

1st Year Llama/Alpaca
Information Night
2025



Project Interview

June 28, 2025

- This is a sit-down interview with a judge where you can show and tell what you have learned this year.
- Dress nicely and make sure to introduce yourself to the judge politely.
- Bring your finished llama/alpaca project book so the judge can look through it and you can talk about how you completed it.
- Bring a poster or some type of project about llamas/alpacas. The poster/project should display something you have learned this year. For example, you could create a poster about the fiber of Suri vs. Huacaya alpacas. This can be linked to your topic of interest or learning goals from your project book.
- The judge will ask you questions about your project book and what you have learned and enjoyed. Make sure you have looked through your project book, so you are ready to answer the judge's questions.
- Speak loudly and clearly. Make eye contact. Have good posture. Interview skills are extremely important, and this is a great chance to practice!

Member Project Guide

Introduction

Truly successful 4-H members learn about their project llamas or alpacas and are familiar with their care, management, and training. As you complete the activities in this Member Project Guide, remember that you can choose activities that are truly interesting to you. What is it about llamas and alpacas that you really like? Keep your interests in mind as you plan your project. Choosing what you want means that you will learn and have fun.

Topics of Interest

Select and study one or more topics from the 4-H Llama and Alpaca Resource Handbook. What topic is especially interesting to you? Select one that is covered in the handbook and write a short statement that describes it. Depending on your age and skill level, your topic can be simple or complex. Use the following page to write a summary that explains in more detail what you learned about it.

You can complete as many topics of interest as you want, but you must do at least one

Topic of Interest Complete at least one. If necessary, attach additional pages.	Date Started	Date Completed
<i>Example: The Camelid family, which includes llamas and alpacas, is a large and diverse group.</i>	3/11/YR	3/31/YR

new one each year. Remember to record the dates each interest area is started and completed.

Your topic of interest can be from any of these chapters in the 4-H Llama and Alpaca Resource Handbook. To keep learning more about llamas and alpacas, choose topics from different chapters each year you complete a llama or alpaca project.

- About Llamas and Alpacas (origin of the species and basic anatomy)
- Uses of Llamas and Alpacas
- Selection
- Health Management Practices and Conditions
- Nutrition
- Reproduction
- Grooming, Shearing, and Showing
- Environmental Concerns
- Training and Packing

Member Project Guide

Topic of Interest Summary

Use this space to summarize one of the topics of interest you studied. Tell how the information you learned affects the way you manage, train, and care for your llama or alpaca. If you need more space or if you complete more than one topic area, attach additional pages as needed.

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Poster Contest



- Posters will be turned in after the barn meeting on the Monday of the fair. Turn in at the info table in the llama/alpaca barn.
- Posters will be judged on educational content (50 pts.), neatness & appearance (30 pts.), and originality (20 pts.).
- Posters must be made using 22" x 28" posterboard, displayed horizontally.
- Each poster must be clearly labeled in the lower right corner, in a space no larger than 3" x 5" with the exhibitor's name, 4-H club, and age as of Jan. 1, 2025.
- Posters will be displayed in the llama/alpaca barn and winners will be announced at the showmanship/obstacles show.
- All poster requirements/guidelines are posted in the fair book and on our club website.

NUTRITIONAL NEEDS




DIET

ONLY APPROVED: THE GRASS AND HAY



WATER




AGE



IF YOU CHOOSE TO EATEN FEED



ADULT



Int 202



Fiber characteristics:

- ↳ Soft and bulky
- ↳ Fine and soft
- ↳ Good choice for
- ↳ Resistant to

COLORS OF ALPACA



Fiber characteristics:

- ↳ Fine and silky
- ↳ Fine to coarse
- ↳ Fine for sweater yarn
- ↳ Difficult to spin

Fiber length:

4 to 6 inches

USES OF FIBER:

- ↳ Socks
- ↳ Artistic woven items
- ↳ Garments
- ↳ Hats
- ↳ Bags

USES OF FIBER:

- ↳ Sweaters
- ↳ Blankets
- ↳ Hats
- ↳ Bags

MOST DESIRED COLORS:

- **WHITE**
Since their white fleeces can be dyed.
- **GREY**
It is popular for making
- **BLACK**
True black Alpaca fur is hard to find

TOUCH & FEEL



Jr. 102

Predicting Fiber Color in Alpaca Crias!



What is a cria?



There are 32 fiber colors recognized for fiber marketing purposes in alpaca.

To predict the cria's fiber color, you need to look at their parents' and grandparents' fiber colors.

You will not be guessing, but it will be based on **SCIENCE**.

SCIENCE:
You'll need to understand a little bit about genetics and color dominance.

To help you understand it better, let's use **CARDS!**

as an example, using typical card value order:
Ace High, King King, Queen Queen, Five Jack

For the basic colors, there is a gene and it has two copies or alleles. One is from their mom and one is from their dad.
The color allele with the highest dominance - **BEATS** - or shows up and determines the color of the cria.

The 4 main colors of alpaca fiber is **ALLELE DOMINANCE ORDER** are White, Fawn, Brown and Black.



Deal me in!

Ace = White



King = Fawn



Queen = Brown



Jack = Black

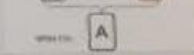


It is the luck of the draw!!

Cria Example

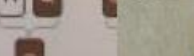
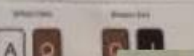


If a cria is **DEALT** a Queen from its dad and an Ace from its mom, which card would be dominant and "win" or show up?



Any, right? **Not allowed!**

The **SAME** parents could end up with a brown cria.

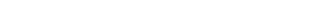
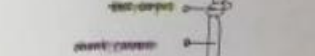
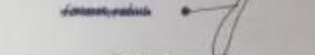
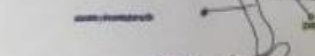
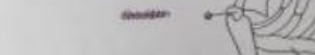
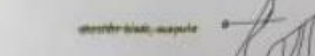
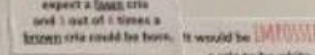
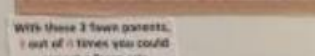
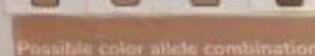


Let's see how well you can guess.

Fawn Fawn



Fawn Black



Possible color allele combinations

With these 2 fawn parents, 1 out of 4 times you could expect a **DEALT** cria and 3 out of 4 times a **BROWN** cria could be born. It would be **IMPOSSIBLE** for a cria to be white and...

Alpaca Behavior 101



Affection
Alpacas are affectionate animals. They will often seek out human contact and will often be seen nuzzling people's faces.



Scolding
Scolding is a behavior that occurs when the alpaca is looking down and its mouth is open. It is a warning sign that the alpaca is displeased or angry.



Prodding
Prodding is a behavior that occurs when the alpaca is nudging or poking someone. It is a way of saying 'back off' or 'give space'.



Stomping
Stomping is a behavior that occurs when the alpaca is using its front legs to push something away. It is a sign of displeasure or anger.



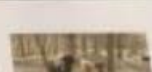
Fleeing
When an alpaca panics or is scared, it will flee. It is a natural instinct to run away from danger or fear.



Spitting
Alpacas spit when they are displeased. It is a way of saying 'back off' or 'give space'. Spitting is most common when the alpaca is fed or when it is stressed.



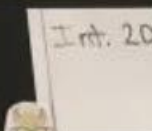
Fighting
Alpaca fighting can be very intense. It is a way of saying 'back off' or 'give space'. Fighting is most common when the alpaca is fed or when it is stressed.



Social Hierarchy
A social hierarchy within alpacas is called 'dominance'. Usually, there is one alpaca that leads the group.



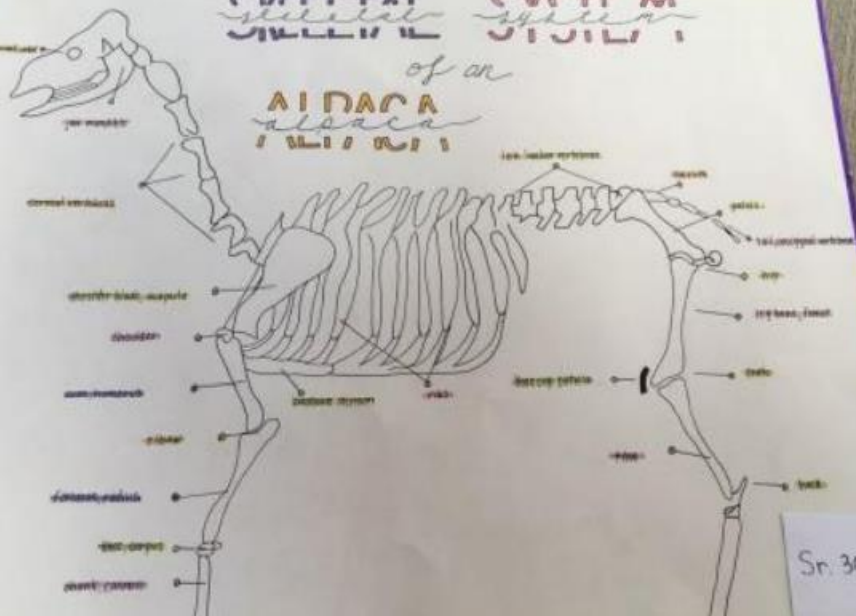
Human Interaction
Human interaction is how alpacas respond to humans. They can be friendly and go right up to the bottom or get shy and avoid the human.



Unit: 201

Handwritten Title

of an ALPACA



Sr. 303

FAIR EVENTS AND TIPS



EVENTS/SHOWING

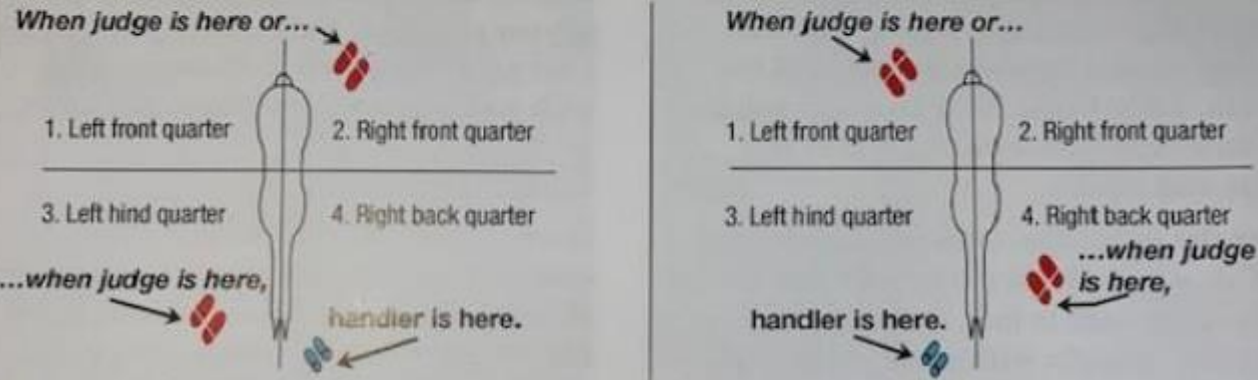
SHOWMANSHIP-

What happens during showing?

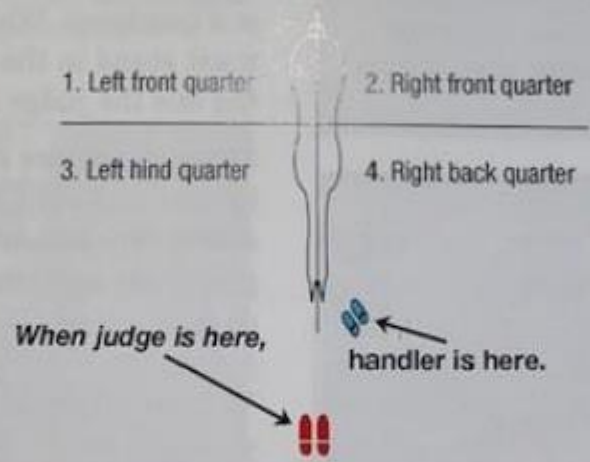
- When entering the arena stay on the left side of your animal.
- Keep good eye contact with the judge. Show the judge you are paying attention and are focused.
- The judge will have you walk your animal around the arena. Eventually, the judge will have you line up with your animal.
- When lined up with your animal make sure that you keep eye contact and stand to the side of your animal almost at a 45-degree angle. (Quadrants)
- At all times you want to make sure that your animal is in between you and the judge.
- The judge might come up to you ask you questions about your animal like is your alpaca a Huacaya or Suri. Sometimes they might ask you about the body parts or other alpaca facts. (If they ask about body parts don't point to a body part. Ex: Where is the Loin? Answer to give: Loin is between croup and back.)

In resource book page 73-76

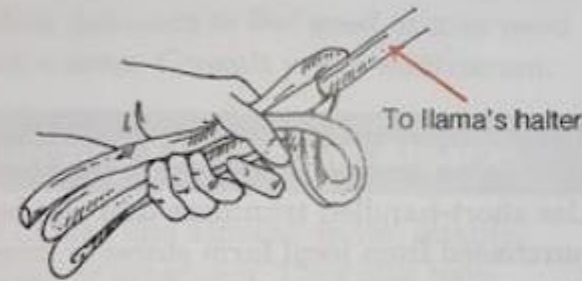
Quadrants with Positions of Judge and Handler



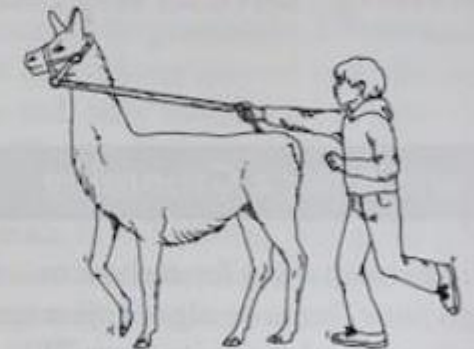
In resource book page 69-70



Handling the Lead Rope



Correct: The rope is held in a loose coil in one hand, while the other is free to hold or move the llama. The rope can be dropped in an emergency. Hold the lead rope in one hand approximately two or three feet from the llama's halter.



Incorrect: The rope is wrapped tightly around one hand and cannot be easily dropped. The llama can get in front of the person, and when this happens, the animal is difficult to control.

SHOWING CLOTHES

- Wear a white long sleeve shirt with black long pants. You can also wear short sleeve club polo shirt.
- Wear closed-toe shoes. They can be boots or a black pair of shoes.



SHOWMANSHIP VIDEO





EVENTS/SHOWING

OBSTACLES

- There will be a course of obstacles for you and your animal to go through. You will be familiar with some of the obstacles, but some of them will be new.
- The judge will follow you as you complete each obstacle.
- There will be a time limit to complete all obstacles. You may try an obstacle more than once, but when the time limit is reached, you will not be able to attempt any more obstacles.
- Partial points will be given even if the obstacle is not completed perfectly.



OBSTACLES USED
INCLUDE:



Ladder



Streamers



Tire



Bucket



Tarp

EVENTS/SHOWING

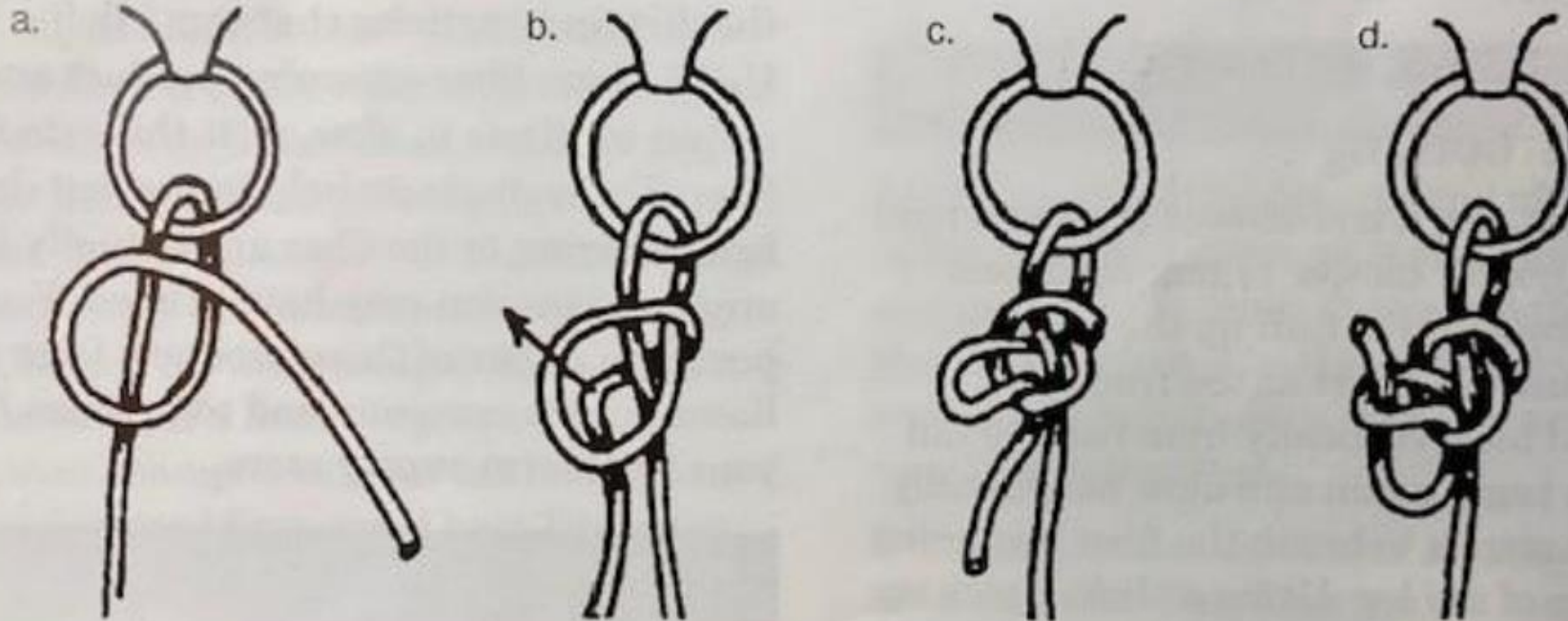
Public Relations

- Public relations shows how well you and your animal handle public situations.
- There will be a combination of obstacles and questions/scenarios presented by a judge.
- Possible questions include “What are alpacas/llamas used for?” or “Demonstrate how to tie a quick release knot.” Hint... look in your resource book. 😊

In resource book pages 69-70

Quick Release Knot

Often used when an animal will be tied for a brief time, the quick release knot can be quickly untied. It remains stable, but the knot gets tighter if the animal pulls on it. It is not as reliable for long term use as the bowline. To untie knot, pull end back out of loop, and keep pulling. Knot will swiftly unravel.



- Pass rope through ring or around a post. Make a loop in the free end of the rope, and place it over the standing part.
- Pass the free end behind both the standing part of the rope and the loop. Push a "bight" or loop through the first loop.

- Pull on loop to tighten the knot.
- To keep the animal from pulling on the free end of the rope and untying the knot, pass the end through the loop.

FUN SHOW

Costumes and Surprise Fun Event

- You and your animal will dress up in coordinating costumes. You will write a short story about your costumes that will be read while you walk around the show ring.
- Costumes are judged on creativity and animal coverage. The more of your animal that is covered, the better.
- After the costume class, there is a fun event such as the limbo, tunnel race, etc.
- Try draping a towel over your alpaca during spring training sessions to get it used to the feel of a costume.



Skillathon

- Tests your knowledge about alpacas/llamas.
- Study the Resource Book!
- Don't forget to study alpaca/llama body parts



Premier Exhibitor

The Premier Exhibitor Award combines the scores of Public Relations, Obstacles, Skillathon, Showmanship, and Interviews to select and overall top alpaca/llama exhibitor.

The top 5 finalists are announced Thursday and the winner is announced at the Showman of Showmen Contest on Friday night of the fair.



How to Sign Up for Fair Events

- * Online Fair Registration Begins in May and must be completed by the deadline – usually mid June.
- * You will sign up for the fair events you want participate in
- * We recommend you sign up for ALL the events. events at the fair, but you cannot add events.



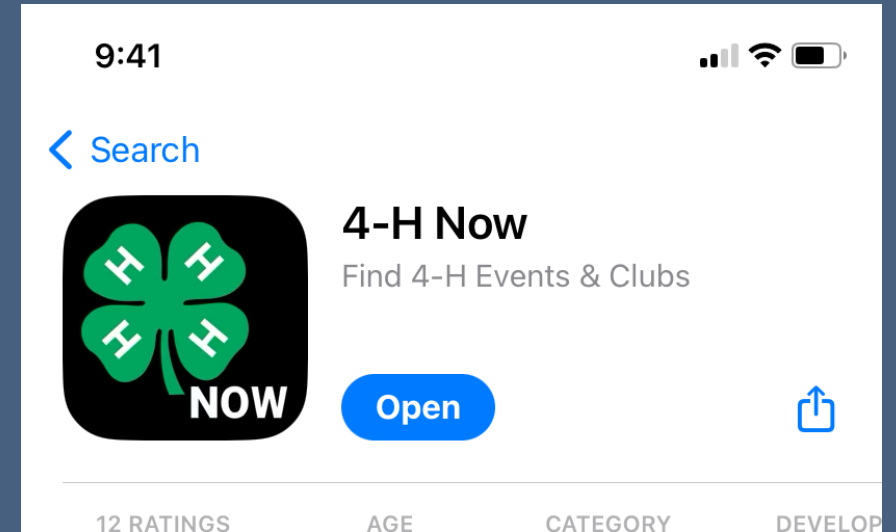
FAIR RESPONSIBILITIES



- Get your alpacas out of their pens during the day. You want to get your alpacas out to walk and also let them get used to the new surroundings and environment.
- Clean up around you and the barn. Make sure that the barn is clean by sweeping the floors from hay and other messes.
- Make sure you clean up after your animal. Keep your animal stalls clean as well as giving your animal fresh water.
- Barn sitting. Sign up for a shift to barn sit. You watch the animals and keep the barn kept clean. You can inform the public about alpacas and answer questions the public might have.

4-H Now App

- Fair Book for all projects
- Fair Schedule
- Quick links to important 4-H info
(camp info, fair entry, project central)





Fair Passes

Youth 4-H members and Cloverbuds will receive a fair wristband which allows entrance into the fair for the week. It does not include Rides.

Our club pays the \$10 fee for wristbands for Primary Members. These wristbands can be picked up at the fairgrounds the weekend before the fair.

Weekly fair passes can be purchased at the Fair Office for parents, siblings, etc. They usually cost around \$35-\$40.

There is no charge for parking, however, Preferred Parking can be purchased. Preferred Parking will give you an assigned parking spot for the week closer to the barns.

Need Help???

Just ask! There are lots of 4-Hers and parents who would love to help!.

