

May 2026

Otero County 4-H Newsletter



4-H Meeting Schedule

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4-H Club	Time/ Location	Monthly Meeting	Next Meeting
Alamogordo	6:30pm @ Fairgrounds New Exhibit Building	2 nd Tuesday	May 12th
Cloudcroft	6pm @ Cloudcroft Middle School	Last Thursday*	May 21st*
Heritage	7pm @ Fairgrounds New Exhibit Building	2 nd Monday**	No Meeting**
Mescalero	6pm @ Empowerment Building	1 st Sunday	May 3rd
Mustangs	6pm @ Otero County Extension Office Classroom	Last Tuesday	May 26th
Sacramento Mountains	5pm @ Weed Volunteer Fire Department	1 st Thursday	May 7th
Tularosa	7pm @ Carroll Family Home	1 st Tuesday	May 5th

* For the month of May, Cloudcroft will meet the third Thursday, May 21st.

** For the month of May, Heritage will not meet.



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 Cooperative Extension Service
 Otero County Extension Office

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May County 4-H Council Meeting

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

Thursday, May 21st @ 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 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

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.

--Novice/Junior Archery County Contest

An email was sent to 4-H members having attended a minimum of four (4) practices in Novice/Junior Archery discipline regarding the upcoming county contest. If you believe you have met the required practices, but did not receive an email regarding the contest, please contact Kelly at: kelknigh@nmsu.edu or 575-437-0231, for a copy of the registration form for this contest. The registration deadline is May 15th.

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 28 or June 6) 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.

Contest Practice Sessions @ Extension Office

Thursday, May 14, 2026 @ 4:00pm Consumer Decision Making & FCS Skill-a-thon

Tuesday, May 19, 2026 @ 4:00pm Horticulture

Tuesday, May 27, 2026 @ 4:00pm Consumer Decision Making & FCS Skill-a-thon

All 4-Hers welcome!

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 / Fashion 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)

Presentations (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!!!

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 allotted 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.

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!)

[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 8, 2026 (registration form coming soon!).

[See website for additional information!](#)

**2026 Southeast District 4-H Contest Tentative
Schedule
June 16-18, 2026
Quay County, Tucumcari, NM**

Schedule for Tuesday, June 16th, Shooting Sports – Various Locations

Quay Co. Fairgrounds -1100 S. Camino Del Coronado Tucumcari
5 Mile Park -5 miles W. Tucumcari Blvd, S. 1/8 m. 5 Mile Park Rd.
Logan Gun Club – 25 miles NE, 2152 Cemetery Rd, Logan

8 am-1:00 pm	Shooting Sports Testing @ Quay Co. Fairgrounds (Open)
8 am-1:00 pm	Rifle @ 5 mile park (flights will be scheduled)
8 am-1:00 pm	Archery @ Fairgrounds (flights will be scheduled)
8 am-1:00 pm	Shotgun @ Logan Shooting Range (open contest)
11 am-2:00 pm	Air Rifle Shooting @ Quay Co. Fairgrounds, Travis Nelson Building (open contest)
5:00 pm	Awards Program Quay Co. Fairgrounds, North-end Fair Barn

Schedule for Wednesday, June 17th Mesalands Community College

8:00 am-9:00 am	Superintendents Set Up Contests 4-H Agent Check-In/T-shirt Pick Up Clothing Revue Garment Turn-In
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Open Contests

9:00 am-2:00pm	Agronomy Entomology Wildlife Horticulture FCS Skill-A-Thon
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Closed Contests

8:00 am	Livestock Judging (Quay Co. Fair grounds)
9:00 am	Clothing Revue Construction Judging
9:00 am	Favorite Foods
12:30 pm	Clothing Revue Appearance Judging
2:30 pm	Parliamentary Procedure
4:00 pm	FCS Bowl
4:00 pm	Horse Bowl
5:30 pm	Fashion Revue Practice
6:00 pm	Dinner, Fashion Revue and Awards (Quay Co. Fair grounds, North-end)
7:00 pm	Pool Swimming Party (Tucumcari Public Swimming Pool)

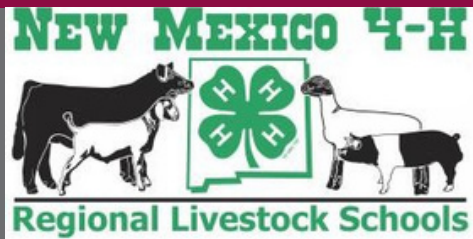
Schedule for Thursday, June 18th Mesalands Community College

Open Contests

7:00 am-10:00 am	Meats ID Livestock Skill-a-thon Consumer Decision Making
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Closed Contests

8:00 am-11:30 am	Horse Judging (Quay Co. Fair grounds Arena/North-end Fair Barn)
8:30 am-10:30 am	Presentations
9:30 am-10:30 am	Public Speaking
10:30am-11:30 am	Poetry
12:00 pm	Lunch (on your own, variety of restaurants in Tucumcari)
1:00 pm	Awards



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](#)

Northern Regional Livestock School

June 19 - 20, 2026
 Bi-County Fairgrounds, Prewitt, NM
[Register Online](#)

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](#).

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.

NM 4-H Horse Shows

Dona Ana County: May 31st

Grant County: June 13th-14th*

San Juan County: 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](#).

Mark Your 2026 Calendars!

May 28th

Livestock Tag Day @ 5:00pm - 7:30pm, Otero County Fairgrounds

May 29th - 30th

NM 4-H Horse School @ NMSU Main Campus, Las Cruces, NM

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 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



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.



2026 4-H SLR



Otero 4-Hers building leadership skills together!



**2026
4-H YGA**



Otero County 4-H Members of the Month

May 2026



Bryson Gillen
Tularosa 4-H



Sarina Yazzi
Alamogordo 4-H



Alyssa Singer
Heritage 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: 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. 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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