

4-H Llama Project



SNAPSHOT 4H1627

CURRICULA & RESOURCES

Resources

- » eXtension: <http://www.extension.org/pages/68963/camelid-welfare-faqs#U6BbHbEnFik>
- » 4-H Leader's Manual for Llama Activities (Washington State University Extension): <http://4h.wsu.edu/em2778cd/pdf/em4891.pdf>
- » The International Llama Registry : <https://secure.lamaregistry.com/>
- » Llama and Alpaca Resource Handbook (The Ohio State University Extension): <http://estore.osu-extension.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=2628>



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Llamas are a wonderful addition to a family farm and make great pets for anybody. The 4-H llama project helps you explore to find the kind of llama that fits into your family's lifestyle. It will enable you to be an excellent trainer and caretaker of your llama.

- » Learn major llama breeds and identify their characteristics.
- » Study responsibility of llama ownership.
- » Demonstrate llama care and management in feeding, handling, keeping records, grooming and fitting.
- » Learn llama health regulations, first aid and simple treatments for ailments.
- » Explore careers related to animal science.

THE BIG PICTURE

Starting out:

- » Gather information to choose the right llama for you and your family.
- » Learn about the proper care, grooming and feeding of your llama.
- » Learn how to identify the parts of a llama.
- » Create a management plan for your llama.
- » Purchase the appropriate grooming equipment and use proper grooming techniques on your llama.
- » Practice appropriate training for your llama.
- » Learn the various body language signs of your llama's personality.

Learning more:

- » Plan a training and exercise program for your llama.
- » Prepare your llama for participation in shows.
- » Make a decision about breeding or not breeding your llama.
- » Determine what type of feed your llama will need to meet its nutritional requirements.
- » Learn the proper way to present your llama.

Expanding horizons:

- » Create a trainer's diary to assist you when working with your llama.
- » Create a llama ownership budget plan.
- » Help a friend make a decision about owning a llama.
- » Research diseases in llamas.
- » Identify symptoms and a course of action if your llama gets sick.
- » Research career options dealing with llamas





FOCUS ON LLAMAS

Science

- » Explore the parts and functions of a llama's digestive system.
- » Monitor the effect of environmental conditions on your llama.
- » Learn about pack behavior and compare it to your own llama's behavior.
- » Investigate the by-products that can be obtained from llamas.

Citizenship & Leadership

- » Volunteer at a local llama farm.
- » Write a letter to your local paper about the importance of raising llamas.
- » Organize a llama show for your club.
- » Hold a training session for community members to teach them about showing llamas.

Communication

- Prepare a poster or demonstration on:
- » How to approach an unfamiliar llama safely.
 - » How to prepare a llama for showing.
 - » How to train a llama for showing.
 - » How to select a nutritional diet.
 - » How to select the llama species that fits your family.

Life Skills

- » Use critical-thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills to help you make good decisions about project management.
- » Keep records on your project expenses and income.
- » Practice personal resiliency through successes and challenges in your project.



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- » Contact your local Michigan State University (MSU) Extension office for workshops, activities and events.
- » Job shadow at a local business (veterinary clinic, breeder or groomer) in a llama-related career that interests you.
- » Go to local and area llama shows and explore the differences in llama breeds and the different ways they are shown.
- » Explore health safety issues with llamas and the diseases llamas have that might make humans ill.
- » Explore what kinds of llamas make the best pets and which are used for production.
- » Research all the kinds of parasites your llama might get and find out how to protect yourself and your llama.
- » Do some comparison shopping for llama supplies.
- » Explore what kind of restrictions and laws your community might have on llamas.
- » Explore the uses and benefits of animal-assisted therapy.
- » Attend a 4-H llama project meeting.
- » Complete a llama project record book to track your income, expenses and experiences with your llama.
- » If you are interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine, visit MSU's website at www.msu.edu to explore those majors.

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