

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

*For the month of March, Mustangs 4-H will meet the last Thursday, March 26th.



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
 575.437.0231
 otero@nmsu.edu
oteroextension.nmsu.edu

March County 4-H Council Meeting

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

Thursday, March 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 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.

4-H Youth Get-Away

4-H Youth Get-Away (YGA) registration is now open. This year YGA will be April 17-19, 2026 at Glorieta Adventure Camps. YGA is an overnight youth leadership development event open to both Novice and Junior aged 4-H members hosted by the NM State 4-H Leadership Team. Youth will be engaged in workshops and activities centered around personal growth leadership skills and 4-H projects with themed dances held each night. The State 4-H Leadership Team has been busy planning this year's YGA, themed "The Game of 4-H", and are excited to host this event.

The youth and adult registration forms (with information packets) are available at the Extension Office. The YGA event is open to Novice and Junior aged 4-H members. The registration cost is \$180 (for both youth and adults) and includes lodging, t-shirt, 5 meals, and program expenses. The registration deadline for YGA is March 10, 2026. Completed registration forms and payment must be received in the Extension Office by the deadline.

Adult Volunteer 4-H Leaders will be needed to serve as chaperones and assist with transportation to and from YGA. The ratio of youth to adults is 8 to 1. One male chaperone is required for every eight male youth, and one female adult chaperone is required for every eight female youth. The Extension Office will only be able to accept youth registrations once the required number of Adult Volunteer 4-H Leaders are registered to serve as chaperones and assist with transportation to and from YGA.

In 2026, Otero County 4-H Council will reimburse Adult Volunteer 4-H Leaders on a need-basis, determined by the number of youth requiring transportation and chaperone supervision. Reimbursement will be awarded on a first-registered, first-served basis.

Glorieta Adventure Camps requires a release form (separate from the 4-H release form) for all participants. An email with instructions and information for completing the camp's release form will be sent to all youth and adults registered for YGA. Please contact the Extension Office, 575-437-0231, for more information about YGA.



Serving with 4-H Heart

In February, the Sacramento Mountains 4-H Club rolled up their sleeves and grabbed their gloves to clean up the Weed Cemetery. By the end of the day, the grounds looked neat and cared for, and the club members left feeling proud to have shown respect for those who came before them while making a difference in their community.

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) the Otero County Extension Service. There is no deadline for adding a project to your enrollment during the 4-H program year.

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, March 5th, 6pm @ Otero County Fairgrounds Livestock Barn
Thursday, March 12th, 6pm @ Otero County Fairgrounds Livestock Barn
Wednesday, March 18th, 6pm @ Otero County Fairgrounds Livestock Barn
3D Practice on Sunday, March 22nd, 1:30pm @ Location TBD

--Shotgun Practice Schedule

Saturday, March 14th, 8:15am @ ATA Shoot at Roadrunner Trap Club (counts towards practices)

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

--Rifle Discipline

Otero County 4-H is excited to welcome two new adult 4-H volunteer leaders to the shooting sports program. Kim Dunlap and Ted Cashel have recently completed the state 4-H shooting sports leader certification training and have generously agreed to volunteer their time and expertise to lead the 4-H rifle discipline. If you are interested in participating in rifle practices and contests, please contact the Extension Office so your name can be added to the interest list. Dates, times, and locations of rifle activities will be shared with 4-H members who have indicated interest as they are scheduled.

--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.

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

NEW DATE!



★ RANCH CAMP ★
JUNE 21-26, 2026
Cimarron, NM

Ages 15-19 • Camp Fees: \$400

- Learn Ranching Skills & Management
- College-Level Instruction
- Real Working Ranch Experience

NM STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
Cooperative Extension Service

Only 30 Spots Available!

nmyrm.nmsu.edu

Enrollment in NM Youth Ranch Management Camp is limited to 30 participants. Scholarships are available, and families are encouraged to apply early due to limited space. Additional information and the online application can be found at nmyrm.nmsu.edu.

4-H Horse Happenings

Horse Judging

Horse judging practice has started for those of you who responded to Sid Gordon that you wanted to judge. He has been assigning some classes on LivestockJudging.com, so check your email to view the classes and give some reasons. If you are signed up to judge horses and are not receiving the assignments, let Sid know so he can get it worked out: 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!

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

March 2026



Montana Saenz
Cloudcroft 4-H



Clayton Hughes
Cloudcroft 4-H



Rilinger 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](mailto:kelnknight@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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