June 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	June 9th
Cloudcroft	6pm @ Cloudcroft Middle School	Last Thursday	June 25th
Heritage	7pm @ Fairgrounds New Exhibit Building	2nd Monday	June 8th
Mescalero	6pm @ Empowerment Building	1st Sunday	June 7th
Mustangs	6pm @ Fairgorunds New Exhibit Building	Last Tuesday	June 30th
Sacramento Mountains	5pm @ Weed Volunteer Fire Department	1st Thursday	June 4th
Tularosa	7pm @ Carroll Family Home	1st Tuesday	June 2nd

NM STATE
BE BOLD. Shape the Future.
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Cooperative Extension Service
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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!

Save the Date!

Otero County 4-H Achievement Day
August 22, 2026
(viewing of exhibits and awards)
Details regarding entry of exhibits, viewing schedule, and awards presentation will be announced in future newsletters.

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 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, 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

NMSF LIVESTOCK DNA PROCEDURES

The NMSF (New Mexico State Fair) DNA deadline for market beef, dairy replacement heifers, market swine, market goats, and market lambs is June 15, 2026. Be sure to attend an Otero County Tag Day (May 26th, May 28th or June 6th) if you plan to enter any of the above listed species in the NMSF so DNA may be pulled. Please send all DNA envelopes to the Livestock Office at the New Mexico State Fair. Addressed envelopes for DNA will be provided during Otero County tag days. Entry deadline for all species will be August 1, 2026. Additional information regarding the NMSF including rules and livestock show schedule may be found on the NMSF website.

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.

Prepare Your Indoor 4-H Project Exhibits

The exhibit classes for indoor 4-H project exhibits have been updated and are now available from the Otero County Extension Service website. The date for the Otero County 4-H Achievement Day (viewing of exhibits and awards) is August 22, 2026. Details regarding entry of exhibits, viewing schedule, and awards presentation will be announced in future newsletters.

There are many updates to the exhibit classes, and a complete list of updates can be downloaded from the Otero County Extension Service website. 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. 4-H members entering indoor 4-H project exhibits at the Otero County 4-H Achievement Day are eligible to win many awards.

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 Contest Areas

Below is a list of contests 4-H members can participate in. To find the rules, guidelines, and resource materials, see the following websites:

Southeast District Contests (Novice/Juniors),

State 4-H Conference (Seniors),

If you have questions regarding contests or need additional assistance preparing for a 4-H contest, call Kelly or Sid at: 575-437-0231, at the Otero County Extension Office.

Agronomy
Clothing / Fasion Revue
Consumer Decision Making
Entomology
Family & Consumer Sciences Bowl
Family & Consumer Sciences Skill-A-Thon
Favorite Food Show
Hippology (Seniors Only)
Horse Bowl
Horse Judging
Horticulture
Livestock Judging
Livestock Skill-A-Thon
Meats Judging
Poetry (Novice/Juniors Only)
Pesentations (Demonstrations)
Public Speaking, Impromptu (Seniors Only)
Public Speaking, Prepared
Shooting Sports (Novice/Juniors District Level)
Talent Show (Seniors Only)
Wildlife

If you are interested in Horse Judging, contact Sid by email: sgordon@nmsu.edu or at: 575-437-0231 - ASAP!!!

The following page contains addtional information regarding Southeast District 4-H Contests & State 4-H Conference

County 4-H Contests
June 2, 2026
Otero County Extension Office

All Novice, Junior, and Senior 4-H members who have enrolled by February 1st of 2026 are eligible to compete in the County 4-H Contests. Below is the schedule of the County 4-H Contests that will be held on June 2, 2026, at the Otero County Extension Office.

RSVP is required for county contests!

Tuesday, June 2nd

8:00am - 3:00pm, **Open Contests:

Wildlife
Entomology
Horticulture
FCS Skill-A-Thon
Consumer Decision Making

9:00am, *Closed Contests:

Favorite Foods
Prepared Speech
Presentations
Impromptu Speaking (Seniors Only)
Poetry (Novice/Juniors Only)
Clothing / Fashion Revue Judging (show @ 1:00pm)

***Closed Contests** require the 4-H'er to be present at the scheduled start time.

****Open Contests** allow for flexibility in starting time, but 4-H'ers must complete the contest in the alloted time frame.

All 4-H members wanting to attend the 4-H Southeast District Contests or the State 4-H Conference must qualify in at least one contest area at the County Contests to be eligible.

If the contest you are interested in is not listed as offered during the County 4-H Contests on June 2nd, please contact Kelly or Sid in the Extension Office: 575-437-0231 prior to June 2nd.

DUDED-UP DENIM

A free workshop will be held at the Otero County Extension Office on Wednesday, June 24th, from 9:30am to 12:00pm, for the Duded-Up Denim 4-H project. 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. 4-H members will create two items from the denim project, a denim pocket frame and a magnetic board. Both items will be kept at the Extension Office after completion so they may be entered in the 4-H Achievement Day in August. 4-H members will be able to take their completed denim 4-H project exhibits home with them after the Otero County Fair, as they will also be on display in the Exhibit Building during the Fair. 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.

Southeast District 4-H Contests

Dates: June 16, 2026 (Shooting Sports), June 17-18, 2026 (all other contests)

Location: Tucumcari, NM

Who: Novice & Junior 4-H members having qualified in at least one contest area at County Contests.

Registration: Must be received in the Extension Office by June 5, 2026
(registration form coming soon!)

Cost: $5.00 - Shooting Sports
$2.00 - All other contests

See website for additional information!

State 4-H Conference

Dates: July 14-17, 2026

Location: Las Cruces, NM (NMSU campus)

Who: Senior 4-H members having qualified in at least one contest area at County Contest.

Registration: Must be received in the Extension Office by June 12, 2026
Registration forms available at the Extension Office

Cost: $206.00

See website for additional information!

NM 4-H Horse Shows

Grant County: June 13th-14th*
San Juan Count: August 29th
NMSF State 4-H Horse Show: TBD

*Contact the Otero County Extension Office for entry forms for the Grant County 4-H Horse Shows. Pre-entries must be postmarked five days before each show.

More information about 4-H Horse Shows may be found on the State 4-H website.

NM 4-H Rodeos

San Miguel County: June 13th - 14th

San Juan County: July 11th - 12th

Quay County: July 24th - 25th

NM 4-H Rodeo Finals - Farmington: September 4th - 6th

Rodeo Rule Book, entry forms, and more may be found on the NM 4-H website.

Mark Your 2026 Calendars!

June 2nd	County 4-H Contests @ Otero County Extension Office & Fairgrounds
June 3rd - 5th	Southern 4-H Regional Livestock School
June 6th	Livestock Tag Day @ 7:00am - 10:00am, Otero County Fairgrounds
June 16th - 18th	Southeast District 4-H Contests @ Quay County
June 21st - 26th	NM Youth Ranch Management Camp @ CS Ranch in Cimarron, NM
July 14th - 17th	State 4-H Conference @ NMSU in Las Cruces, NM
August 22nd	Otero County 4-H Achievement Day
September 10th - 20th	NM State Fair @ Albuquerque, NM
September 19th	NM Food Challenge (location coming soon)
September 23rd - 26th	Otero County Fair @ Otero County Fairgrounds
September 30th - October 4th	Southern NM State Fair @ Las Cruces, NM
October 5th - 10th	Eastern NM State Fair @ Roswell, NM

Otero County Fair
Junior Livestock

2026
Tag Dates & Information

UPDATED FLYER

ALL SPECIES

Tuesday 5/26 , 5-730pm *added*
Thursday 5/28 , 5-730pm
Saturday 6/6 , 7-10am
Location: Otero County Fairgrounds

Cattle Required Documents:

In State Purchases:

1. Bill of Sale (birthdate must be on BOS for breeding heifers)
2. Letter from brand owner giving permission to use their brand OR must be branded with your own NM registered brand or 4-H/FFA brand.

Out of State Purchases:

1. Bill of Sale
2. Must be branded with your own NM registered brand or 4-H/FFA brand
3. Health papers from seller with vet inspection including import number

Pig, Lamb & Goat Required Documents:

In State Purchases:

1. Bill of Sale
2. Face Papers with Ear Notches (Pigs ONLY)
3. Scrapies tag (Lambs & Goats ONLY; regardless of sex)

Out of State Purchases:

1. Health papers from seller with Vet Inspection including import number (Pigs' must have ear notches on them)
2. Bill of Sale

****Reminder:**

- Please note that there will not be separate tag days for cattle. All species will take place at the same time. There will be **NO home visits**; all tagging must take place at the fairgrounds, on the designated tag dates.
- If you are planning to attend State Fair, please note that DNA must be **POSTMARKED BY JUNE 15,2026** to be eligible.

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.

2026 4-H Shooting Sports

Congratulations to all 4-H members participating in County 4-H Contests this year! And, many thanks to the certified 4-H shooting sports leaders who donated countless hours and resources to provide practices, contests, and guidance to Otero County 4-H members preparing to compete in state and district 4-H shooting sports contests!

Senior Archery Members & Leaders

Novice/Junior Archery Members

Junior/Senior Shotgun Members & Leaders

Shotgun

Solon Elksilver	Mescalero 4-H	Blue Award
Hector Maes	Tularosa 4-H	Red Award

Archery

Parker Allen	Tularosa 4-H	Red Award
Paxton Bragg	Cloudcroft 4-H	Red Award
Logan Hobson	Tularosa 4-H	Blue Award
Bryson Gillen	Tularosa 4-H	Red Award
Chase Jensen	Heritage 4-H	Red Award
Eleanor Pike	Heritage 4-H	Red Award
Elias Pike	Heritage 4-H	Red Award
Sarina Yazzie	Alamogordo 4-H	Red Award

*We would also like to give a shout-out to Senior 4-H members, **Solon Elksilver, Bryson Gillen, and Elias Pike** for their participation in this year's State 4-H Shooting Sports Championship. We are proud of our Seniors for their hard work and representing Otero County 4-H so well!*

Otero County 4-H Members of the Month

June 2026

Amador Maes
Tularosa 4-H

Evie Seaman
Cloudcroft 4-H

Mable Rosga
Heritage 4-H

Angelica Olivarria
Mustang 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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