November 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	2nd Tuesday	Nov 10th
Cloudcroft*	6pm @ Cloudcroft Middle School*	Last Thursday*	No Meeting*
Heritage	7pm @ Fairgrounds New Exhibit Building	2nd Monday	Nov 9th
Mescalero	6pm @ Empowerment Building	1st Sunday	Nov 1st
Mustangs	6pm @ Otero County Extension Classroom	Last Tuesday	Nov 24th
Sacramento Mountains	5pm @ Weed Volunteer Fire Department	1st Thursday	Nov 5th
Tularosa	7pm @ Carroll Family Home	1st Tuesday	Nov 3rd

For the month of November:

* Cloudcroft 4-H will not have a meeting in November

NM STATE
BE BOLD. Shape the Future.
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
Cooperative Extension Service
Otero County Extension Office

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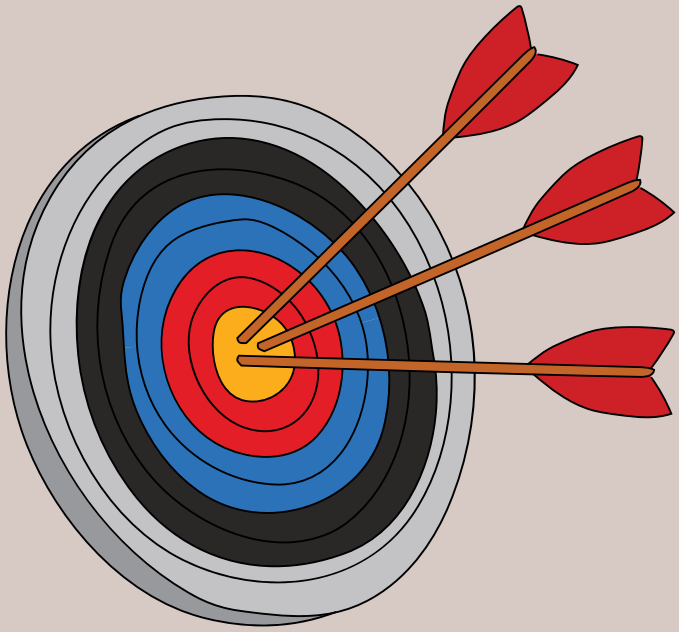
Wanted!
4-H Shooting Sports Youth

November 12 | 6PM

Otero County Extension Service

If you're interested in joining 4-H shooting sports, please plan on attending our annual meeting on the 12th of November at the Otero County Extension Service, 401 Fairgrounds Rd, Alamogordo, NM.

If you have any questions regarding 4-H and/or 4-H shooting sports, please contact Jaime Torres, 575-437-0231 or jtorr26@nmsu.edu.



County 4-H Council Special Meeting

County 4-H Council Special Meeting is scheduled for:

Monday, November 16th @ 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!



YOU'RE INVITED!

Otero County 4-H Annual Awards Ceremony

Thursday, November 19, 2026 - 6:30pm

Exhibit Building - Otero County Fairgrounds

Please join us for our annual awards celebration where Otero County 4-H members, volunteers, and supporting orginizations are recognized for their hard work and dedication in the 2025-2026 4-H year.


BARDENAS REALES
33
PARIS
25¢
GOING PLACES
WITH
NM 4-H
SPAIN
Sagrada Familia
CHINA
RIO DE JANEIRO
50RS
LONDON
8½D
SENIOR LEADERSHIP RETREAT
Save the Date
JANUARY 22-24, 2027
NMSU CAMPUS
LAS CRUCES, NM

2026 NEW MEXICO 4-H ADULT RETREAT

NM 4-H Adult Retreat is offered to parents, club leaders, project leaders, and other 4-H volunteers wanting to learn more about 4-H. This year's retreat will provide a full day of professional development, networking, hands-on workshops, and opportunities for our 4-H volunteers to connect, learn, and bring new ideas back to their counties.



Saturday, November 14, 2026
NMSU-Las Cruces, NM
Registration Link: https://4hadulteer26.ezregister.com
Registration cost is $40.00 and will close October 25.

4-H Age Groups for the 2026-2027 4-H Year

	Cloverbud*	Novice	Junior	Senior
Grade as of January 1, 2027	Kinder, 1st, 2nd	3rd, 4th, 5th	6th, 7th	8th and up
Age as of January 1, 2027	5 year olds; 6 year olds; 7 year olds; and 8 year olds in the 2nd grade	8 year olds in the 3rd grade; 9 year olds; 10 year olds; 11 year olds in the 5th grade	11 year olds in the 6th grade; 12 year olds; 13 year olds in the 7th grade	13 year olds in the 8th grade; 14 year olds; 15 year olds; 16 year olds; 17 year olds; 18 year olds; Youth who are 19 by December 31st 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, 2026, through September 30, 2027. 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, 2027

--Attends at least 40% of all club meetings held between October 1, 2026 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

Enrollment Instructions

The Otero County enrollment deadline for all 4-H members, re-enrolling and new members is February 1st 2027.

4-H members must be enrolled on or before February 1, 2027, for 4-H members to be eligible to participate in county, district, and/or state level 4-H competitive events. **All 4-H members must re-enroll every year.** The Otero County Extension Service will accept enrollment forms after February 1, 2027, however, members enrolling after February 1, 2027, are not eligible to participate in county, district, and/or state level competitive events and will not meet the policy outlined in the Otero County 4-H Coucil Bylaws for 4-H members in good standing. Members enrolling after February 1, 2027, may participate in non-competitive events at the club, county, district, and/or state level at the discretion of the 4-H club.

4-H youth members have the option of submitting a paper enrollment or enrolling online via the ZSuite website. Paper enrollment forms are available from the Otero County Extension Office. For members submitting completed paper enrollment forms, they may be submitted to their 4-H Club Organizational Leader or to the Otero County Extension Office. **4-H Club Leaders receiving any completed enrollment forms from 4-H members must submit the forms to the Otero County Extension Office on or before February 1, 2027.** 4-H members submitting enrollment forms to their 4-H Club Organizational Leaders or other individual are strongly encouraged to contact the Otero County Extension Office, 575-437-0231, to confirm that the forms have been received in the Extension Office by the deadline. If you would like to enroll via the ZSuite website, the website instructions for re-enrolling members and new members are as follows:

Re-Enrollment

1. Go to ZSuite online.
2. Log in to your account and select the primary profile.
3. Using the drop-down menu, enroll each applicable member (4-H youth, adult volunteers).
4. Complete To Do list
5. Click Submit

New Enrollment

1. Go to ZSuite online.
2. Click the Sign-Up link.
3. Fill out the popup to create a new household. This is Primary Parent account. Write down the pin code you create somewhere safe.
4. The email entered will be used as the family email for all members under the household account.
5. Click the "Let's Go" button when done.
6. On the Dashboard for the primary account, you can create new household accounts (4-H youth, adult volunteers) through Household members.
7. Complete To Do list.
8. Click Submit.



Annual Enrollment TO DO: New & Re-Enrolled

- Review/Update personal information section.
- Upload your completed NM 4-H Youth Medical & Liability Release/Code of Conduct Contract/Media Release Form 300.A-3 or submit your completed paper form to Otero County Extension Office, hand signed.
- Add your 4-H club (Please select only ONE 4-H club. 4-H members selecting mulitiple clubs will be required to meet the 4-H good standing requirements of all clubs they are enrolled in.
- Add 4-H projects.
- Payment is not required in ZSuite for enrollment in the Otero County 4-H program (4-H Club membership dues need to be submitted directly to your 4-H club treasurer or organizational club leader).

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

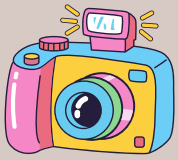
The NM 4-H Community Service Scholarship provides financial assistance to any Novice, Junior, or Senior 4-H members participating in a state 4-H event (i.e. Senior Leadership Retreat or Youth Get-Away). The scholarship will cover the registration expenses for the state 4-H event. In addition, the scholarship 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.

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.




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

PROTECT YOUR ANIMALS THROUGH DAILY OBSERVATION

WHAT IS NEW WORLD SCREWWORM?

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 SCREWWORM

DO's

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.

DON'Ts

- ✗ 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

Mark Your 2026 / 2027 Calendars!

November 12th	Shooting Sports Annual Meeting
November 14th	NM 4-H Adult Retreat @ NMSU, Las Cruces
November 16th	County 4-H Council Special Meeting
November 19th	Otero County 4-H Awards Ceremony
January 22nd - 24th	Senior Leadership Retreat @ NMSU, Las Cruces
February 1st, 2027	4-H Enrollment Deadline
February 19th - 21st	Shooting Sports Leader Training, Farmington, NM



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 on ZSuite website. 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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