

February 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	February 10th
Cloudcroft 4-H	6pm @ Cloudcroft Middle School Commons	Last Thursday	February 26th
Heritage 4-H	7pm @ Fairgrounds New Exhibit Building	2nd Monday	February 9th
Mescalero 4-H	6pm @ Empowerment Building	1st Sunday	February Meeting Cancelled
Mustangs 4-H	6pm @ Otero County Extension Office Classroom	Last Tuesday	February 24th
Sacramento Mountains 4-H	5pm @ Weed Volunteer Fire Department	1st Thursday	February 5th
Tularosa 4-H	7pm @ Carroll Family Home	1st Tuesday	February 3rd



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

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Alamogordo, NM 88310
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February County 4-H Council Meeting

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

Thursday, February 19th, 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 Date!

Youth Get-Away 2026
for Novice and Junior 4-H members

April 17-19, 2026
Glorieta Adventure Camp

Cost: \$190
(includes room, programming expenses, t-shirt and meals)

Registration coming soon!

Seniors have an opportunity to serve as counselors.
More information and applications coming soon!

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.

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 (5785-437-0231) or email (otero@nmsu.edu) the Otero County Extension Service. There is no deadline for adding a project to your enrollment during the 4-H program year.

4-H Day at the Roundhouse - Citizenship Project

This year's 4-H Day at the Roundhouse will be held on Monday, February 9, 2026. It is an opportunity to learn about our NM legislative process and will include representatives from NMSU and State Legislators, a tour of the State Capitol, reading of a joint proclamation, and a speaker session.

If you would like to attend 4-H Day at the Roundhouse on February 9, please register by contacting Kelly at the Extension Office, 575-437-0231 or kelknigh@nmsu.edu, by February 4, 2026.

Parents and/or leaders will be responsible for transporting and chaperoning 4-H members to this event.

To help prepare participants and chaperons for this event, there will be a Zoom orientation on February 4, 2026 at 6:00pm to cover logistics, proper etiquette, and other homework items.

NM 4-H FCS Schools

The annual NM Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Schools will be March 13-15, 2026 in Albuquerque, NM. The schools are designed for 4-H members ages 9-13 (Novice and Juniors) who are interested in learning skills related for FCS projects. The cost is \$60 per 4-H member to cover workshop supplies, several meals, and a t-shirt.

Youth have eight 4-H tracks to choose from and registration for each track is first come, first serve. If a 4-H member's first choice track is full, they will be placed in their second choice, then third choice, and so on. Registration forms are available in the Extension Office (401 Fairgrounds Rd, Alamogordo). To reserve your spot in a track at FCS Schools you must submit a completed registration form along with the registration fee (\$60). **No registration forms will be accepted after February 17, 2026.**

Parents/guardians are responsible for transporting 4-H members to and from FCS School (Albuquerque) and making lodging arrangements. We must also have at least one adult 4-H leader attend for every eight 4-H members attending FCS School.

There is also an opportunity for Senior 4-H members interested in leadership and mentoring 4-H youth to serve as junior instructors. To apply as a junior instructor, Senior 4-H members may contact Kelly, kelknigh@nmsu.edu or 575-437-0231, for the application. The deadline to apply for junior instructor is February 6, 2026. Parents/guardians are responsible for transporting junior instructors to and from FCS School (Albuquerque).

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.

--Archery Practice Schedule

Thursday, February 12th, 6pm @ Otero County Fairgrounds Livestock Barn
Wednesday, February 18th, 6pm @ Otero County Fairgrounds Livestock Barn
Thursday, February 26th, 6pm @ Otero County Fairgrounds Livestock Barn
3D Practice on Saturday, February 28th, 1:30pm @ Roadrunner Trap Club

--Shotgun Practice Schedule

Sunday, February 15th, 1pm @ Roadrunner Trap Club

Note: Juniors and Seniors may participate in shotgun and archery. Novice may participate in archery.

--NM State 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Training

The annual state 4-H shooting sports leader certification training will be held February 20-22, 2026 in T or C, NM. All participants must be fully enrolled as a 4-H leader prior to registering for the training. The cost of the training is \$100 per leader and the registration deadline is February 4, 2026. Contact the Extension Office for the registration form.

--Coming Soon!

The schedule for Otero County 4-H shooting sports contests will be announced soon. County contests will be the qualifying events for district and state contests. 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.

4-H Rodeo Consent Forms

All 4-H members planning to participate in 2026 NM 4-H Sanctioned Rodeos must complete a 4-H Consent and Assumption of Risk for Participation in Rodeo Activities form and submit the form to the Extension Office by **February 27, 2026**. Once the forms have been received in the Otero County Extension Office, the Extension Office Staff will submit the forms to the State 4-H Office (Las Cruces). Forms require the signatures of a parent/guardian, 4-H club leader, and the Extension agent.

If you plan to participate in 4-H rodeos this year, submit your completed form ASAP! The rodeo form can be obtained from the NM 4-H website along with additional information regarding 4-H sanctioned rodeos (rule book, dates of rodeos, entry forms and more). Contact the Extension Office if you have questions regarding 4-H rodeos.

4-H Horse Happenings

Horse Judging

If you are interested in participating in 4-H horse judging this year, please contact Sid and let him know so that you may be notified about practices and other important horse judging contest info. Sid may be contacted at sgordon@nmsu.edu or 575-437-0231.

4-H Horse Certificates

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.

Mark Your 2026 Calendars!

February 3	Otero County Fairboard Meeting @ 6:00pm, Extension Office Classroom *Subject to change if needed upon board discretion.
February 23	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
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

February 2026



Paxton Bragg
Cloudcroft 4-H



Zane Carroll
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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