



4-H ALPACA AND LLAMA PROJECT



The 4-H alpaca or llama project helps youth understand the care, breeding, and showing of alpacas and llamas throughout history. In this project youth will:

- Learn to differentiate between llamas and alpacas
- Learn about breeding techniques and heath tips for the alpaca and the llama.
- Explore different ways to show an alpaca and llama.
- Learn and practice animal ownership care and responsibilities.
- Investigate marketing for fiber, breeding or meat products, and how to start a business.

4-H Thrive!

Help Youth:

Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

- Goal Selection:** Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.
- Pursue Strategies:** Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.
- Shift Gears:** Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their character or establish connections.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Learn the difference between the difference between an alpaca and a llama.
- Gather information to determine which animal best fits your lifestyle.
- Identify the names and parts of the alpaca and llama.
- Develop a care management plan for your alpaca or llama.
- Learn proper feeding techniques.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Prepare and participate in an alpaca or llama show.
- Make a decision if you will have breeding animals.
- Compare food labels and make an informed decision on the content and price of the food.
- Learn proper grooming techniques.
- Practice alpaca and llama showmanship steps.
- Keep a diary on the health of your alpaca/llama.

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Understand about breeding and genetics of alpaca/llamas.
- Learn about alpaca/llama care during pregnancy.
- Create a budget for care, breeding and shows for your alpaca/llama.
- Talk to surrounding areas interested in alpaca/llama breeding and care management.
- Interview an alpaca/llama farm to see how they run their business.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.



Expand Your Experiences!

Healthy Living

- Discuss the necessity and practice of washing your hands before and after handling your alpaca/llama.
- Discuss your alpacas/llamas life expectancy, what to look for when they get older, and how you may feel when they die.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Explore the need for bio-security measures when handling animals.
- Create a list of recommendations for competitive shows for alpacas/llamas.
- Create a list of differences between the different breeds of alpacas (Suri & Huacaya).

Citizenship

- Use the confidence obtained through showing and presentations in all aspects of life.
- Bring your alpacas/llamas to the fair to teach others about this wonderful and unique breed of animals.
- Use showing/raising of alpacas/llamas as a cultural exchange with other nations.

Leadership

- Teach people the importance of caring for animals.
- Become a role model for others by taking the position of a Jr. or Teen Leader.
- Mentor younger members to learn how to show their animal.

Resources

- Alpaca Care
<http://www.alpaca.com/alpacacareanddiet.cfm>
- Llama Care
<http://www.philollamas.com/basics.htm>
- Alpaca Fiber
<http://www.alpaca.com/alpacafiber.cfm>
- Alpaca and Llama Diseases
<http://www.merckmanuals.com/vet/exotic-and-laboratory-animals/llamas-and-alpacas/diseases-of-llamas-and-alpacas.html>
- Alpaca History
<http://www.bonnydoonalpacas.org/index-2.html>

Connections & Events

Presentation Days – Share your knowledge through an alpaca/llama presentation. Create an Educational Display or a Power Point Presentation.

Field Days – These events allow 4-H members to learn more in depth knowledge about all types of animal projects prior to committing to them. Sometimes they show you the potential cost and a responsibilities.

County/State Fairs: Enter your alpaca/llama in showmanship classes and show others what you have learned in the project.

Curriculum

- New Hampshire 4-H Alpaca and Llama Project
<http://extension.unh.edu/4-H-Animal-and-Ag-Science/4-H-AlpacaLlama-Page>
- Lama Showmanship Rules and Guidelines
www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/docs/Lama-Showmanship-Curriculum.pdf

4-H Record Book

4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit
<http://ucanr.edu/orb/>

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