



LLAMAS AND ALPACAS



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

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

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN LEARN...

STARTING OUT

- ✿ Learn llama history
- ✿ Learn the importance of keeping health records
- ✿ Identify breed characteristics and external and internal parts
- ✿ Learn how to care for a cria
- ✿ Identify different types of fibers
- ✿ Plan safe shelter and fencing for a llama
- ✿ Learn about grooming and showing

LEARNING MORE

- ✿ Understand registration papers
- ✿ Recognize llama and alpaca behavior and body language
- ✿ Recognize the differences between llamas and alpacas
- ✿ Identify llama gaits
- ✿ Evaluate llama fibers
- ✿ Learn about llama nutrition
- ✿ Learn basic llama safety and health
- ✿ Learn about the performance classes and the costume class
- ✿ Learn the steps to spin yarn

GOING FURTHER

- ✿ Learn about llama hierarchy
- ✿ Learn about llama social behavior and temperament
- ✿ Identify llama structure and evaluate performance
- ✿ Identify different types of llama teeth and their uses
- ✿ Learn how to body condition score a llama
- ✿ Learn about llama reproduction
- ✿ Explore careers related to this project

RESOURCES

- ✿ *Llamas & Alpacas, Book 1* (4-H 996)
- ✿ *Llamas & Alpacas, Book 2* (4-H 997)
- ✿ *Llamas & Alpacas, Book 3* (4-H 998)
- ✿ *Llama & Alpacas, Helper's Guide* (<https://extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/4H/4-H-999-W.pdf>)

TAKE IT FURTHER!

- ✿ Discuss the necessity and practice of washing your hands before and after handling your alpaca/llama
- ✿ Discuss your alpaca's/llama's life expectancy, what to look for when they get older, and how you may feel when they die
- ✿ Explore the need for bio-security measures when handling animals
- ✿ Create a list of recommended competitive shows for alpacas/llamas
- ✿ Create a list of differences between the different breeds of alpacas
- ✿ Teach people the importance of caring for animals
- ✿ Job shadow at a local business (veterinary clinic, breeder or groomer) in a llama-related career that interests you
- ✿ Go to 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
- ✿ Do a speech or demonstration at Showcase Showdown about your llama project
- ✿ Investigate llama by-products
- ✿ Contact a guardian llama placement program and find out more about the program

ENHANCE YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Write a letter to your local paper about the importance of raising llamas

Make a poster or do a demonstration about how to safely approach a llama or alpaca

GET INVOLVED IN CITIZENSHIP AND SERVICE

Volunteer at a local llama or alpaca farm

Bring your alpacas/llamas to the fair or a community event to teach others about this wonderful and unique breed of animals

LEARN ABOUT LEADERSHIP

Hold a training session for your community members to teach them about showing llama

Teach younger members how to learn how to show their animal

EXHIBIT IDEAS

- ✿ Show your llama or alpaca at your county fair or the Wyoming State Fair
- ✿ Make a poster of llama external or internal parts
- ✿ Make a timeline of the history of llamas or alpacas
- ✿ Make a craft using fibers from llamas or alpacas
- ✿ Create a display showing the different types of llama or alpaca fibers
- ✿ Make a model of a llama ear or eye
- ✿ Make a poster to show the before and after of grooming a llama
- ✿ Create a scrapbook of a llama pack trip you took
- ✿ Create a display showing how to pack a llama for a trip
- ✿ Create a glossary of commonly used llama terms
- ✿ Create a poster showing you or an adult trimming your llamas feet
- ✿ Design an obstacle, pack or public relations course that could be used in a show
- ✿ Show how plants grow differently if they are fertilized by llama manure vs. no fertilizer
- ✿ Create a poster comparing a llama harness to a horse harness

Issued in furtherance of extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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