

April 2026

Otero County 4-H Newsletter



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4-H Meeting Schedule

4-H Club	Time/Location	Monthly Meeting	Next Meeting
Alamogordo 4-H	6:30pm @ Fairgrounds New Exhibit Building	2nd Tuesday	April 14th
Cloudcroft 4-H	6pm @ Cloudcroft Middle School Commons	Last Thursday	April 30th
Heritage 4-H	7pm @ Fairgrounds New Exhibit Building	2nd Monday	April 13th
Mescalero 4-H	6pm @ Empowerment Building	1st Sunday	No April Meeting
Mustangs 4-H	6pm @ Otero County Extension Office Classroom	Last Tuesday	April 28th
Sacramento Mountains 4-H	5pm @ Weed Volunteer Fire Department	1st Thursday	April 2nd
Tularosa 4-H	7pm @ Carroll Family Home	1st Tuesday	April 7th



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

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

Thursday, April 16th, 6:30 pm
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 Dates!

Otero County 4-H Contests
(for Novice, Junior, & Senior 4-Hers)
June 2, 2026

Extension Office/Fairgrounds

4-H Southeast District Contests
(for Novice & Junior 4-Hers)
June 16-18, 2026

Tucumcari, NM (Quay County)

State 4-H Conference
(for Senior 4-Hers)
July 14-17, 2026

Las Cruces, NM (NMSU campus)

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 31 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 Cloverbuds program](#) is a component of the overall 4-H Youth Development program and 4-H Cloverbuds 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

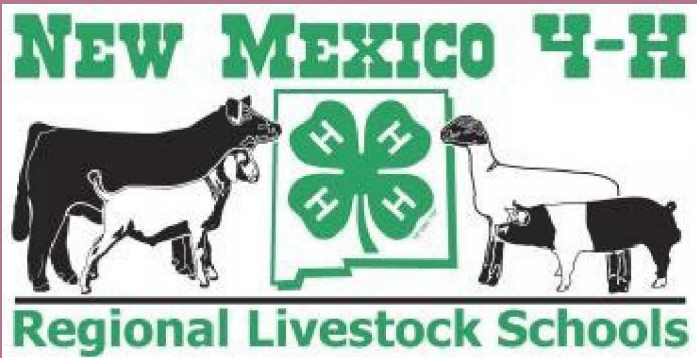
Members, parents and leaders, do you know exactly what 4-H members need to do to be in "good standing"? Do you know what the "good standing" requirements are? If not, please take a moment to check these out now. Don't wait until before the fair (or other event/activity) when you may not have enough time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



Small Animal School

Rabbits and Chickens

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Bernalillo County Extension Office

Cost: \$65.00

Space is limited & registration closes May 8, 2026

[Register Online](#)

[Download Flyer](#)

Southern Regional Livestock School

June 3-5, 2026

Socorro, NM

Registration and Flyer Coming Soon

Northern Regional Livestock School

June 19-20, 2026

Bi-County Fairgrounds, Prewitt, NM

Registration Coming Soon

NM 4-H Rodeos

Sierra County: April 25-26

San Miguel County: July 13-14

San Juan County: July 11-12

Quay County: July 24-25

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

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



Horse Practice and Horse Judging Practice

Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 10:00am there
will be horse practice at the Fairgrounds.
Any 4-H member who wants to bring their
horse and ride may do so. All youth
participating must meet the following
requirements:

- You must be currently enrolled in 4-H
- You must have a helmet
- Your horse and tack need to be sound

We will also judge live horses. For all those
who want to participate in 4-H horse judging
you need to be there.

4-H Horse Certificates - Due May 1

All 4-H members interested in participating
4-H opportunities involving their horse must
complete a 4-H Horse Certificate and
submit it to the Extension Office by May 1,
2026. The 4-H Horse Certificate may be
obtained from the Extension Office or the
[NM 4-H website](#).

NM 4-H Horse Shows

Grant County: April 17-18*

Dona Ana County: May 31

Grant county: June 13-14*

San Juan County: August 29

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](#).

Shooting Sports Projects

--4-H Member Requirements

All 4-H members must complete a hunter education class before they are eligible to participate in 4-H shooting sports practices and contests. 4-H members participating in practices need to submit a copy of their hunter education card and signed county plan to the Extension Office if they have not already done so.

--Rifle Discipline

Otero County 4-H Rifle project leaders will be hosting a *Fundamentals of Rifle Shooting* meeting on April 10, 6pm-8pm, at the Otero County Extension Office. Novice, Junior, and Senior 4-H members and their parents interested in learning more about the 4-H rifle project may attend. Attendance at previous 4-H rifle project meetings is not required to participate in the *Fundamentals of Rifle Shooting* meeting on April 10.

--Senior Archery County Contest and Junior/Senior Shotgun County Contest

An email was sent to 4-H members having attended a minimum of (4) practices in Senior Archery and/or Junior/Senior Shotgun disciplines regarding the upcoming county contests. If you believe you have met the required practices, but did not receive an email regarding the contests, please contact Kelly, kelknight@nmsu.edu or 575-437-0231, for a copy of the registration form for these contests. The registration deadline is April 7th.

--NM State 4-H Shooting Sports Championships

If you are a Senior 4-H member planning to participate in the state 4-H shooting sports championships in Raton, NM, April 30 - May 3, the registration deadline is Monday, April 13. There is a \$100 contestant entry fee that will be due with completed registration forms. Senior 4-H members must participate in county level 4-H shooting sports contests to be eligible to participate in state 4-H shooting sports championships.

--Coming Soon!

The dates for the Novice and Junior Otero County 4-H archery contest will be announced soon. This will be the qualifying event for district contest. Remember, a minimum of (4) practices must be attended prior to Otero County shooting sports contest during the current 4-H program year in that said discipline. 4-H members must attend at least one practice session between October 1st and March 1st in that said discipline to be eligible to participate in additional practice sessions scheduled during the 4-H program year. 4-H shooting sports members are responsible for signing in at each practice they attend.

Enrollment Changes and Meeting Attendance

Please contact the Extension Office, (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 (examples: 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.



2026

Tag Dates & Information

ALL SPECIES

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.

Heritage 4-H Club Report

Heritage 4-H has t-shirt orders going on right now. Heritage 4-H families, please check your email for the link to order! Deadline is 4-15-26!



Show Stock Sales Guide

Grant County Extension Service has put together a guide that contains a list and flyers of lamb, goat, and pig sales. The guide is currently 18 pages long and therefore is not included in the 4-H newsletter. The guide has been email to 4-H members, parents, and leaders. If you have not received the guide, please contact the Extension Office to request an electronic copy of the guide. Updated guides and additional sale flyers will be shared as they are received.

Mark Your 2026 Calendars!

April 7	Otero County Fairboard Meeting @ 6:00pm, Extension Office Classroom *Subject to change if needed upon board discretion.
April 27	Jr Livestock Meeting @ 6:00pm, Extension Office Classroom *Subject to change if needed upon committee discretion.
April 30 - May 3	State 4-H Shooting Sports Championship @ NRA Whittington Center
May 28	Livestock Tag Day @ 5:00pm-7:30pm, Otero County Fairgrounds
May 29-30	NM 4-H Horse School @ NMSU Main Campus, Las Cruces, NM
June 2	County 4-H Contests @ Otero County Extension Office & Fairgrounds
June 3-5	Southern 4-H Regional Livestock School
June 6	Livestock Tag Day @ 7:00am-10:00am, Otero County Fairgrounds
June 16-18	Southeast District 4-H Contests @ Quay County
June 21-26	NM Youth Ranch Management Camp @ CS Ranch in Cimarron, NM
July 14-17	State 4-H Conference @ NMSU in Las Cruces, NM
September 10-20	NM State Fair @ Albuquerque, NM
September 23-26	Otero County Fair @ Otero County Fairgrounds
September 30 - October 4	Southern NM State Fair @ Las Cruces, NM
October 5-10	Eastern NM State Fair @ Roswell, NM

Otero County 4-H Members of the Month

April 2026



Preston White
Cloudfcroft 4-H



Abigail Crnkovic
Heritage 4-H



Parker Allen
Tularosa 4-H

How to Nominate:

Any 4-H member, leader, parent/guardian, or volunteer may submit a 4-H member (Cloverbuds not eligible) from any Otero 4-H club for *Otero County 4-H Members of the Month*. To nominate, submit the following info to Kelly at kelknight@nmsu.edu by the 20th of each month: 1. name of the 4-H member being nominated, 2. a recent photo of the nominee, and 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 volunteer 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 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 (wet signature), no typed signatures will be accepted.
3. Complete the annual NM Working with Minors training found on [ZSuite](#). Contact the Extension Office, 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 NM Working with Minors 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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