

The Curry County 4-H Times

Cooperative Extension Service • Curry County • April 2026



Beyond Ready

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Notes from the Extension Office

Wow, just like the crazy weather we have been having, the month of March was crazy busy and now April is here! We have many activities coming up in April as we enter spring and head into summer. Be sure to read this newsletter carefully, as it contains several items pertaining to activities in April and the coming months, contest orientations, as well as livestock information for the fair.

Remember, to participate in any of our 4-H activities and enter projects at the fair, members must attend four (4) meetings minimum! NO EXCEPTIONS will be given.

We have several exciting events happening this month. We will be hosting our "Contest Countdown" for all of our summer contest, our County Council will host a countywide bowling activity, and Kandy will be providing an informational program for show families.

Youth Get Away will be held April 17-19 in Glorieta. We have 25 members signed up for YGA and we are excited to see what those members learn and bring back to their clubs!

I have included information for livestock validation dates and several different items of information for those who will be showing livestock. If you have steers or beef heifers, please call the office to schedule a time on April 31 & May 1st for us to come tag, all steers and heifers must be tagged during those two days. **If you need any help with your livestock projects, please feel free to give me a call and I would be happy to help or come by and take a look at your animals!**

Lastly, we would like to express our condolences and prayers to the Turner family at the passing of Dr. Jason Turner, beloved husband and father to Mindy, Denny and John. Dr. Turner was a valued member of our Extension family and dedicated many hours to supporting our 4-H youth in their horse, hippology, and horse bowl endeavors, along with many hours spent helping 4-H youth at horse shows throughout the state, but especially here in Curry County. He will be missed by all and the memories he helped create will be held dear. Please keep the family and all whom he had an impact on in your prayers.

Sincerely,

*Kandy
Nutchins*

4-H Agent

Mindy Turner

FCS Agent
County Director

*Morgan
Latimore*

Ag Agent

Diana Wood

Program Asst.

*Cindy
Boney*

Admin. Asst.

**Curry County
Extension Office**
600 Woods St.
Clovis, NM 88101
(575)763-6505
curry@nmsu.edu



The month of April provides an opportunity to recognize and honor the service of our youngest heroes, military children. Established by former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger in 1986, the designation of April as the Month of the Military Child acknowledges the significant role military youth play in our communities. They are resilient and take pride in their service to our Country. They deserve our appreciation and support. ***Wearing the color purple is a visible way to show support and thank military youth for their strength and sacrifices.***

Purple Up for Military Kids!

4-H County Council Report

March was a busy and productive month for our 4-H members! Several of our county council members volunteered with the annual Ag Xplorer Days event. Also, eight members attended Project Academy in Roosevelt County and learned about the Jewelry Making and Origami projects. We have lots happening in April as well. Please check out the newsletter for information on all of the opportunities that our members have available! We invite all members to join us for the countywide bowling party on April 28th at Hooks' Alley hosted by our Curry County 4-H Council! We want to wish everyone a Happy Easter and hope you all enjoy time spent with family!

Curry County Council Reporter – Kyren Cortez



April School Enrichment Highlight

Back to Nature

This month the Curry County Extension office is offering a program on Nature to all classrooms. The students will have the opportunity to create a classroom observation lab. Each class will get a set of lab kits for students to gain skills in identifying, collecting and observing. The teacher packets will offer many activities that can be used together in English, Math, and Science. If you would like this program in your classroom, please email Diana Wood.

woodd@nmsu.edu



April County Council Bowling Activity

CURRY COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

BOWLING NIGHT

APRIL 28TH - 6-8PM

4-H COUNCIL PAYS FOR TWO GAMES PER MEMBER

MEMBER PAYS THEIR OWN SHOE RENTAL COST

  

HOOKS' ALLEY - CLOVIS, NM

ARE YOU SHOW SAVVY

COME LEARN ABOUT THE BASICS OF RAISING A SHOW ANIMAL

- Inspections & Paperwork
- Records
- Tags
- Monitoring health and rate of gain
- Animal welfare and safety
- Facility needs



Along with a variety of other topics for
all levels of showman.

**APRIL 10, 2026
6PM CURRY COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE**



If you are an individual with a disability and
need an auxiliary aid or service, please
contact Kandy Hutchins at 575-763-6505
or khutchin@nmsu.edu



There will be several guest speakers helping to present this workshop along with Kandy. Whether you are a new family to the show barn or a seasoned veterans, there will be lots of information covered that will be helpful as you begin your show season. This workshop is for parents, show aged-youth and friends! Snacks and drinks will be provided.



Tentative 4-H Rodeo Schedule 2026

Sierra County – April 24-26
San Miguel County – June 13-14
San Juan County- July 11-12
Quay County – July 24-25
NM 4-H Rodeo Final - TBD



Rodeo paperwork was required to be submitted in February. If you need to complete entries or need your contestant number, please email Kandy at khutchin@nmsu.edu.

LEARN BY DOING



Horse Certificates, Horse Show and Rodeo Tentative Dates

Horse Certificates need to be done every year or renewed every year with approval of the County Agent. The Horse Certificate is a form similar to a registration form. You can find it on the 4-H website under "Forms and Publications.", we also have copies available here at the office. **They are due on May 1 to the State 4-H Office, please have these submitted to the county office by Monday, April 27th!** Please see the updated 4-H Horse Show rules for clarification. Horses get sold, traded, and/or leased and this is the purpose of doing them each year. This is a unique aspect to the project. Horse Certificates are required for any sanctioned 4-H horse show. The only way that the agent can verify that the horse being used is the project horse, is for a 4-H member to document that they are the exhibitor, lessee, or owner of that particular horse.

TENTATIVE NM HORSE SHOW DATES

April 18th – Grant County
May 31st – Dona Ana County
June 13th – Grant County
August 9th – San Juan County
NMSF State Horse Show – TBD



****Curry County 4-H will host our own horse show in conjunction with the Curry County Fair.**



Producing Partners Program

Big R is proud to support and encourage our 4-H, FFA livestock exhibitors to join our Producing Partners Program. For more details on how to participate, stop by the Clovis Big R store in Clovis and ask for a Producing Partners application. **Deadline is April 15th** and 4-H or FFA membership will be verified by the County Agent or Ag Teacher prior to member receiving a gift card.

Validation Dates

Validation dates have been scheduled with the FFA advisors. You are **REQUIRED** to attend one of the validation dates to get your animals tagged and DNA pulled. Brand inspectors will be at each validation, so don't forget to bring your bills-of-sale and health certificates (out of state animals only). You can attend any of these dates, you don't have to attend the one in your community. Just pick the one that works best for your schedule. There will be \$5/tag charge due at tag-in. *** Rabbits and Chickens will be required to be validated in person this year... validation dates TBD.*

June 1st (MONDAY)	June 5 th (FRIDAY)	June 6 th (SATURDAY)
Clovis Ag Farm (7-10am) Melrose Ag Farm (6-8pm)	Texico Ag Farm (7-10am) Grady Schools (6-8pm)	Clovis Extension Building (7-10am)

SPECIAL AGE DIVISION RULE CHANGE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CURRY COUNTY FAIRBOARD

Any boy or girl that is 7 years old as of October 1 of the current year is eligible to show in the beef, dairy, swine, sheep, goat, poultry and rabbit junior livestock market shows at the Curry County Fair (market is defined as animals that are eligible for the Junior Livestock Sale ie: Market Heifer, Poultry & Rabbit meat pen etc.). These exhibitors are held accountable by the Curry County Fair Board/Junior Livestock Committee and must attend four 4-H or FFA meetings or other Curry County 4-H and FFA community activities or events and provide a verification form at the time of entry. Animals must be validated during the county fair tag-in process, (verified attendance of the child at tag-in counts as a meeting). Entries will be subject to approval by the Curry County Fair Board.

THIS IS A RULE CHANGE FOR 2026!!

Membership for 4-H and FFA are not required. Verification forms will be available from the Curry County Extension Office. Reach out to the Curry County Fair Board for more information.



Steer & Heifer Tag-In April 31st & May 1st

Call the office to schedule a time for us to come and tag your steers and heifers. If you have a production steer that you plan on showing at the NM State Fair, we will need to pull DNA.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

The Curry County Fair is scheduled for
August 10-15, 2026.

REMINDER:

All youth showing livestock are REQUIRED to attend at least four (4) club meetings. Absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS will be made.

Curry County Fair 4-H Sweepstakes Award

The Sweepstakes Award is an achievement award available to 4-H members in recognition of participation in the 4-H Indoor Projects at the Curry County Fair. A member is eligible to win as a Novice, Junior or Senior member; however, they may only win once in their 4-H career. Sponsors provide award funding annually. All funds contributed to the Sweepstakes Award go to the winner (this will not be less than \$500, but could be more, depending on sponsorships). Any member wishing to compete for the Sweepstakes Award must declare his/her intent to the County Extension Office by **May 1**. Members who do not declare by the deadline, will not be eligible in that year. In order to be eligible, a member must enter at least 45 exhibits in the 4-H Division. Of these, at least 15 must be in the 4-H Project section (meaning they must be enrolled in the appropriate projects to exhibit). The remainder can be any combination of project and open 4-H exhibits. The winner will be determined by points (points will be awarded based on placings and shall be cumulative for all exhibits entered in the 4-H Division by the exhibitor). If you have questions, please contact Mindy.

Stay Connected

**Find us on
Facebook:
NMSU Curry
County 4-H**

**Check your
email:
Look in your
junk, spam or
promo folder
and add us to
your safe
senders. If you
are not
receiving
emails, contact
the Extension
Office.**

**Read your
newsletter
and post-
cards!**

**Find past
newsletters
and info at
[https://curry
extension.n
msu.edu/](https://curry.extension.nmsu.edu/)**

4-H ENROLLMENT

- *Enrollment is open from October 1- March 1.*
- *Previous/Current Members Enrollment Deadline – January 15*
 - *Have been a member of 4-H in 2024-2025 or prior*
- *New Membership Enrollment Deadline– March 1st*
 - *Have never been enrolled in 4-H and are brand new members*
- The deadline to add projects is July 1.

4-H AGES for the 2025-2026 4-H Year

	Cloverbud	Novice	Junior	Senior
Grade*	K, 1 st , 2 nd	3 rd , 4 th , 5 th	6 th , 7 th	8 th & Up
Age as of January 1, 2026 - the current 4-H Year (October- September)	5, 6, 7 – 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.

*Grade as of January 1 of the current 4-H year (October-September).

Accordingly, youth participate in summer and fall fair activities in the grade they just completed. These are standard grades based on public school general ages. Exceptions such as home or private schools or youth who have skipped a grade must be determined under the appropriate age.

Active Membership

Curry County 4-H members must maintain an “Active Membership” status prior to participation in 4-H Rodeo, County Contests, District and State Conference, or Junior Divisions of the Curry County Fair. An “active” member will be considered one who completes enrollment prior to *January 15th or March 1*, attends four (4) or more regularly scheduled 4-H meetings. No more than two (2) meetings in any given month will count toward the membership requirement. Meetings count during the 4-H year which is October 1st through September 30th.

Curry County 4-H Dates to Remember

DATE	EVENT
April 10	Show Savvy Workshop – Curry County Extension Office 6pm
April 15	<i>Deadline for State Shoot entries Big R Producing Parters Applications Due</i>
April 17-19	Youth Get Away - Glorieta
April 24	<i>4-H Beekeeping Essay Due – info in last newsletter and on facebook</i>
April 27	<i>Horse Certificates Due</i>
April 28	Curry County Council Bowling Party - Hooks' Alley 6-8 pm
April 30-May 1 st	Steer & Heifer Tag-In/Validation
May 1st	<i>Deadline to declare entry for 4-H Sweepstakes</i>
June 1-6	Junior Livestock Validation/Tag-In Dates
June 16-18	Southeast District Contest – Quay County
<i>July 1</i>	<i>Last Day to Add Projects</i>
July 14-17	State 4-H Conference
August 10-15	Curry County Fair
September 10-20	NM State Fair
October 5-10	Eastern NM State Fair



Notes from the NMSU Campus



April – Celebrate Your Decision!

National College Decision Day is May 1, and it's your time to celebrate your choice! If you've decided on NMSU, be sure to confirm your spot and sign up for New Student Orientation. Let the countdown to college begin! Start at awo.nmsu.edu.



CURRY COUNTY 4-H CONTESTS

2026

4-H LOOKS GOOD ON YOU



Contest Countdown Orientation & Sign UP

Drop in to the Extension Office on any
one of the following days to:

- View available contests and learn what they are about.
- Sign up to participate in county contests.
- Get your first score – you will be able to complete a portion of your contest for a practice credit.

Friday, May 8 – 10 am-6 pm

Saturday, May 9 – 10 am-3 pm

Monday, May 18 – 5:30-8:30*

***Join us for our County Council Meeting at 6**

The amount of time you need to stay will depend on
how many contests you want to participate in.



County awards and teams for District and State
will be based on practice scores. A participant
must have at least two scores to qualify. Full
practice schedules will be made available after
Contest Countdown Days.

CONTACT MINDY OR KANDY IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS. 575-763-6505