

September 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	Sept 8 th
Cloudcroft*	6pm @ Cloudcroft Middle School*	Last Thursday*	No Meeting*
Heritage*	7pm @ Fairgrounds New Exhibit Building*	2 nd Monday*	No Meeting *
Mescalero	6pm @ Empowerment Building	1 st Sunday	Sept 6 th
Mustangs	6pm @ Otero County Extension Classroom	Last Tuesday	Sept 29 th
Sacramento Mountains	5pm @ Weed Volunteer Fire Department	1 st Thursday	Sept 3 rd
Tularosa**	7pm @ Carroll Family Home**	Saturday**	Sept 19 th **

*For the month of September, Cloudcroft 4-H and Heritage 4-H will not meet.

**Tularosa 4-H meeting will be at Fairgrounds Cleanup Day, September 19th, 8AM.



BE BOLD. Shape the Future.
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County 4-H Council Meeting

The next County 4-H Council Meeting is scheduled for:

Thursday, October 15th @ 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
Awards Ceremony

Thursday, November 19, 2026
6:30pm
Exhibit Building
Otero County Fairgrounds

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.

Ignite by 4-H 2027!

The NM State 4-H Department is excited to share an exciting opportunity to attend Ignite by 4-H, which will be held in Washington, D.C., March 17–21, 2027. Ignite by 4-H is a national 4-H teen summit that brings together youth from across the country to explore leadership, civic engagement, STEM, and healthy living through hands-on workshops, inspiring speakers, and networking experiences.

Active 4-H members ages 14-18 are eligible to apply to attend the Ignite by 4-H summit. If you would like an application, please contact Kelly in the Extension Office, 575-437-0231, or kelknigh@nmsu.edu to obtain the form. Completed application forms must be submitted to Kelly at the Extension Office no later than September 14, 2026. The State 4-H Department will facilitate a review committee to evaluate applications, and delegates will be notified once selections have been made.

Selected youth will represent New Mexico 4-H at the national level. They must actively participate in all sessions, engage with peers, work together on a Lead to Change project and share what they learned at Ignite by 4-H during State 4-H Conference in July 2027. This opportunity covers Ignite by 4-H registration fees, including hotel and most meals, and flights. This is an incredible experience for youth to broaden their horizons, develop leadership skills, and connect with the larger 4-H community. If you have any questions about the application process or the summit, please contact Kelly at the Extension Office, 575-437-0231.



2026 4-H Achievement Day

— Awards

Ag & Natural Science

Champion: Tavon Sommerville
Reserve Champion: Siena Cass

STEM

Champion: Jameson Guyer
Reserve Champion: Andres Cardiel

Home & Family

Champion: Andres Cardiel
Reserve Champion: Kacie Hughes

Creative Arts

Champion: Charlie Seaman
Reserve Champion: Siena Cass

Sewing & Clothing

Champions & Silver Shears:
Brinley Fleming, Adeline Pike,
& Eleanor Pike
Reserve Champion:
Sierra Ahidley

Foods

Champion: Charlie Seaman
Reserve Champion: Brinley Fleming

Champion Exhibitors

Novice- Evie Seaman
Junior- Lorelei McNatt
Senior- Charlie Seaman



Reserve Champion Exhibitors

Novice- Brinley Fleming
Junior- Abigail Crnkovic
Senior- Siena Cass

Thank You 4-H Achievement Day Sponsors!



**We are grateful for your
generosity and support!**

- Casa Creations
- La Luz Cart-Away
- Misti Orr
- Otero County Master Gardener Association
- Tom Simpson



4-H GROWS HERE

4-H Exhibits at Otero County Fair

4-H exhibits entered in the annual 4-H Achievement Day will be on display for viewing during the Otero County Fair in the exhibit building of the Fairgrounds. To display all exhibits, assistance is needed on Tuesday, September 22, with arranging displays of 4-H exhibits. 4-H adult volunteers, parents, and/or youth (preferably older youth) are welcome to assist on Sept. 22 (daytime or evening) with set up of the 4-H exhibit displays. If you are available and would like to help, please contact Kelly at the Extension Office, 575-437-0231.



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. Adults will have an opportunity to meet other 4-H adults and learn from each other about what they know. This year's retreat will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2026 at Corbett Center on the NMSU campus in Las Cruces, NM. Registration is coming soon! Workshops, speakers, and a day of fun will be offered during the retreat!



4-H Awards Nominations Wanted!

The Meritorious Award and Outstanding 4-H Leader Award will be awarded through a nomination process. Later this year, during the annual 4-H Awards Ceremony, Otero County 4-H Council will provide the following awards:

- Outstanding 4-H Leader Award – an adult volunteer that is an enrolled 4-H Leader in Otero County and has demonstrated outstanding service and contribution to the Otero County 4-H Program.
- Meritorious 4-H Award – an Otero County group, organization, business, or individual, outside of 4-H who throughout the years has donated significantly of their time and effort to the Otero County 4-H Program.

We need 4-H members, leaders, and parents to submit nominations for these awards.

Nomination forms are due in the Extension Office by September 21, 2026, and can be obtained from the Extension Office or the Otero County Extension Service website.

Nominations received by the deadline will be reviewed by Otero County 4-H Council prior to the annual 4-H Awards Ceremony.

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. Record Book judges will select 4-H members for the following awards:

- Outstanding Novice 4-H Member
- Outstanding Junior 4-H Member
- Outstanding Senior 4-H Member
- Leadership Award (Senior 4-H Members Eligible)
- Novice 4-H Member Project Awards
- Junior 4-H Member Project Awards
- Senior 4-H Member Project Awards

County 4-H Record Book forms and guidelines may be downloaded from the Otero County Extension website. The website has 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. **Don't wait! Work on your 4-H Record Book today!**

County 4-H Council Officer Elections

What: 2026-2027 Otero County 4-H Council Officer Elections

When: October 15, 2026, 6:30pm

Where: Otero County Extension Office, 401 Fairgrounds Rd, Alamogordo

Who: Otero County 4-H members, all 4-H clubs may have four (4) voting delegates

Who can run for office:

1. Any active Otero County 4-H member who is a Novice, Junior, or Senior at the time of the elections may submit an application.
2. Candidates must turn in an application to the Extension Office by October 12, 2026. Application forms are available from the Extension Office or the Otero County Extension website. You may either mail the form, bring it by the office, or email it to Kelly: kelknigh@nmsu.edu. The form requires signature of 4-H member, parent, and 4-H Club Organizational Leader.
3. The applicant may specify up to three (3) office choices he or she wishes to run for.
4. All candidates will be required to present a brief speech, no more than 3 minutes in length, prior to the election of officers during the October 15th Council Meeting. Candidate speeches should include information about why you want to become an Otero County 4-H Council Officer, experiences you have had that will make you an effective council officer, and any other information you feel is relevant.
5. If elected as an officer, you are expected to perform all office duties to the best of your ability and according to the bylaws.

Welcome New 4-H Agent!

The Extension Office is pleased to announce that Jaime Torres will be joining our team as the Otero County 4-H Agent on October 1. Please feel free to stop the office to meet Jaime and welcome him to the 4-H team. Jaime Torres is a graduate of Texas Tech University where he earned his bachelor's degree and Master of Science in Agricultural Education. He served as a graduate assistant teaching industrial courses and was active in collegiate 4-H, FFA and Rodeo. During his graduate studies, he participated in an internship with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in Lamb County, Texas. After serving as an Agricultural Science teacher in west Texas for four years, he began a 22-year federal career with U.S. Customs and Border Protection as an Agricultural Specialist. Throughout his career in west Texas and southern New Mexico, he held positions in import regulation, enforcement, and emergency preparedness, helping protect the nation's agriculture and trade industries.



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

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

NMSF State 4-H Horse Show: September 12th
Indoor Horse Arena, NM State Fairgrounds in
Albuquerque, NM

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



Mark Your 2026 Calendars!



September 10th - 20th

September 14th

September 21st

September 23rd - 26th

September 30th - October 4th

October 5th - 10th

October 12th

October 15th

November 21st

New Mexico State Fair @ Albuquerque, NM

Ignite by 4-H Application Deadline

4-H Awards Nominations Deadline

Otero County Fair @ Otero County Fairgrounds

Southern New Mexico State Fair @ Las Cruces, NM

Eastern New Mexico State Fair @ Roswell, NM

County 4-H Council Officer Application Deadline

Otero County 4-H Record Books Deadline

Otero County 4-H Awards Ceremony



2026 Fairgrounds Clean Up

**Saturday, September 19, 2026
at 8:00 AM**

- Upon arrival, the exhibitor and parent will be required to sign in.
- Pen assignments will not be given until entire barn clean up has been completed and approved by superintendents.
- According to Exhibitor Requirement Rule #5, if you do not attend, you will be charged \$100 per exhibitor, per species penalty.



Junior Livestock 2026 Schedule

Tuesday 9/22/26

Check In - 3:00 PM-6:00 PM

MANDATORY exhibitor & parent meeting - 6:30 PM
Weigh&Classify directlyfollowingmeeting

Wednesday 9/23/26

Pig Show - 6:00PM

Thursday 9/24/26

Lamb Show - 2:00PM

Goat Show - 6:00PM

Friday 9/25/26

Rabbit Show - 12:00PM

Poultry Show- 2:00PM

Cattle Show - 6:00PM

Saturday 9/26/26

Buyer's Supper - 4:00PM

Bovine Bingo - 5:00PM

JuniorLivestock Sale-6:00PM

Sunday 9/27/26

Packer- 7:00AM

Clean up immediately following packer



Fair Week Club/Chapter CleanUp Schedule

Wednesday after Pig Show

Heritage 4-H

Mustang 4-H

Thursday after Goat Show

Cloudcroft 4-H

Tularosa FFA

Thursday after Lamb Show

Mescalero 4-H

Alamogordo FFA

Friday after Poultry Show

Alamogordo 4-H

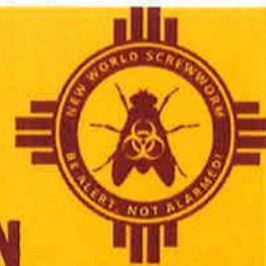
Mescalero FFA

Friday after Beef Show

Tularosa 4-H

Sacramento 4-H

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

September 2026



Amalia Hobson
Tularosa 4-H



Huxley Seaman
Cloudcroft 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 Otero 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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