



2009 Lama (Llama & Alpaca) Information Sheet

Prepared by the 4-H State Fair Lama Show Committee, the Minnesota 4-H Lama PDC and the Center for Youth Development

Background

The lama project was new to Minnesota 4-H in 2008. And while it will be considered an animal science project, it does not have a “track record” from which to draw basic information such as ID affidavits, birthdates and even expectations for a fair experience. Some counties already have a lama project. Most do not. Regardless, we fully expect interest in the project to grow. County programs may begin with interest from one or two families. They may have minimal recourses from which to draw. Eventually, we hope to have a 4-H lama project that mirrors other Animal Science projects in terms of enrollment and interest.

There will be growing pains as we begin to define exactly what a Minnesota 4-H lama project will look like. We have begun to shape a program that, in many ways, is similar to our dog agility project. It is not based on confirmation and will require some planning and basic equipment to fulfill the classes we will offer. Every attempt will be made to simplify these requirements such that budgets and other resources are not strapped. We plan to offer a series of basic judge’s trainings to begin to build a qualified judges base. These trainings will not require extensive lama knowledge and will be appropriate in situations where 4-H staff and well-rounded volunteers may be called upon to “judge the county fair lama show.”

This lama information sheet is designed to answer the basic project questions. And it will begin to shape exactly what a fair experience may look like for counties new to the wonderful world of lamas. As previously indicated, there are a handful of county lama projects already. They may already offer more and different classes that we will offer at the state level and the State Fair. This is OK. We will use county program success stories to grow at the state level. For now, we are offering a program and classes that will serve as a solid foundation for growth.

Basic Project Information

Lama: Includes Llamas and Alpacas

Alpaca’s are also eligible for exhibition.

Ownership Requirements

- Lamas exhibited must be owned solely by the member, member’s family or leased by agreement (if leased, complete information on back of LIDA). The family includes the 4-Hers parents or guardians and siblings living together as a family unit. The definition of family includes an extended family where the animals may be owned by grandparents with the 4-Hers family actively involved with and working with the project.
- Lamas must be owned and ID affidavits (LIDA) submitted to extension office by May 15

Leasing Program

- If a 4-Her cannot own their own lama, lamas may be leased by May 15. Leased lama must also be identified by May 15, using the appropriate Lama ID Affidavit (LIDA).

Multiple Use of the Lama

A lama may be identified and exhibited by more than one 4-Her at the county level. However, the same lama may only be exhibited by one 4-Her at the MN State Fair.

Gender

- No sexually intact male above 18 months is eligible for exhibition.
- All castrated males born prior to Jan 1, 2009 are eligible for exhibition.
- All females born prior to Jan 1, 2009 are eligible for exhibition.

Birthdates

4-H Lama Projects must be born prior to January 1, 2009

Breeds – Registered & Grades

Llama's and Alpaca's are eligible to be identified as Minnesota 4-H lama projects. Projects do not need to be purebred or registered.

Identification Details

- Each lama must be identified by submitting the Lama ID affidavit completely filled out along with two legible photos of the lama – one of the head and one of the side profile.
- If a lama is being exhibited by 4-Hers from different families, it must be identified by each family.

Identification Forms & Deadlines

- "Minnesota 4-H Lama Ownership Affidavit" (LIDA) must be returned to your species ID coordinator for submission to the extension office by May 15.
- If an animal is leased, the appropriate "Minnesota 4-H Lease Agreement" must be submitted along with the "Minnesota 4-H Lama Ownership Affidavit" (LIDA) to your species ID coordinator for submission to the extension office by May 15.

Recommended classes for county lama program

It is recommended that 4-H lama programs offer classes that will be offered at the State Fair. These include Showmanship, Obstacle Course and Public Relations. Counties might also consider a costume class. Counties may continue to offer the classes they currently have, but need to consider adding or adjusting existing classes to best prepare 4-Hers for a State Fair experience.

Lama Housing at the County Fair

Ideal County Fair housing for lamas will be box stall housing. They should not be tied. If possible, consider box stall styled housing in goat or sheep barns.

State Fair Lama Experience

The 4-H lama exhibit at the State Fair will coincide with the open class lama show. It **WILL NOT** be a part of livestock weekend. This is necessary due to availability of housing for lamas and 4-Hers, show ring availability and a desire to use open class lama resources. The "lama encampment" will not coincide with a General Encampment or the Livestock Encampment. The dates of the State Fair 4-H Lama Encampment will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, September 2-4, 2009. We have developed a quota system that will hopefully result in a 4-H lama show of 50 head. 4-H lamas must be stalled with the 4-Her lama exhibit – they cannot stall with the open class lama exhibit. 4-H lamas can be entered and exhibited in the open show, however. 4-Hers desiring to participate in open class must complete the open class entry process and follow entry deadlines required by the State Fair.

Dates of State Fair 4-H LAMA ENCAMPMENT & SHOW DETAILS

- **4-H LAMA ENCAMPMENT ~ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**
- 4 H members must be present to show their lamas or forfeit awards and premiums.
- Entries that do not meet the identification requirements will receive no higher than a blue ribbon.

State Fair Health Requirements

There are no special health requirements, health certificates or health papers for lamas. However, unhealthy animals will not be allowed to show. They will be sent home (no premium). It is recommended that lamas be de-wormed within 10 days of the show.

State Fair Interviews ~ age Divisions: Intermediate = grades 6-8, Senior = grades 9-10, Advanced = grades 11 & up+

- Finalists will be called back for an interview and will receive medallions.
- Award Winners will be selected from the Finalists.
- Interviews will be modeled after similar interviews in all other specie

State Fair Showmanship: Age Divisions: Intermediate = grades 6-8, Senior = grades 9-10, Advanced = grades 11 & up

- All 4-Hers must participate in showmanship. No pre-entry is required.
- Ribbons will be awarded to all participants. Champion and Reserve Champion awards will be given for each group.
- Members may not wear advertising of any kind (except the 4-H emblem).

State Fair Grooming Rules and Herdsmanship

- 4-Hers are expected to care for and groom their own lama, except for special needs.
- Animals must be maintained and look presentable to the public from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. daily.
- Animals will be housed on the west side of the Judging arena.
- Signs, including “For Sale” signs, are *not* permitted on pens. Decorations or nameplates are not allowed.
- Display all of your awards (sticker only) on the stall card and replace soiled and torn cards immediately.
- Bedding materials are available daily (7:00-9:00 a.m. & 3:00-5:00 p.m. only).
- Animals should have adequate feed and water.
- You should bring your own feed and water containers.

Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics Training

Like all other 4-H State Fair Livestock Participants; 4-H lama participants must be certified in 4-H Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics. Program Coordinators can provide any details on requirements.

4-H Lodging, Meals

State Fair 4-H Lama participants will have access to 4-H building lodging and, similar to livestock weekend, 4-Her meals will be delivered to the lama barn. 4-Hers will pay normal lodging, meal, and program fees and will sign up for these services along with all other 4-Hers during the regular State Fair registration process. 4-Hers not staying in the 4-H Building must complete and submit the appropriate housing release forms.

Eligibility for Other 4-H Livestock or General Encampment Trips

A 4-H lama trip will be treated similar to any other livestock trip with respect to premiums and eligibility or other 4-H participation. Lama participants **CAN** accept another 4-H livestock trip **AND** can participate in a General Encampment, county Arts-Ins, Share the Fun and judging teams. With this in mind, a few lama participants may experience a conflict if they are scheduled for General Encampment judging during the Lama Encampment. Lama participants also participating in General Encampments 2 or 3 with lama judging times that directly conflicting with scheduled General Project Judging should notify local 4-H staff who will report conflicts to State Fair staff who will attempt to satisfy both commitments. About Lama demonstrations...4-Hers are encouraged demonstrate in the lama project. Those that earn State Fair demonstration trips will be scheduled during the Lama Encampment and are eligible for the same cash incentives as offered to other 4-H livestock demonstrators.

State Fair Tentative Lama Schedule

Wednesday

Arrive by noon

2-4 PM ID Verification and Interviews (required)

6 PM Costume competition (optional)

Thursday

5 PM Obstacle Course Evaluation (required)

Public Relations Evaluation (required)

Friday

8 AM Showmanship (required)

Supervision and Chaperoning

It is not expected that each county will provide chaperones for their lama participants. Instead, State Fair 4-H will secure 3-5 "lama chaperones/counselors" that will function with similar responsibilities as other State Fair 4-H chaperones and/or camp counselors. They will engage with participants, troubleshoot individual situations and perform nightly check-in tasks. These may be paid positions and anyone interested in serving in this capacity should connect with Brad Rugg; State Fair 4-H Superintendent at 612-624-8443 or ruggx002@umn.edu