



2024 Llama - Alpaca information sheet

Prepared by the 4-H State Fair Llama - Alpaca Show Committee and the Department of Youth Development

This information sheet gives details on the rules for this year's Minnesota 4-H Llama-Alpaca Project. Although some counties may follow slightly different guidelines, these rules will apply at the state level and at the Minnesota State Fair 4-H Show.

This llama - alpaca information sheet is designed to answer the basic project questions. It will begin to shape exactly what a fair experience may look like for counties new to the wonderful world of llama - alpacas. There are a handful of county llama - alpaca projects already which may offer different classes than what is offered 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.

Llama - Alpaca: includes llamas and alpacas

Details regarding appropriate dress codes for all state fair livestock shows:

Official 4-H Show Shirts are required to be worn by all exhibitors. This is for state fair shows only. Species specific show attire information is available at z.umn.edu/ShowRingAttire.

Animal ID deadline for 2024 - May 15, 2024 for breeding beef, dairy, dairy goat, dog, horse, llama - alpaca, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep and swine. Contact [your local 4-H office](#) for more information.

Ownership requirements

Ownership Requirements for all 4-H Animal Science Projects are uniform for 4-H Beef, Cats/Pets, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Dog, Horse, Llama - Alpaca, Meat Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep and Swine Projects. Animals must be owned solely by the 4-H'er or the 4-H'ers family. The family includes the 4-H'ers parents/guardians and siblings living together as a family unit. The definition of family includes an extended family where the animal may be owned by grandparents as long as the 4-H'ers parents are actively involved with and working on the farm. Animals owned in partnership with non-family members (as defined above) must be leased and follow lease guidelines. All information must be submitted by May 15 with 4-H Online data (Market Beef and Dairy Steer Information must be submitted by February 15). Market animals (with the exception of prospect calves) cannot be leased.

All Animal Ownership and Identification Deadlines:

- February 15: Market beef (beef steers, market heifers and dairy steers).
- May 15: Breeding beef, dairy, dairy goats, dog, horse, llama - alpaca, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, swine. Fryer rabbits (should be 70 days old at show) 4-H'er must own the doe of fryer rabbits and doe must be identified by May 15.
- NOTE: Families will not be able to self identify the following project animals after May 15th in 4-H Online. To meet the ID deadline for the following animals, a paper copy of the Dairy, Dairy Goat and Meat Goat ID Worksheet must be submitted to your local county Extension Office no later than the set deadline:
 - June 1: Jr. meat goat doe kids
 - June 1: Dairy spring calves
 - July 1: Jr. doe kid dairy goats

Ownership Clarifications

Leasing information

- 4-H llama - alpacas are eligible to be leased.
- Leased animals must follow the guidelines in the Minnesota 4-H Animal Science Lease Program Fact Sheet. All ID information and the Minnesota 4-H Animal Science Lease Information Form must be submitted by May 15 with 4-H Online data.
- **The same animal is eligible to be leased by more than one family unit. Leased 4-H llama - alpacas may be shown by others at any show except at the State Fair.**

Multiple use of the llama - alpaca

A llama - alpaca may be identified and exhibited by more than one 4-H'er at the county level. However, the same llama - alpaca may only be exhibited by one 4-H'er at the Minnesota State Fair. You can show multiple llamas - alpacas at the county fair but the animal shown in showmanship class at county level is the animal eligible for state fair trips.

Minnesota 4-H State Fair Grooming/Fitting Rule

- **All grooming** of livestock at the fair, including clipping, trimming and manipulation of the hair/wool (such as blocking on sheep, pulling up hair on beef and working up top lines on dairy) must be clearly done by the exhibitor, members of the immediate family or any other registered Minnesota 4-H member. Immediate family members are defined as being parents, step parents, legal guardians, grandparents, brothers or sisters. The 4-H'er exhibiting the animal should be present and involved in the fitting process at the fair. (Note: County level 4-H exhibitions may have adaptations to this rule. Check with your local Extension Educator for county level grooming rules).

Minnesota Board of Animal Health requirements for exhibitions, county and state fairs

Gender and birthdates

- No sexually intact male above 18 months is eligible for exhibition.
- 4-H Llama - Alpaca projects must be born prior to January 1, 2024.
- No companion animals (no buddies, no crias and no nursing mothers allowed).

Breeds - registered and grades

Projects do not need to be purebred or registered.

Identification details, forms and deadlines

Also refer to [your county ID letter online](#).

- If a llama - alpaca is being exhibited by 4-H'ers from different families, it must be identified by each family.
- Llama - alpacas must be owned and ID data submitted to the extension office by May 15.
- Llama - alpaca ID data must be submitted along with two legible photos of the llama - alpaca — one of the head and one of the side profile — by May 15 to your species ID coordinator, the ID data entered in 4-H Online or the ID worksheet submitted to your county extension office by May 15 deadline.

- If an animal is leased, the appropriate “Minnesota 4-H Lease Information Form” must be submitted along with the ID data entered online or the ID worksheet submitted to your county extension office, by May 15.

Recommended classes for county llama - alpaca program

It is recommended that 4-H llama - alpaca 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-H'ers for a state fair experience.

Llama - alpaca housing at the county fair

Ideal county fair housing for llama - alpacas will be box stall housing. They should not be tied. If possible, consider box stall styled housing in goat or sheep barns.

State Fair llama - alpaca experience

The 4-H llama - alpaca exhibit at the state fair will coincide with the open class llama - alpaca show. It WILL NOT be a part of livestock weekend. This is necessary due to the availability of housing for llama - alpacas and 4-H'ers, show ring availability and a desire to use open class llama - alpaca resources. The “llama - alpaca encampment” will not coincide with a General Encampment or the Livestock Encampment. The dates of the State Fair 4-H Llama - Alpaca Encampment will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 28, August 29 and August 30, 2024. 4-H llama - alpacas must be stalled with the 4-H llama - alpaca exhibit — they cannot stall with the open class llama - alpaca exhibit. 4-H llama - alpacas can be entered and exhibited in the open show. 4-H'ers desiring to participate in open class must complete the open class entry process and follow entry deadlines required by the state fair.

Dates of the State Fair 4-H Livestock Encampment and show times

4-H llama - alpaca encampment: August 28, August 29 and August 30, 2024

- 4-H members must be present to show their llama-alpacas or forfeit awards and premiums.
- Entries that do not meet the identification requirements will receive no higher than a blue ribbon.

State Fair llama - alpaca interviews

Age divisions: intermediate (grades 6-8), senior (grades 9-10), advanced (grades 11+)

- All 4-H llama - alpaca exhibitors are required to complete the interview quiz process or they will only be eligible for blue, red or white placings - no champions, trophies or special awards in required classes (Public Relations, Obstacle, and Showmanship).
- Finalists will be called back for an interview and will receive recognition.
- Award Winners will be selected from the finalists.
- Interviews will be modeled after similar interviews in all other species.

State Fair showmanship, obstacle and public relations

Age divisions: intermediate (grades 6-8), senior (grades 9-10), advanced (grades 11+)

- All 4-H'ers must participate in showmanship, obstacle and public relations.

- All classes require completely enclosed footwear, dark pants (in good condition), and current year's official show shirt.

Llama - alpaca poster contest

Age divisions: grades K-2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8 and grades 9+

- Any 4-H'er enrolled in the llama - alpaca Project may enter a poster. You do not have to be exhibiting a llama - alpaca at the state fair to enter.
- There are two categories: 1) Promoting 4-H llama - alpacas and 2) Education 4-H llama - alpaca.
- Poster size must be 14"W x 22"H, portrait orientation required (larger sized posters will not be judged). No foam board allowed.
- Posters must be labeled on the back with the 4-H'ers name, grade completed, county and whether it's a promotional or educational poster.
- Posters cannot use copy written materials, i.e., slogans, designs. However, it must include the 4-H emblem. Images used for promotional posters must be original artwork or public domain.
- Each youth may enter: one educational poster, one promotional poster (for a total of 2 posters).
- Posters in grades k-2 will receive participation ribbons only.
- Posters in grades 3-5, 6-8, 9+ are eligible for awards in education and promotion.
- A poster may be selected for use in designing the cover of next year's show program or t-shirt. A design selected for this use must be a flat design that can be clearly reproduced and does not contain any trademarked characters, images, themes or phrases. Some modifications to the design may be made to ensure compliance with University of Minnesota and Minnesota 4-H branding requirements.
- Because of techniques and mechanics of transferring designs to shirts and/or programs, champion posters are not always considered for these promotional items.

State Fair llama - alpaca costume class

Age divisions: intermediate (grades 6-8), senior (grades 9-10), advanced (grades 11+)

- This class is very entertaining for the public and exhibitors. Different themes could be adopted such as sports, story book characters, South American themes, etc. Please remember that cultures are not costumes. Be respectful of diverse cultures and avoid dressing in ways that depict entire groups of people/cultures/ethnicities as "costumes". Judging criteria includes originality, training, degree of llama - alpaca coverage, time and energy involved, etc. The handler is also in costume.
- Handler must wear completely enclosed footwear.
- Safety for the exhibitor and llama - alpaca is key. The costume should be safe for the handler and llama - alpaca, the llama - alpaca's vision cannot be blocked by the costume. **The llama - alpaca and handler must be able to propel itself through the ring. No Riders Allowed. Exhibitor must be on foot.**
- Ribbons will be awarded to all participants. Champion and reserve champion awards will be given.
- Costume class age division will be combined if one of the classes has less than four exhibitors. A typed description of your costume along with your name, llama - alpaca's name, county and fun anecdote, etc. will be completed online during state fair registration.

4-H llama - alpaca costume exhibitors at the Minnesota State Fair will receive an extra premium. Costumes must meet class requirements and will be judged on originality, training of the llama - alpaca, degree of llama - alpaca coverage and time and energy involved. The handler **MUST** also be in costume.

Llama - alpaca fleece judging

- Fleece must be from llama - alpaca shown at the state fair for the current year.
- Fleece must be from current year shearing.
- Fill a gallon zip-lock bag of fleece from current year llama - alpaca and your name on a card. Submit during registration/ID time on Wednesday of the state fair 4-H llama - alpaca Encampment.
- Fleece exhibits will be divided into 3 divisions: intermediate, senior and advanced.
- Results will be given on Thursday.
- All fleece exhibits will be conference judged and returned with their scorecards.

State fair grooming rules and herdsmanship

- **All grooming** of livestock at the fair, including clipping, trimming and manipulation of the hair/wool (such as blocking on sheep, pulling up hair on beef and working up top lines on dairy) must be clearly done by the exhibitor, members of the immediate family or any other registered Minnesota 4-H member. Immediate family members are defined as being parents, step parents, legal guardians, grandparents, brothers or sisters. **The 4-H'er exhibiting the animal should be present and involved in the fitting process at the fair.**
- Animals must be maintained and look presentable to the public from 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. daily.
- Signs, including "For Sale" signs, are not permitted on pens. Decorations or nameplates are not allowed. Educationally based signs with performance or pedigree information are allowed, as per MN State Fair rules.
- Display all of your awards (sticker only) on the stall card and replace soiled and torn cards immediately.
- Bedding materials are available daily for purchase.
- Animals should have adequate feed, water, and temperature control (fans only). Forage is available for purchase.
- Exhibitors should bring their own feed and water containers.
- Recommended that exhibitors wear completely enclosed footwear while in the barn and around your animal.

Livestock quality assurance training (LQA)

Like all other 4-H State Fair Livestock participants, 4-H llama - alpaca participants must be certified in 4-H livestock quality assurance. Local 4-H extension educators can provide any details on requirements.

4-H lodging and meals

State fair 4-H llama - alpaca participants will have access to 4-H building lodging and, similar to the livestock weekend, 4-H'er meals will be delivered to a designated area. 4-H'ers will pay normal lodging, meal and program fees and will sign up for these services along with all other 4-H'ers during the regular state fair registration process. 4-H'ers 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 llama - alpaca trip will be treated similar to any other livestock trip with respect to premiums and eligibility or other 4-H participation. Llama - Alpaca 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 llama - alpaca participants may experience a conflict if they are scheduled for general encampment judging during the llama - alpaca encampment. Llama - Alpaca participants also participating in general encampments two or three with llama - alpaca judging times that directly conflict 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.

Llama - alpaca demonstrations

4-H'ers are encouraged to demonstrate in the llama - alpaca project. Those that earn state fair demonstration trips will be scheduled during the llama - alpaca encampment and will qualify for the \$30.00 presentation award.