-H Meeting Schedule

4-H Club	Time/ Location	Monthly Meeting	Next Meeting
Alamogordo	6:30pm @ Fairgrounds New Exhibit Building	2 nd Tuesday	July 14th
Cloudcroft	6pm @ Cloudcroft Middle School	Last Thursday	July 30th
Heritage	7pm @ Fairgrounds New Exhibit Building	2 nd Monday	July 13th
Mescalero	6pm @ Empowerment Building	1 st Sunday	July 5th
Mustangs	6pm @ Otero County Extension Classroom	Last Tuesday	July 28th
Sacramento Mountains	5pm @ Weed Volunteer Fire Department	1 st Thursday	July 2nd
Tularosa*	7pm @ Carroll Family Home*	1 st Tuesday*	July 11th*

* For the month of July, Tularosa 4-H will meet on Saturday, July 11th @ 5:30pm at the Alamogordo Rec Center Pool



401 Fairgrounds Road
Alamogordo, NM 88310
575.437.0231
otero@nmsu.edu
oteroextension.nmsu.edu

County 4-H Council Meeting

There will be no County 4-H Council Meetings scheduled for June or July. The next County 4-H Council Meeting is scheduled for:

Thursday, August 20th @ 6:30pm at the Extension Office

Everyone is welcome to attend...but, please be especially sure to send your County 4-H Council club voting representatives!



4-H Age Groups for the 2025-2026 4-H Year

	Cloverbud*	Novice	Junior	Senior
Grade as of January 1, 2026	Kinder, 1st, 2nd	3rd, 4th, 5th	6th, 7th	8th and up
Age as of January 1, 2026	5 year olds; 6 year olds; 7 year olds; and 8 year olds in the 2 nd grade	8 year olds in the 3 rd grade; 9 year olds; 10 year olds; 11 year olds in the 5 th grade	11 year olds in the 6 th grade; 12 year olds; 13 year olds in the 7 th grade	13 year olds in the 8 th grade; 14 year olds; 15 year olds; 16 year olds; 17 year olds; 18 year olds; Youth who are 19 by December 31 st of the current 4-H year are not eligible to enroll as a 4-H member.

The current 4-H program year is October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Rodeo age requirements vary slightly from other 4-H programs and can be found in the [NM 4-H Rodeo Rule Book on the NM 4-H Website](#).

*While the [4-H Cloverbud program](#) is a component of the overall 4-H Youth Development program and 4-H Cloverbud members are recognized as 4-H members for the purposes of enrollment, they are considered to be in a special membership category with regard to programs and policies.

4-H Good Standing Requirements

Members, parents, and leaders, do you know exactly what 4-H members need to do to be in "good standing"? Do you know what the "good standing" requirements are? If not, please take a moment to check these out now. Don't wait until before the fair (or other events/activities) when you may not have enough time to meet the requirements.

Remember, a 4-H member in good standing is one who has met the following requirements:

--Enrolls in a 4-H Club by February 1, 2026

--Attends at least 40% of all club meetings held between October 1, 2025 and the date of the event or activity. Some 4-H Clubs require members attend at least 50% of club meetings. so, be sure to check with your 4-H club leader for the minimum number of club meetings you are required to attend to be considered in "good standing"

--Follows the NM 4-H Conduct and Behavior Expectations of Youth and Adults

4-H Project Materials

In 4-H, there are numerous projects available to members. Projects include animal science, gardening, photography, foods, clothing, public speaking, creative arts, Cloverbuds and more. A complete list of projects is available on the [NM 4-H website](#). Project materials are available for each 4-H project which include manuals and record forms. Members receive materials by enrolling in the project and requesting materials from the Otero County Extension Service. Leaders may also request project materials to facilitate 4-H project meetings.

Many of the 4-H project materials are available as a digital file (free of charge). In Otero County, the first three printed project materials are provided free of charge to 4-H members and any additional projects cost \$4.00 each. If you would like to request digital or printed project materials, please call: 575-437-0231 or email: otero@nmsu.edu at the Otero County Extension Service. There is no deadline for adding a project to your enrollment during the 4-H program year.



4-H INDOOR PROJECT EXHIBIT UPDATE

Prepare Your Indoor 4-H Project Exhibits

All 4-H members who enrolled by February 1st of this year are eligible to enter exhibits in the Otero County 4-H Achievement Day at Otero County Fairgrounds. As you prepare your 4-H exhibits for the Otero County 4-H Achievement Day, be sure to follow the standards outlined in your 4-H project books and the Indoor 4-H Project Exhibits Rules and Class Descriptions. The rules and class descriptions are available from the Extension Office or can be downloaded from <https://oteroextension.nmsu.edu/4-h/contests.html>.

4-H members entering indoor 4-H project exhibits at Otero County 4-H Achievement Day are eligible to win many awards including ribbons, rosettes, and plaques. In addition, a belt buckle and duffle bag will be awarded to the Champion and Reserve Champion exhibitors in each age division: Novice, Junior, and Senior.

Remember: posters, display boards, vertical displays, project specific boards, and photography exhibits will have specific size rules that can be found in the Indoor 4-H Project Exhibits Rules and Class Descriptions. A 4-H member must be in good standing with their 4-H Club to be eligible to enter indoor 4-H exhibits. Also, 4-Hers must be enrolled in the respective projects for exhibits entered. All exhibits must be the work of the exhibitor and completed during the current 4-H year ('25-'26).

4-H members are strongly encouraged to pre-register their exhibits and a registration form is now posted on the [Otero County Extension Service website](#). 4-H members not pre-registering exhibits will be responsible for completing their entry tags upon delivery of exhibits to the Extension Office. If you have any questions regarding indoor 4-H exhibits, contact Kelly in the Extension Office at: 575-437-0231.

Delivery Days for Otero County 4-H Achievement Day

Indoor 4-H project exhibits are to be delivered to the Extension Office on Monday, August 17th, 8am - 7pm, except nutrition/baking exhibits. Nutrition/baking exhibits are to be delivered to the Extension Office on Thursday, August 20th, 8am-7pm, or on Friday, August 21st, 7:30am-10am. If the scheduled delivery days do not work for you, please contact Kelly in the Extension Office to make other arrangements for early delivery of your 4-H exhibits.

Viewing of Exhibits and 4-H Family Night

Viewing of exhibits and an awards program will be held on Saturday, August 22nd. Viewing will start at 5:00pm, awards will be held at 6:00pm, pizza and tasting of baked goods exhibits will follow.



Jewelry (bookmarks, earrings, and keychains)

A free jewelry making project workshop will be held at the Otero County Extension Office on Tuesday, July 21st, 10:00am - 12:00pm. 4-H members will create three items (bookmarks, earrings, and keychains) from the jewelry project. 4-Hers are welcome to bring their own beads, but not required. In addition to beads, the Extension Office will provide tools, wire, and other supplies needed to complete these projects. This workshop is being offered to help Novice, Junior, and Senior 4-H members prepare indoor 4-H project exhibits for the annual 4-H Achievement Day. All finished projects may be entered in the annual 4-H Achievement Day in August. Space is limited and pre-registration is required to attend. Please register by calling: 575-437-0231 or sending Kelly an email: kelknigh@nmsu.edu.

Jewelry (bracelets and necklaces)

A free jewelry making project workshop will be held at the Otero County Extension Office on Thursday, July 23rd, 10:00am - 12:00pm. 4-H members will create two items (bracelets and necklaces) from the jewelry project. 4-Hers are strongly encouraged to bring their own beads to the workshop as bracelets and necklaces require more beads. The Extension Office will have a limited selection of beads and 4-H members are welcome to use what is available. The Extension Office will provide tools, wire, and clasps for 4-Hers to complete their bracelets and necklaces. This workshop is being offered to help Novice, Junior, and Senior 4-H members prepare indoor 4-H project exhibits for the annual 4-H Achievement Day. All finished projects may be entered in the annual 4-H Achievement Day in August. Space is limited and pre-registration is required to attend. Please register by calling: 575-437-0231 or sending Kelly an email: kelknigh@nmsu.edu.



4-H FCS LETTERMEN

Any 4-H member who is active in Family and Consumer Sciences Projects may “letter” in Family and Consumer Sciences. All that is necessary to “letter” is to complete the requirements in their age level and submit the appropriate forms to the Otero County Extension Office by September 1st. A member must be enrolled in 4-H for at least two years before they can letter (regardless of age). The first year a member letters they receive a “clover” letter as you would see on a letterman jacket. Bronze, Silver, and Gold pins in the shape of the letter “H” are awarded in the respective age levels. A member can “letter” at any time, even if they do not begin as a Novice, but they will receive the pin for the appropriate age level.

In addition, two platinum letters will be awarded each year. The platinum letters are based on overall achievement and may be received at any age level. Platinum awards are selected from all applications submitted in that 4-H program year. For information on how to “letter” and appropriate application forms, refer to the [NM 4-H website](#).



OTERO COUNTY 4-H RECORD BOOKS

Record keeping is an important life skill and all 4-H members are encouraged to keep written records of their 4-H Club year. These records are turned into the Extension Office each year and evaluated. Each member receives helpful feedback and may receive an award for their effort and achievement. County 4-H record book guidelines and forms may be downloaded from the [Otero County Extension website](#). The guidelines and forms have everything you need to know about assembling your 4-H Record Book and submitting it for judging. Be sure you are working on your record book in order to have it ready to turn in to the Extension Office by the October 15th deadline.



NM 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Any 4-H member, ages 9-18, can enter photos in the NM 4-H Photography Contest. Entrants do not have to be enrolled in the photography project to enter. Entry deadline is August 1st. Additional information for submitting photos, entry rules, and awards may be found on the [NM 4-H website](#).





Big shoutout to our incredible Novice and Junior 4-H archery members! They made Otero County 4-H proud in June at Southeast District 4-H Contest!



Otero County 4-H Council officers, friends, and leaders rolled up their sleeves and spent a day in June painting at the Otero County Fairgrounds as part of a community service project. Hard work, teamwork, and community pride in action!

Enrollment Changes and Meeting Attendance

Please contact the Extension Office at (575) 437-0231, if you would like to make a change to your 4-H enrollment. This includes changing to a different club, adding/dropping 4-H projects, updates to your contact information, etc. 4-H members will only receive credit for attending 4-H meetings via the club they're enrolled in through Zsuites. 4-H youth enrolled in multiple 4-H clubs must meet the attendance requirements of all clubs they are enrolled in to be considered in good standing.

NM 4-H Community Service Scholarship

The NM 4-H Community Service Scholarship provides financial assistance to any Novice, Junior, or Senior 4-H members participating in a state 4-H event (i.e. Senior Leadership Retreat or Youth Get-Away). The scholarship will cover the registration expenses for the state 4-H event. In addition, the scholarship also provides \$250 of the team fees for Senior 4-H members serving as a State 4-H officer or Ambassador. A complete description of the scholarship criteria and an application form can be obtained from the [NM 4-H website](#). A list of scholarship application deadline dates is also included on the website.



NM 4-H Rodeos

San Juan County: July 11th - 12th

Quay County: July 24th - 25th

NM 4-H Rodeo Finals: September 4th - 6th
McGee Park in Farmington, NM

Rodeo Rule Book, entry forms, and more may be found on the [NM 4-H website](#).

NM 4-H Horse Shows

San Juan County: August 29th

NMSF State 4-H Horse Show: September 12th

More information about 4-H Horse Shows may be found on the [State 4-H website](#).



Mark Your 2026 Calendars!

July 14th - 17th

August 1st

August 22nd

September 1st

September 10th - 20th

September 19th

September 23rd - 26th

September 30th - October 4th

October 5th - 10th

October 15th

State 4-H Conference @ NMSU in Las Cruces, NM

NM Photography Contest Deadline

Otero County 4-H Achievement Day

FCS Letterman Contest Deadline

New Mexico State Fair @ Albuquerque, NM

New Mexico Food Challenge (location coming soon)

Otero County Fair @ Otero County Fairgrounds

Southern New Mexico State Fair @ Las Cruces, NM

Eastern New Mexico State Fair @ Roswell, NM

Otero County 4-H Record Books Deadline



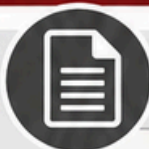
OTERO COUNTY FAIR

RABBIT & POULTRY

EXHIBITOR INFORMATION



PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE ENTERING



REQUIRED PAPERWORK



RABBITS

Animals must be owned and in the possession of the exhibitor at least 30 days prior to the show.



POULTRY

Proof of Purchase must be dated on or before the current year's entry deadline (**August 31**).



FAIRENTRY REQUIREMENT (BOTH SPECIES)

When submitting your FairEntry registration, you must upload:

- Bill of Sale (BOS) for Rabbits
- Proof of Purchase for Poultry



RABBIT EXHIBITORS

1 IDENTIFICATION

Each rabbit must have:

- A permanent identification mark with an ID number or
- A tattoo in the left ear

If your rabbit does not have permanent identification, please indicate that in your FairEntry registration. Arrangements will be made after entries close to tattoo your rabbit prior to the fair.

2 RULES & CLASSES

Please refer to **Page 10** of the Otero County Fair Junior Livestock Rules for complete rabbit rules, classes, and exhibitor guidelines.



POULTRY EXHIBITORS

1 IDENTIFICATION

All poultry will be banded with numbered identification at the time of weigh-in.

2 RULES & CLASSES

Please refer to **Page 9** of the Otero County Fair Junior Livestock Rules for complete poultry rules, classes, and exhibitor guidelines.



QUESTIONS?

If you have any additional questions or need clarification, please feel free to reach out to the committee at:



oterolivestock@yahoo.com

≡ *We're happy to help!* ≡



Youth for the Quality Care of Animals

New this year, junior livestock exhibitors at the Otero County Fair must obtain a Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Certificate each year prior to entry and upload the certificate to their online entry. Below are the steps for completing the YQCA certification at the following website: <https://yqcaprogram.org/>

Steps:

1. Register / Sign-In
2. a. If this is the first time using the site, click ADD CHILD and enter information for each exhibitor.
b. If you are a returning user, skip to step 3.
3. Click ADD TO CART on the correct age for EACH exhibitor
4. Click orange cart in the top right corner of the page and checkout. Once payment processes, you will be able to proceed through the web-based course to obtain certificate.



Heritage 4-H Entomology Pinning Project Day

Heritage 4-H is hosting an Entomology Pinning Project Day. We will have an Entomology Pinning Project Day, the last part of July / first part of August for any 4-H members and/or Cloverbuds. Cloverbuds must be accompanied by an adult. This project is limited to 10 members. If your member is a Cloverbud, please purchase a Shadow Box before attending. Right now, please collect insect specimens, let them dry and then freeze them. The project for Achievement Day requires 20 insects within 5 orders or 30 specimens from 10 orders for the exhibit. We will help you identify and label them. If you are not able collect that many, it's okay! You can still pin them! Please RSVP by July 20th! Call the Extension Office at: 575-437-0231 to sign up!



2026 County 4-H Contests



Congratulations to all 4-H members participating in County 4-H Contests this year!

Wildlife

Kendryck Baker Heritage 4-H Red Award

Horticulture

Siena Cass Cloudcroft 4-H Blue Award
Adeline Pike Heritage 4-H Blue Award
Eleanor Pike Heritage 4-H Blue Award
Charlie Seaman Cloudcroft 4-H Red Award
Macie Seaman Cloudcroft 4-H Red Award
Cord Wold Mescalero 4-H Red Award
Grant Wold Mescalero 4-H White Award

Entomology

Gavin Blankenship Heritage 4-H White Award
Caleb Ramsey Heritage 4-H Blue Award

Favorite Food Show

Cord Wold Mescalero 4-H Blue Award

Presentation

Sierra Ahidley Mescalero 4-H Blue Award
Payton Ligon Alamogordo 4-H White Award
Charli Ramsey Heritage 4-H Blue Award

Prepared Public Speaking

Siena Cass Cloudcroft 4-H Red Award
Caleb Ramsey Heritage 4-H Blue Award

Consumer Decision Making

Sierra Ahidley Mescalero 4-H Blue Award

FCS Skill-a-thon

Sierra Ahidley Mescalero 4-H Blue Award
Eleanor Pike Heritage 4-H White Award
Charli Ramsey Heritage 4-H Blue Award

Fashion Revue - Sewing I

Adeline Pike Heritage 4-H Blue Award
Eleanor Pike Heritage 4-H Blue Award

Fashion Revue - Mix & Match I

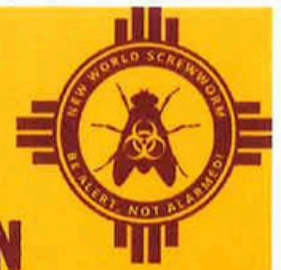
Eleanor Pike Heritage 4-H Blue Award

Fashion Revue - Sr Clothing Construction

Adeline Pike Heritage 4-H Blue Award



NEW WORLD SCREWORM AWARENESS FOR 4-H & FFA LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS



PROTECT YOUR ANIMALS THROUGH DAILY OBSERVATION

WHAT IS NEW WORLD SCREWORM?

The New World Screwworm (NWS) is a serious pest that affects warm-blooded animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, swine, horses, pets, wildlife, and occasionally people. Unlike common maggots that feed on dead tissue, screwworm larvae feed on living flesh, causing painful wounds that can rapidly worsen if left untreated.

Early detection is critical to protecting your animals and preventing the spread of this pest.

Signs of Possible Screwworm Infestation

Contact your veterinarian immediately if you observe:

- Maggots present in a wound
- A wound that appears larger each day
- Bloody or foul-smelling discharge
- Deep pockets within a wound
- Animals showing signs of pain or discomfort around a wound
- Wounds that are not healing normally

Do not assume all maggots are screwworms.
Proper identification is essential!

DAILY INSPECTION CHECKLIST

All 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors should inspect their animals every day, especially during the summer months and before, during, and after livestock shows.

Check for:

- ✓ Open cuts, scrapes, or wounds
- ✓ Areas around the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, navel, and tail
- ✓ Unusual swelling or irritation
- ✓ Foul-smelling wounds
- ✓ Visible maggots in a wound
- ✓ Animals that seem restless, depressed, or are repeatedly biting, licking, or rubbing a specific area



REMEMBER! →

DAILY OBSERVATION IS YOUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE. EARLY DETECTION AND REPORTING HELP PROTECT YOUR ANIMALS, NEIGHBORING LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS, LIVESTOCK EXHIBITIONS, AND THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY.

IF YOU SUSPECT NEW WORLD SCREWORM



1. Isolate the animal if possible.
2. Contact your veterinarian immediately.
3. Notify your local County Extension Office.
4. Collect a sample for identification if instructed by your veterinarian or animal health officials.
5. Treat the wound as directed by your veterinarian.



- ✗ Dispose of larvae before a sample is collected.
- ✗ Move the animal to another location, exhibition, or sale.
- ✗ Share equipment with other animals until properly cleaned and disinfected.
- ✗ Delay reporting suspicious wounds.
- ✗ Discard larvae in the soil.

SHOW SMART. INSPECT DAILY. REPORT EARLY.

By practicing good animal husbandry, treating wounds promptly, and conducting daily inspections, 4-H and FFA exhibitors can help protect their animals, fellow exhibitors, and New Mexico's livestock

TREAT WOUNDS PROMPTLY

Proper wound care is one of the best ways to reduce the risk of screwworm infestation.

If an animal has a cut, scrape, surgical site, or other wound:

- ✓ Clean the wound promptly.
- ✓ Follow your veterinarian's recommendations for wound treatment.
- ✓ Apply approved wound care products as directed.
 - <https://screwwormnm.org/screwworm-resources.html> → Animal Drugs for New World Screwworm
- ✓ Monitor the wound daily for signs of infection or unusual healing.
- ✓ Continue checking the wound until it is completely healed.
- ✓ Record any treatments administered.

Fresh wounds attract flies, making daily observation and prompt treatment is especially important.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENT AND EXHIBITIONS

At this time, livestock movement restrictions apply only to designated infested zones. No additional movement restrictions are currently in place.

4-H and FFA members may continue to:

- Attend jackpot shows
- Participate in livestock exhibitions
- Transport animals to shows and events
- Buy and sell livestock as normal

However, exhibitors are strongly encouraged to:

- ✓ Inspect animals before leaving home.
- ✓ Inspect animals daily while at shows.
- ✓ Check animals again when returning home.
- ✓ Report any suspicious wounds or maggots immediately.

As conditions can change, always stay informed through your veterinarian, County Extension Office, livestock officials, and state animal health authorities.

PREVENTION TIPS

- Inspect animals daily.
- Treat wounds promptly.
- Keep animal housing and facilities clean.
- Use approved fly-control practices.
- Monitor animals closely after tagging, shearing, castration, dehorning, or other procedures that create wounds.
- Report suspicious cases immediately!

NM Awareness



Reporting Form



SAMPLE COLLECTION KITS AVAILABLE

County Extension Offices have screwworm sample collection kits available for livestock producers, and 4-H and FFA exhibitors.

These kits include materials and instructions for collecting and submitting suspect larvae for identification by animal health officials.

Contact your local County Extension Office to:

- Obtain a sample collection kit
- Receive guidance on sample collection
- Learn proper reporting procedures
- Access additional educational resources



Otero County 4-H Member of the Month

July 2026



Jasper Vanlandingham
Tularosa 4-H

How to Nominate:

Any 4-H member, leader, parent/guardian, or volunteer may submit a 4-H member (Cloverbuds are not eligible) from any Otero 4-H club for Otero County 4-H Members of the Month. To nominate, submit the following information to Kelly at: kelknigh@nmsu.edu by the 20th of each month: 1) name of the 4-H member being nominated. 2) a recent photo of the nominee. 3) a brief description of their favorite 4-H memory or project.

How to Become a 4-H Volunteer!

This is a friendly reminder for adults interested in serving as a 4-H Volunteer. The following requirements for enrollment must be met:

1. Complete volunteer background check/screening process. Forms (2) may be downloaded from the Otero County Extension Service website. Submit completed forms and \$10.00 to the Oter County Extension Office.
2. Complete and submit an adult enrollment form and adult liability form to the Otero County Extension Office. The liability waiver must be signed by hand (live signature), no typed signatures will be accepted.
3. Complete the annual *NM Working with Minors* training found on ZSuite. Contact the Extension Office at: 575-437-0231 or otero@nmsu.edu for a detailed set of instructions for completing this online training course. Once you have completed the training, an email will be sent to you stating that you have completed the NM Working with Minors course. In addition, the Otero County Extension Service will be able to access your completion date of the training via ZSuite.

Please make the completion of the above requirements a priority as adult volunteers may not engage in 4-H activities nor register for events until they have met the requirements. Also, adult volunteers must submit a new background check/screening process every five years.

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