

## **OTERO COUNTY 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS COUNTY PLAN**

### **4-H Program Year: 2025-2026**

#### **Vision Statement:**

The Otero County 4-H Shooting Sports Program strives to enable youth, their parents, and adult volunteers to become responsible, self-directed, and productive members of society. Agents, leaders, instructors, and coaches must understand the goals and objectives of the program in order to manage or present it properly. These goals and objectives are consistent with the goals and objectives of the 4-H program. The program transfers knowledge skills and attitudes by using the subject matter and resources of the New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service and New Mexico State University.

#### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Otero County 4-H Shooting Sports Program is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes so that they may become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society.

#### **Objectives:**

1. To encourage participation in natural and related natural science programs by exposing participants to the content through shooting, hunting, and related activities.
2. To enhance development of self-concept, character and personal growth through safe, educational, and socially acceptable involvement in shooting activity.
3. To teach safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment including sound decision-making, self-discipline, and concentration.
4. To promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior.
5. To expose participants to the broad array of vocational and life-long avocational activities related to shooting sports.
6. To strengthen families through participation in life-long recreational activities.
7. To complement and enhance the impact of existing safety, shooting and hunter education programs using experimental educational methods and progressive development of skills and abilities.

#### **Structure & Organization:**

The Otero County Extension 4-H Agent with 4-H Shooting Sports Responsibilities is the Coordinator/Manager of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program.

The program is to be lead and instructed by NM State 4-H Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Leaders/Coaches in each of the respective disciplines. If a certified instructor is not available for a discipline, programs in that discipline are not available until a certified leader is in place.

At least one 4-H Certified Leader/Coach must be present to run the line at all county/club organized practices. Enrolled Adult Volunteers are encouraged to provide assistance during county/club practices and competitions. Parents attending practices are encouraged to ask the certified leader if assistance is needed prior to practice starting.

#### Program Delivery:

An annual meeting will be held with the Extension 4-H Agent and NM State 4-H Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Leaders/Coaches to set and review county plans and policies, conduct county owned equipment inventory and county owned equipment checks, organize practice schedules and locations, and discuss county participation in district and state 4-H shooting events.

At the start of the new 4-H Program year, the Extension 4-H Agent will review the list of State Certified Leaders in each of the shooting sports disciplines and review county equipment and consumable needs.

Certified Leaders and enrolled adult volunteers will carry out practices, fundraising events, and assist with competitions, as approved by the Extension 4-H Agent/Coordinator with shooting sports responsibilities.

#### Shooting Sports Leaders Committee:

The shooting sports committee shall consist of the 4-H Agent/Coordinator, certified instructors and leaders.

#### Situation Statement:

- All Otero County shooting sports leaders must complete the volunteer background screening process, complete the adult volunteer leader application process and receive a 4-H shooting sports leader's certification.
- All Otero County 4-H shooting sports members must complete a hunter's safety training course and provide the Otero County Extension Service Office with a copy of the member's hunters safety card and their current 4-H year enrollment form prior to attending their first practice.
- All Otero County 4-H shooting sports members must complete an annual safety meeting in each discipline they intend to participate in during that 4-H program year prior to attending their first practice. A record of course completion will be kept with the Extension Office.
- All shooting sports 4-H members are encouraged to attend the shooting sports first meeting of the year at the Otero County Fairgrounds.
- A minimum of four (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 1<sup>st</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
- Fundraising events for the Otero County shooting sports program will assist members with funding for 4-H shooting sports competitions. Members must participate in at least one (1) fundraiser during the current 4-H program year to receive funding assistance.
- To be respectful of the time 4-H shooting sports leaders voluntarily provide, shooting sports leaders may require 4-H members and parents/guardians to RSVP before attending practice sessions.
- Youth ages 9-13 (Novice and Junior 4-H members) are strongly encouraged have a parent/guardian attend shooting sports practices with them. Parents/guardians wishing to drop

off their youth at shooting sports practices and return later for pick up must first check in-person with shooting sports leaders for approval and provide their cell phone number. Parents/guardians are expected to pick up their youth promptly when shooting sports practices end.

- Senior age 4-H members participating in archery practice sessions and competitions are responsible for providing their own bow and equipment. If the Otero County 4-H Shooting Sports Program has bows suitable for seniors, a senior age 4-H member may use one for a couple of practice sessions, but not for the duration of a 4-H program year. Shooting Sports Leaders can be helpful to youth and parents/guardians for providing information on which bow to purchase that are appropriate for ages of youth, including: shooting distances, draw weight, and bow types. In addition, Senior age 4-H members may not share bows during 4-H shooting sports competitions.
- Senior age 4-H members participating in shotgun practice sessions and competitions are responsible for providing their own shotgun. If the Otero County 4-H Shooting sports Program has a shotgun suitable for seniors, a senior age 4-H member may use one for a couple of practice sessions, but not for the duration of the 4-H program year. 4-H Shooting Sports leaders can be helpful to youth and parents/guardians for providing information on good firearms to purchase.
- Otero County shooting sports equipment may be checked out by a certified shooting sports leader for countywide sanctioned practices. These practices are to be scheduled with the shooting sports leaders committee and printed as a sanctioned countywide practice in the Otero County 4-H Newsletter.
- All 4-H members, adult leaders, and parents must follow the 4-H code of conduct signed within the members enrollment form. If for any reason a 4-H member or parent are not following the code of conduct or are disrupting a practice, it is at the discretion of the certified leader to dismiss the individual(s). Any complaints or incidents should be reported to the Otero County 4-H Agent in a timely manner.
- All Otero County 4-H shooting sports members will be responsible for their own equipment after participating in the discipline for 1 program year. Ammo, targets, and instruction will still be provided by the Otero County 4-H shooting sports program when available. If the Otero County 4-H shooting sports program has a firearm suitable for a youth that has demonstrated financial hardship in the efforts of procuring their own equipment, they may use one for a couple of practice sessions, but not for the duration of the 4-H program year after their first year of participation. 4-H Shooting Sports leaders can be helpful to youth and parents/guardians for providing information on good firearms & bows to purchase.

Goals:

- Develop positive relationships with adults, youth, and peers.
- Practice safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment, enhancing existing shooting, conservation, and hunter education programs.
- Model safety, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior.
- Explore a vast array of 4-H educational, recreational and competitive activities

Risk Management: See National Best Practices, have first aid kit on hand, have one individual on site that has general knowledge of first aid/CPR (offer first aid/CPR training to individuals if needed.) Please review the emergency plan for Otero County 4-H range locations and notify the Extension Agent within 24 hours of the incident.

**Roadrunner Trap Club:** At the time of an incident, apply immediate first-aid steps and call 911. Range master (project leader) will send 1 vehicle to the end of the road by HWY 70 E to flag down and lead emergency service to the person in need. Send "New Mexico 4-H Medical and Liability Release Code of Conduct Contract and Media Release Form" with youth or volunteer to receive medical care. A copy should be found with the project leader in their project binder. After the incident, debrief with group for reporting purposes and record incident specifics. Report incident to the Extension Agent within 24 hours.

**Otero County Fair Grounds:** At the time of an incident, apply immediate first-aid steps and call 911. Range master (project leader) will send 1 person to the fairgrounds parking lot to flag down and lead emergency service to the person in need. Send "New Mexico 4-H Medical and Liability Release Code of Conduct Contract and Media Release Form" with youth or volunteer to receive medical care. A copy should be found with the project leader in their project binder. After the incident, debrief with group for reporting purposes and record incident specifics. Report incident to the Extension Agent within 24 hours.

- **Otero County Sheriff's Office**  
**Address:** 3208 N White Sands Blvd, Alamogordo, NM 88310  
**Phone:** (575) 437-2210
- **CHRISTUS Health - Emergency Room**  
**Address:** 2669 N Scenic Dr, Alamogordo, NM 88310  
**Phone:** (575) 439-6100
- **Alamogordo Police Department**  
**Address:** 700 Virginia Ave, Alamogordo, NM 88310  
**Phone:** (575) 437-2210
- **Otero County Fire Department**  
**Address:** Alamogordo, NM 88310  
**Phone:** (575) 437-2210
- **Otero County Extension Service**  
**Address:** 401 Fairgrounds Rd, Alamogordo, NM 88310  
**Phone:** (575) 437-0231

Following each incident, a review of the emergency response will be conducted with the individuals involved. This debriefing allows for the evaluation of the response and helps identify any improvements or adjustments needed to enhance future preparedness. It is critical to update the emergency procedures regularly based on these reviews to ensure the highest level of safety for all involved.

## OTERO COUNTY 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS

### COUNTY PLAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

**4-H Program Year: 2025-2026**

I certify that I have read and understand the Otero County 4-H Shooting Sports County Plan. Certified shooting sports leaders may at any time dismiss a 4-H member and/or parent that is not in compliance with 4-H conduct, county plan and/or any safety protocols set forth by the certified shooting sports leader. Parents, certified shooting sports leaders and agents will abide by the 4-H behavioral expectations and refrain from causing or demonstrating conflict with others in front of youth. Disputes and/or discussions regarding dismissals and infractions will be handled by 4-H agents no sooner than 24 hours from the time of the dismissal or infraction.

Printed name of 4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of 4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select the discipline(s) you're interested in:

☐ Archery (Novice, Junior, and Senior)

☐ Shotgun (Junior and Senior, **Novice not eligible**)