

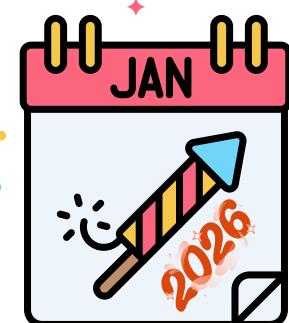
Otero County 4-H Newsletter

January 2026



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4-H Meeting Schedule

4-H Club	Time/Location	Monthly Meeting	Next Meeting
Alamogordo 4-H	6:30pm @ Fairgrounds	2nd Tuesday	January 13th
Cloudcroft 4-H	6pm @ Cloudcroft Middle School	Last Thursday	January 29th
Heritage 4-H	7pm @ Fairgrounds	2nd Monday	January 12th
Mescalero 4-H	6pm @ Empowerment Complex	1st Sunday	January 4th
Mustang 4-H	6pm @ High Rolls Senior Center	Last Tuesday	January 27th
Tularosa 4-H	7pm @ Carroll Family Home	1st Tuesday	January 6th
Sacramento Mountains 4-H	6pm @ Weed Fire Station	1st Thursday	January 8th

Got Something to Share?

We'd love to include your updates, events, or stories in our next newsletter! Submissions are welcome and should be sent to Kelly Knight at kelknight@nmsu.edu by the **20th of each month** to be considered for the following month's edition. Please note that all submissions are subject to review and may be edited for length, clarity, and appropriateness. Don't miss the chance to share your news with our 4-H community!



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 County Extension Services
oteroextension.nmsu.edu
otero@nmsu.edu

Calendar - January 2026

Date	Time	Happening
January 6th	6pm	Otero Co. Fairboard Meeting @ Extension Classroom *Subject to change if needed upon committee discretion
January 8th	6pm-8pm	Archery Practice @ Otero County Fairgrounds Livestock Barn
January 11th	1pm	Shotgun Practice @ Roadrunner Trap Club
January 14th	6pm-8pm	Archery Practice @ Otero County Fairgrounds Livestock Barn
January 18th	1:30pm	3D Archery Practice @ Roadrunner Trap Club
January 22nd	6pm-8pm	Archery Practice @ Otero County Fairgrounds Livestock Barn
January 25th	1pm	Shotgun Practice @ Roadrunner Trap Club
January 26th	6pm	Jr Livestock Meeting @ Extension Classroom *Subject to change if needed upon committee discretion
January 29th	6pm-8pm	Archery Practice @ Otero County Fairgrounds Livestock Barn
May 28th	5pm-7:30pm	Livestock Tag Day @ Otero County Fairgrounds
June 6th	7am-10am	Livestock Tag Day @ Otero County Fairgrounds

2026 Dates	2026 State Happenings
January 23rd	State Portfolios Due at SLR
January 23-25	Senior Leadership Retreat @ NMSU Las Cruces Campus
February 21-22	Shooting Sports Leader Certification @ T or C, NM
March 13-15	Family Consumer Science School @ Bernalillo County Extension Office
April 17-19	Youth Get Away @ Glorietta, NM
Apr 30 - May 3	State 4-H Shooting Sports Championship @ NRA Whittington Center
July 14-17	State 4-H Conference @ NMSU Las Cruces Campus
September 10-20	New Mexico State Fair @ State Fairgrounds, ABQ, NM
September 23-26	Otero County Fair @ Otero County Fairgrounds, Alamogordo, NM
Sept 30 - Oct 4	Southern New Mexico State Fair @ SNMSF Grounds, Las Cruces, NM

Community Service Scholarship Criteria

- Available to any Novice, Junior or Senior 4-H Member serving as a State 4-H Officer, Ambassador, Diplomat or participant in a 4-H activity.
- Must submit a New Mexico 4-H Community Service Scholarship application form which is available on the website.

EVENT (Community Service Scholarship Application)	DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION (2 months before event registration deadline)
FCS School	January 15, 2026
Youth Get-Away	February 2, 2026
Horse School	March 16, 2026
4-H Dog School	April 15, 2026
Livestock School	April 15, 2026
State 4-H Conference	April 15, 2026
Ambassador/Officer Positions	May 1, 2026

Read page 4 of this newsletter for more info, or look for scholarship on the bottom of this [webpage](#) as the last listed scholarship!



January 4-H County Council Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for: Thursday, January 15th, 6:30pm in the Extension Office Classroom

Everyone is welcome to attend, but be sure to send your club delegates!

4-H Enrollment Deadline: February 1st, 2026

Otero County 4-H members must be enrolled on or before February 1, for 4-H members to be eligible to participate in county, district, and/or state level 4-H competitive events.



4-H Age Group 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 what 4-H members need to do to be in "good standing"? If not, please take a moment to look 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. Be sure to check with your 4-H club leader for the minimum number of meetings you are required to attend to be in "good standing".
- Follows the NM 4-H Conduct and Behavior Expectations of Youth and Adults.

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.



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.

How to become a 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.
3. Complete the [annual NM Working with Minors](#) course found on ZSuites. 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 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.

All 4-H enrollments (Youth & Adult) require a liability waiver to be filled out and signed by hand (wet signature). **No typed signatures will be accepted!**

Otero County 4-H Members of the Month

January 2026

Cloudcroft 4-H



Kacie Hughes

Tularosa 4-H



Kole Martin

Heritage 4-H



Alamogordo 4-H



Mustang 4-H



Mescalero 4-H



How to Nominate:

Any 4-H member, Leader, Parent/Guardian, or Volunteer may submit a 4-H member (*Cloverbuds not included*) from any Otero club for Member of the Month. To nominate, submit the following info to Kelly at kelknigh@nmsu.edu by the 20th of each month:

- Name of the 4-H member being nominated
- A recent photo of the nominee
- A brief description of their favorite 4-H memory or project

4-H Sewing Projects

If you would like to participate in 4-H sewing sessions at the Extension Office, **please contact Kelly Knight, FCS Agent, prior to attending your first sewing session.** Kelly will help 4-H members choose their sewing projects and create a list of supplies they'll need (fabric, notions, patterns, etc.).

Who can participate in 4-H sewing sessions:

All Novice, Junior, and Senior members are invited to participate.

Weekly sewing session schedule:

Sewing sessions will be held on Monday afternoons (following your school's scheduled release time) at the Otero County Extension Office (except on holidays).

Supplies and equipment:

Sewing machines will be available for members to use, or you may bring your own. There is no fee to participate. However, members are responsible for purchasing personal supplies such as fabric, thread, buttons, elastic, patterns, etc. All experience levels- beginner through advanced- are welcome. Project options include garments, tote bags, aprons, and quilts, among others. We currently have 10 sewing machines available. If attendance exceeds the number of available machines, we may begin requiring families to RSVP for each session.

Parent and volunteer involvement:

During previous years, we saw a growing number of youth participating in sewing sessions. If that continues, we may need additional adults to assist. Parents are always welcome to attend and help their child(ren)- no sewing expertise required! Guidance will be provided by the agent and volunteer leaders. (Note: Enrolled 4-H leaders may assist any participating youth. Parents who are not enrolled leaders may assist their own child(ren).) Any youth who attend 4-H sewing sessions without a parent must be able to use an iron independently.

Why participate:

The 4-H Sewing project helps youth gain lifelong skills- saving money by repairing clothing, building self-confidence, developing patience and problem-solving abilities, and expressing creativity. 4-H members will have the opportunity to enter their completed sewing projects in Otero County 4-H Achievement Day (typically held in August) and participate in 4-H Fashion Revues during the summer months.

Please contact Kelly at the Extension Office if you have any questions regarding 4-H sewing projects, 575-437-0231 or kelknigh@nmsu.edu.



4-H Shooting Sports Certification

The 2026 NM State 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Training will be:

Date: February 20-22, 2026

Where: T or C, NM

Cost: \$100.00 per participant

Disciplines (Choose 1):

- Archery
- Rifle
- Shotgun
- Pistol
- Muzzleloader
- Hunting Skills

Registration form and payment are due to the Otero County Extension Office by February 4th, 2026!

Certification happens annually around NM to certify 4-H volunteers to become active project leaders in 4-H shooting sports disciplines. All participants in the training must be County approved and fully enrolled as a 4-H volunteer in ZSuites prior to registering for the training. This includes completing online NM - Working with Minors training.

Shooting Sports 4-H Member Requirements

For your 4-H member to shoot with Otero County 4-H, the following requirements must be met before shooting:

- Be actively enrolled with a signed liability waiver.
- Complete Hunters Education and have a copy on file with the Extension Office.
- Read & Sign Otero County Shooting Sports Plan

Tularosa 4-H Update



Brylyn
Brooklyn
Hector
Kole
Leslie
Marina

2025-2026 Officer Team



Tularosa 4-H Christmas party,
Crafts, Food, & Fun!



The Tularosa 4-H Club participated in the Tularosa parade in December. The kids had a blast and decorated an amazing float!



4-H Agent Farewell

As this year concludes, December marks my final month with Otero County Extension and the 4-H program. Serving in this role has been an incredibly meaningful experience, allowing me to work alongside dedicated youth, families, volunteers, and community partners who deeply care about the success and growth of 4-H in Otero County. I am grateful for the trust placed in me and for the opportunity to support youth development, leadership, and educational programming throughout my time here. I have learned a great deal from this community and will carry those experiences forward into my future work.

I am confident the Otero County 4-H program will continue to thrive through the commitment of its volunteers, council members, leaders, and Extension staff. Thank you to everyone who offered guidance, collaboration, and encouragement along the way, it has truly been a pleasure serving this community.


Hannah Wood

Enrollment Instructions

The Otero County enrollment deadline for all 4-H members, re-enrolling and new members, is February 1st, 2026.

4-H members must be enrolled on or before February 1, 2026, for 4-H members to be eligible to participate in county, district, and/or state level 4-H competitive events. **All 4-H members must re-enroll every year.** The Otero County Extension Service will accept enrollment forms after February 1, 2026, however members enrolling after February 1, 2026, are not eligible to participate in county, district and/or state level competitive events and will not meet the policy outlined in the Otero County 4-H Council Bylaws for 4-H members in good standing. Members enrolling after February 1, 2026, may participate in non-competitive events at the club, county, district, and/or state level at the discretion of the 4-H club.

4-H youth members have the option of submitting a paper enrollment or enrolling online via the ZSuite website. Paper enrollment forms are available from the Otero County Extension Office. For members submitting completed paper enrollment forms, they may be submitted to their 4-H Club Organizational Leader or to the Otero County Extension Office. **4-H Club Leaders receiving any completed enrollment forms from 4-H members must submit the forms to the Otero County Extension Office on or before February 1, 2026.** 4-H members submitting enrollment forms to their 4-H Club Organizational Leaders or other individual are strongly encouraged to contact the Otero County Extension Office, 575-437-0231, to confirm that the forms have been received in the Extension Office by the deadline. If you would like to enroll via the ZSuite website, the website instructions for re-enrolling members and new members are as follows:

Re-Enrollment

1. Go to [ZSuites](#) online.
2. Log in to your account and select the primary profile.
3. Using the drop-down menu, enroll each applicable member (4-H youth, adult volunteers).
4. Complete To Do list ----->
5. Click Submit



New Enrollment

1. Go to [ZSuites](#) online.
2. Click the Sign Up link.
3. Fillout the popup to create a new household. This is the Primary Parent account. Write down the pin code you create somewhere safe.
4. The email entered will be used as the family email for all members under the household account.
5. Click the "Let's Go" button when done.
6. On the Dashboard for the primary account, you can create new household accounts (4-H youth, adult volunteers) through Household members.
7. Complete To Do list ----->
8. Click Submit

Annual Enrollment TO DO: New & Re-enrolled

- Review/Update personal information section.
- **Upload your completed NM 4-H Youth Medical & Liability Release/Code of Conduct Contract/Media Release Form 300.A-3 or submit your completed paper form to Otero County Extension Office, hand signed.**
- Add your 4-H club (Please select only ONE 4-H club. 4-H members selecting multiple clubs will be required to meet the 4-H good standing requirements of all clubs they are enrolled in.)
- Add 4-H projects
- Payment is not required in ZSuite for enrollment in the Otero County 4-H program. (4-H Club membership dues need to be submitted directly to your 4-H club treasurer or organizational club leader.)

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County Program Director

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