

Otero County 4-H Newsletter

November 2025



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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	November 11th
*Cloudcroft 4-H	6pm @ Cloudcroft Middle School	Last Thursday	NO NOV Meeting
Heritage 4-H	7pm @ Fairgrounds	2nd Monday	November 10th
Mescalero 4-H	6pm @ Empowerment Complex	1st Sunday	November 2nd
Mustang 4-H	6pm @ High Rolls Senior Center	Last Tuesday	November 25th
Tularosa 4-H	7pm @ Carroll Family Home	1st Tuesday	November 4th



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 Hannah Wood at hdw@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
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Calendar - November 2025

Date	Time	Happening
November 4th	3pm	Sewing Project meeting @ Extension Office Classroom
November 6th	6pm	Shooting Sports Kickoff Meeting @ Otero County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building
November 13th	6pm	Archery Practice @ Otero County Fairgrounds Livestock Barn
November 20th	6:30pm	Annual 4-H Awards Ceremony @ Otero County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building
November 24th	6pm	Jr Livestock Meeting @ Extension Classroom *Subject to change if needed upon committee discretion

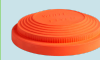
4-H Volunteers:

Get your NM - Working with Minors 25-26 training on ZSuites done to be approved! It can be found under the Clover Academy menu option.

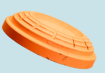


Meet Otero County
Extension Office's new
administrative assistant!

Shelley B. is happy to be
joining the team and we
are happy to have her!



Otero County 4-H Shooting Sports Kick Off Meeting



When: November 6th @ 6pm

Where: Otero Co. Fairgrounds, Exhibit Building

Who: Members interested in Shooting Sports
Volunteers interested in helping

If you are interested in participating in 4-H
Shooting Sports, come to this meeting.

Parents, please attend with your youth(s)!!

- Meet the project leaders
- Sign up for disciplines
- Team building activities



Awards & Fun!

YOU'RE INVITED!



Otero County 4-H Annual Awards Ceremony November 20th, 2025 - 6:30pm - Otero County Fairgrounds

Please join us for our annual awards celebration where Otero County 4-H members, volunteers, and supporting organizations are recognized for their hard work and dedication in the 2024-25 4-H year.

If you are an individual with a disability and need an auxiliary aid or service, please contact Hannah at 575-437-0231 at least one week before the ceremony.

November 4-H County Council Meeting

The November County Council meeting will be our Annual Otero County 4-H Awards Ceremony. Please join us on November 20th @6:30pm in the Otero County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building to celebrate the 4-H year.

Welcome to the new 4-H year!
4-H's program year is October 1st to September 30th of the following year. See the last page for enrollment instructions.



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

November 2025

Tularosa 4-H



Logan H.

Heritage 4-H



Tony M.

Cloudcroft 4-H



Brayden G.

Alamogordo 4-H



Bailey B.

Mustang 4-H



Mescalero 4-H



Chasen R.



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 Hannah at hdw@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

An informational meeting for 4-H sewing projects will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 3:00pm at the Otero County Extension Office. During this meeting, FCS Agent Kelly Knight and our 4-H sewing volunteer leaders will discuss the format for this year's sewing sessions. We'll also help 4-H members choose their sewing projects and create a list of supplies they'll need (fabric, notions, patterns, etc.). **Parents are strongly encouraged to attend the informational meeting with their child(ren).**

Who can participate in 4-H sewing sessions:

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

Weekly sewing session schedule:

After November 4th, 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.



2026 Senior Leadership Retreat

January 23-25th, 2026
NMSU Las Cruces, NM

4-H Senior Leadership Retreat (SLR) is a three-day event that offers workshops, activities, and networking opportunities for senior 4-H youth. It is a great opportunity to meet people from all over the state and develop leadership skills.

Event Cost: \$275 (includes: hotel cost, program expenses, t-shirt, guest speaker, several meals)

Registration: Forms will be sent out first week of November. All forms and payment will be due back to the Otero County Extension Office by November 21st!!



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. Fill out 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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