

# Mini 4-H Llama & Alpaca



## Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades

**The Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service is an Affirmative Action, Equal asses/equal opportunity institution.**

Dear Parent:

As a mini 4-H parent, your job will be to guide and encourage your child through the activity. It is highly suggested that you do not complete the activities for them. Instead, help them, guide them, work with them, and let them do all that they possibly can. The 4-H motto is "Learn by doing"...and is the best educational tool that we can provide for youth.

It is the policy of the Purdue Extension Service that all persons shall have equal opportunity and access to its programs and facilities without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, handicap, or national origin.



## Welcome

Welcome to Mini 4-H! You are now a member of the 4-H family. Mini 4-Hers have lots of fun. There are many activities for you to explore. You can try new things. You can share it with your friends and family.

Mom, Dad, or another adult can help you with your project, and you can bring your project to the 4-H fair. Many people will be able to see what you have done. You will receive a ribbon made just for Mini 4-H.

### Things to Learn

The 4-H Symbol:	A four leaf clover with an H in each leaf.
4-H Colors:	Green and white.
The 4-H Motto:	To make the best, better.
The 4-H Pledge:	I pledge my Head for clearer thinking; my Heart for greater loyalty; my Hands for larger service; and my Health for better living in my club, my community, my country, and my world.



## Mini 4-H Llama and Alpaca

Welcome to the Mini 4-H Llama and Alpaca Project! You are going to learn a lot of exciting things about llamas and alpacas. Did you know that llamas and alpacas are related to camels? Did you know that people use llamas and alpacas for many things? Do you know where llamas and alpacas come from? Do you know what llamas and alpacas eat? You will learn the answers to all of these questions in the Mini 4-H Llama and Alpaca project. Llamas and alpacas are a great project for young people to show. Here are a few reasons to raise and show llamas and alpacas.

1. Llamas and alpacas are easy to handle.
2. Llamas and alpacas are gentle and friendly.
3. Llamas and alpacas are smart.
4. Llamas and alpacas each have their own personalities.
5. Llamas and alpacas do not need very much equipment.



## What Will I Do?

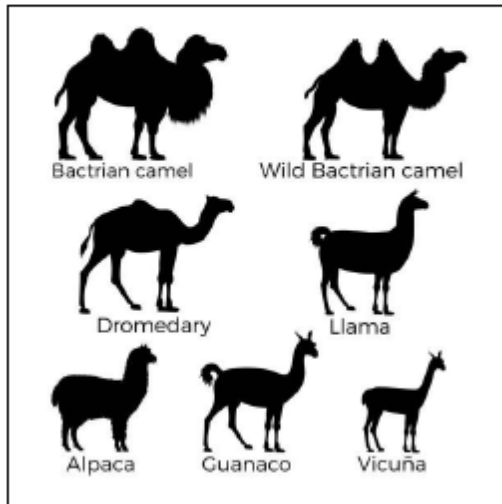
Division 1 (Kindergarten) : Exhibit a poster with both of the llama and alpaca pictures from this manual that you have colored and cut out. Be creative – feel free to add a pasture, barn, or mountains to the background of your poster. Posters are displayed horizontally, 22" by 14", and mounted on a firm backing and covered in clear plastic or other transparent material. Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating your name and grade.

Division 2 (1<sup>st</sup> Grade) : Exhibit a poster with pictures of various uses for llamas and alpacas. You may use photos, magazine pictures, internet pictures, drawings, etc. Posters are displayed horizontally, 22" by 14", and mounted on a firm backing and covered in clear plastic or other transparent material. Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating your name and grade.

Division 3 (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) : Learn how to care for a llama/alpaca and the proper way to show one. Show a llama or alpaca at the 4-H Fair with the help of an older 4-Her. The animal must be one that is at the fair and being shown by a 4-Her. There is not enough space to allow Mini 4-H exhibitors to bring in their own animal. You can either find your own 4-H llama exhibitor to pair up with prior to the fair, or you will be assigned one to work with prior to the Mini Show.

You will be divided into classes with no more than seven Mini 4-Hers in a class. You will enter the show ring with your assigned llama or alpaca as well as an experienced 4-Her to help guide you. The judge will tell you where he or she wants you to set up your animal in the show ring. The judge may ask you a question or two about the Llama and Alpaca project. Do not get scared if you don't know the answer. The judge will tell you the answer. Learning is what Mini 4-H is about!

## What is a Llama? What is an Alpaca?



Have you ever noticed that llamas and alpacas look very similar to camels? There's a good reason for that. They are all part of the same animal family, the Camelid family. There are six members of the Camelid family – llamas, alpacas, vicuñas, guanacos, dromedary camels, and Bactrian camels. Camels are found in Asia and Africa. Llamas, alpacas, vicuñas, and guanacos come from the Andes Mountains in South America. Llamas, alpacas, and camels have all been domesticated. This means that humans

can keep them and train them for various things. Vicuñas and guanacos are only found in the wild.

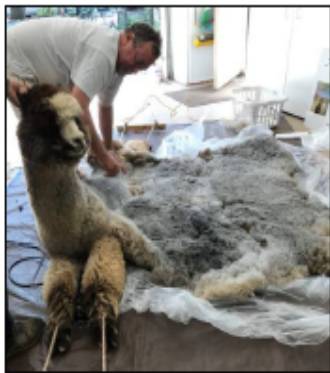
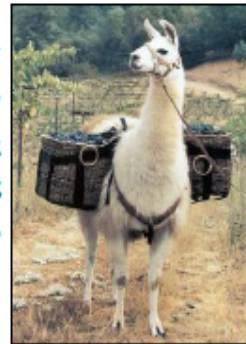
Llamas and alpacas have a lot of things in common. Both llamas and alpacas are herd animals, which means they prefer to live in big groups with other llamas and alpacas. A baby llama or baby alpaca is called a cria. Llamas and alpacas come in many colors – black, brown, chocolate-brown, red-brown, fawn, gray, and white. Some are one solid color, and others are several different colors and patterns. Llamas and alpacas both have long necks, tall ears, and large eyes. Unlike many other farm animals, they do not have hooves. Instead, they have two toes on each foot with toenails that grow just like yours.

As you've probably noticed, there are also many differences between llamas and alpacas. Llamas are taller, heavier, and more muscular than alpacas. Llamas usually have curved or banana-shaped ears, while alpacas usually have straight ears. Llamas have longer faces, while alpacas have shorter faces. Llamas have thick, coarse hair, while alpacas can have curly or fluffy hair. Llamas and alpacas can also be used for different things, as you will learn in the next section.

## What Can You Use a Llama/Alpaca For?

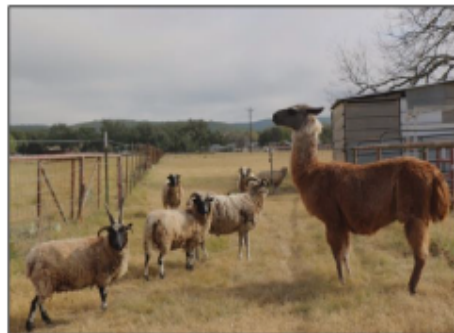
You might be surprised to hear that llamas and alpacas have many uses!

Since llamas are so large, they are able to carry a lot of weight on their backs. Many people use llamas to help carry heavy loads through the woods or over the mountains. This is called packing. A llama can safely carry about 20% of its body weight. This means a 400 pound llama can carry about 80 pounds.



Llama and alpaca hair is called fiber. It is very similar to sheep's wool, but it is not wool! Alpacas usually have better quality fiber than llamas do, so alpacas are often used for their fiber. Alpacas are sheared once a year, and the fiber can then be used to make many things – clothing, blankets, rugs, rope, and yarn, just to name a few.

By nature, llamas and alpacas do not like dogs or wild cats. They have been known to chase these predators away to protect themselves and other members of their herd. This makes llamas excellent guard animals. Many farmers use llamas to protect their sheep, goats, or other farm animals. Llamas keep guard over these animals and chase away any predators that may try to attack.





Llamas and alpacas are generally calm and quiet. They are also very affectionate and curious, and love to interact with people. This makes them great therapy animals for people with disabilities and elderly people in nursing homes.

Adult llamas can also be used for driving. This means that they are capable of pulling a cart, sled, or wagon. Llamas can be trained to pull carts alone or as a team. It takes a lot of work to train a driving llama, and it requires a special harness and cart.



Llamas and alpacas make great show animals, which is exactly what you will be doing with them! Llamas and alpacas are very smart, fun to train, and exciting to work with. They can be trained to do many different things like standing calmly, wearing packs, navigating an obstacle course, or even wearing costumes!

South American people sometimes use llamas for meat and milk. Llama meat is tender, lean, and high in protein. Many people say it tastes somewhat like beef or lamb. It is used in many dishes in South America and throughout the world. Llama milk is slightly sweet and similar in composition to cow's milk.





## What Do Llamas and Alpacas Eat?



Llamas and alpacas eat roughage, which is plant material. They like to eat grass, hay, alfalfa, and sometimes leaves and tree bark. Llamas and alpacas are sometimes given a special feed that contains grains, corn, molasses, and alfalfa pellets. Llamas and alpacas drink water, just like you!

Llamas and alpacas are ruminants, which means they have one stomach with several compartments. Most ruminants, like cows, goats, and sheep, have four compartments in their stomachs. Llamas and alpacas are different because they only have three compartments. They need all these compartments to help break down all the roughage they eat.

## How Do You Take Care of a Llama or Alpaca?

Llamas and alpacas are generally very healthy animals. Just like you, they require vaccines to keep them healthy and free of disease. Shearing llamas and alpacas helps keep them cool in the warmer months and regular brushing keeps the fiber clean and soft. Periodic toenail trimming is also required. Keeping their pastures and barn clean and free of debris will ensure that they don't get injured or sick.

## Do They Spit?

You may have heard before that llamas and alpacas can spit. This is true, but don't worry! Llamas and alpacas do not spit often, and it is usually only used as a way to express that they are hurt or upset. They also use spitting as a way to establish dominance within their herd or to express that they dislike something another animal is doing. As long as your llama or alpaca is in good health and is being treated with kindness and respect, you shouldn't need to worry about being spit at.

## In The Show Ring

When you show a llama or alpaca in Mini 4-H, you will use a halter and lead rope. These will help you guide the animal around the show ring.

The most important part of showing a llama or alpaca is to watch the judge. He will tell you when to move in the show ring and where to set up your animal. If you don't keep eye contact with him, you might miss the chance to place your llama or alpaca higher in the class.

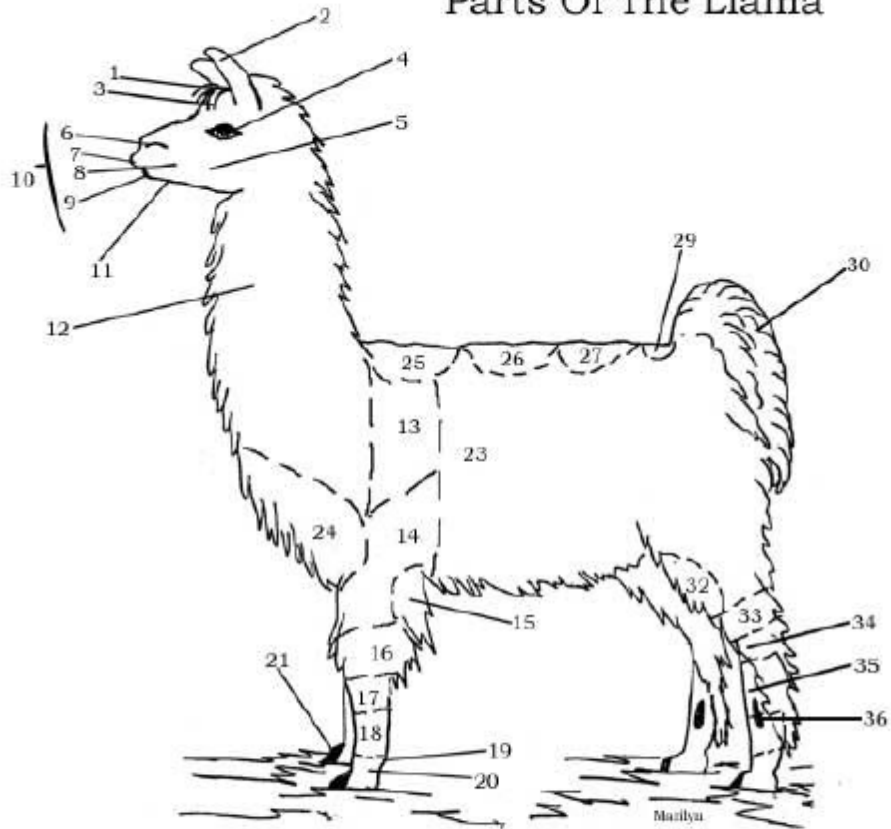
When moving around the show ring, you should walk at a normal speed with your llama or alpaca on your right side. Try not to run or walk too slowly. Talking calmly to your llama or alpaca will help you build trust with your animal and encourage them to walk nicely next to you. When the judge asks you to line up, make sure you are facing the right direction. Try to always keep your animal between you and the judge. You want the judge to always be able to see the entire animal. This will take a lot of practice.

Sometimes a judge will ask a few questions. You might try to learn where the poll, withers, muzzle, and scent glands are on your llama or alpaca. Other common questions that may be asked are: Are you showing a llama or alpaca? Is it a male or female? How old is it? What does a llama or alpaca eat? What can you use a llama or alpaca for?

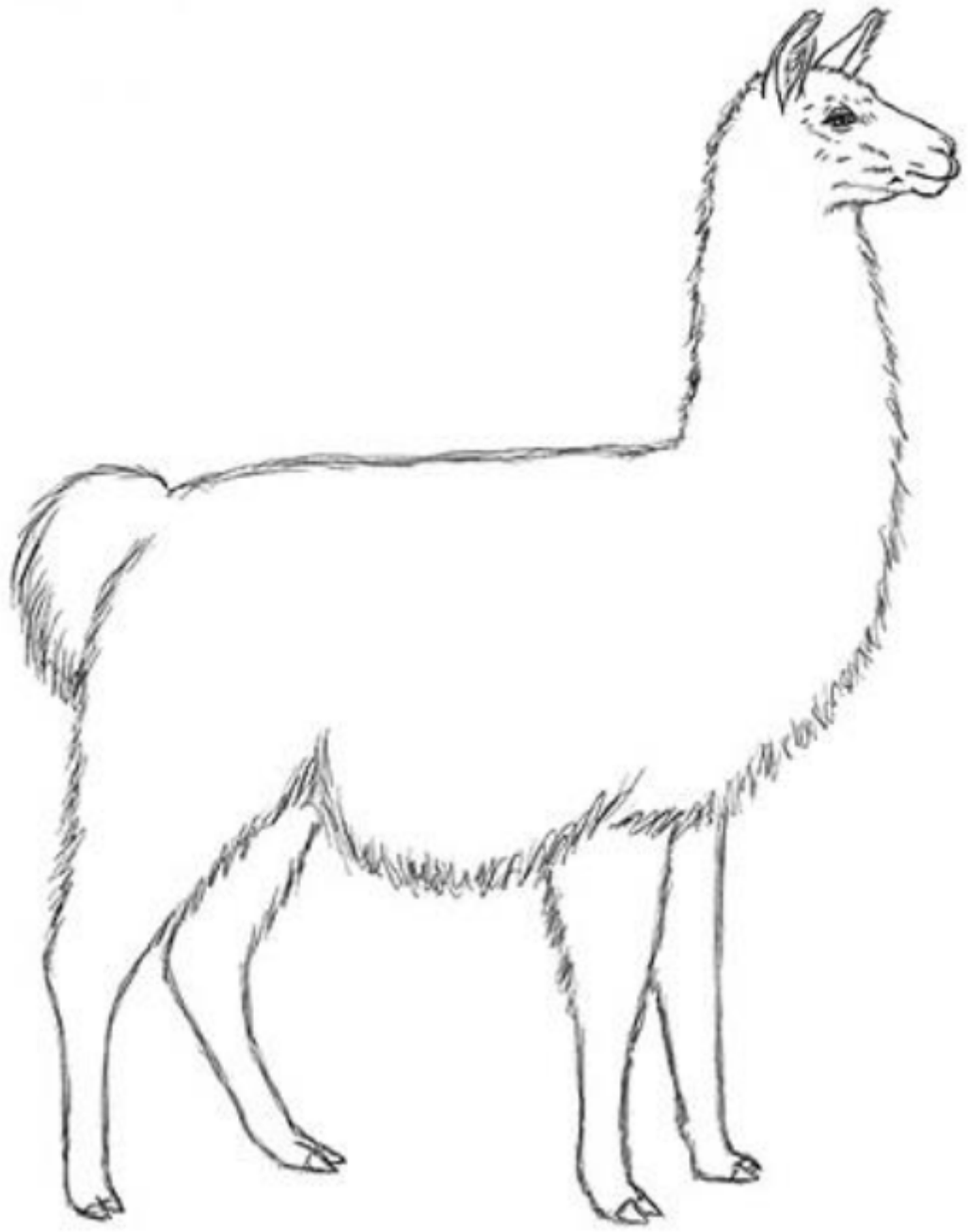
Do not worry about knowing all of this information when you are in Kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> Grade. Try to know most of it by the time you are in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. If you can answer all of these questions by the time you are in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and ready to join 4-H, you will be a pro!

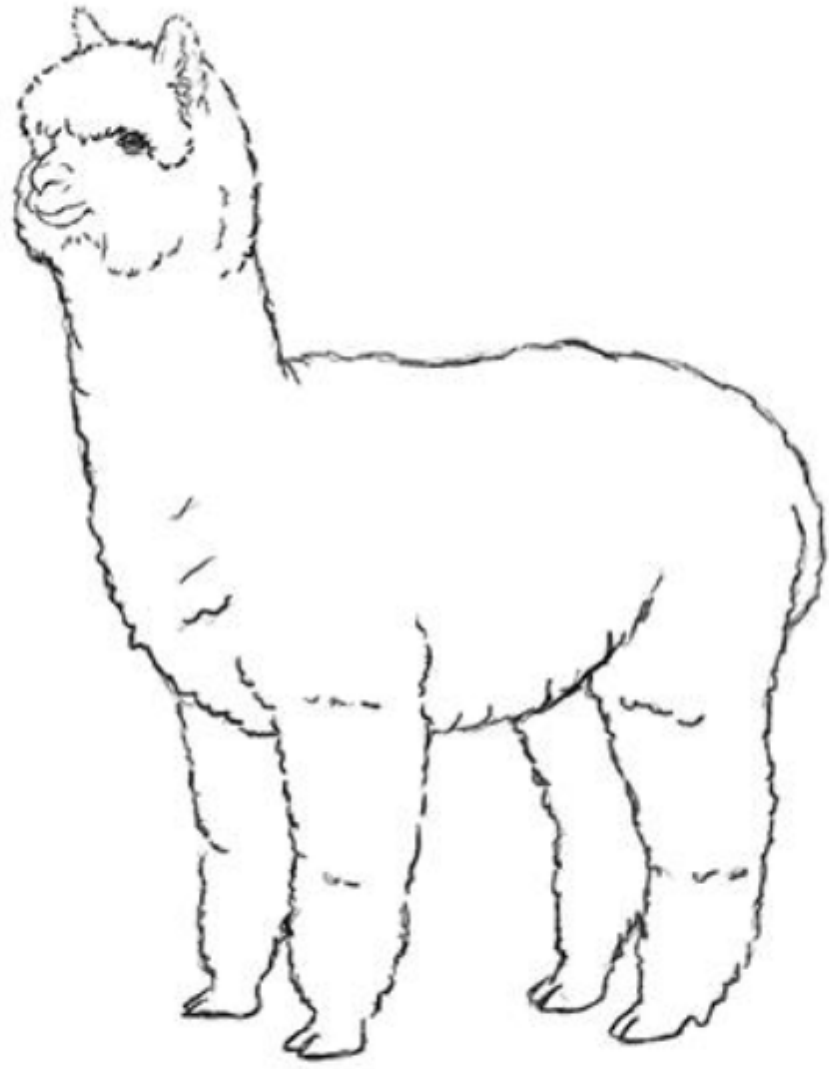
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## Parts Of The Llama



- |              |                    |                 |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Poll      | 13. Shoulder       | 25. Withers     |
| 2. Ear       | 14. Arm            | 26. Back        |
| 3. Forehead  | 15. Elbow          | 27. Loin        |
| 4. Eye       | 16. Forearm        | 28. Croup       |
| 5. Cheek     | 17. Knee           | 29. Tail Head   |
| 6. Nostril   | 18. Cannon/Shank   | 30. Tail        |
| 7. Upper Lip | 19. Fetlock        | 31. Thigh       |
| 8. Mouth     | 20. Pastern        | 32. Stifle      |
| 9. Lower Lip | 21. Nail           | 33. Gaskin      |
| 10. Muzzle   | 22. Pad/Slipper    | 34. Hock        |
| 11. Jaw      | 23. Ribs           | 35. Hind Cannon |
| 12. Neck     | 24. Sternum, Chest | 36. Scent Gland |





**Record Sheet**  
**Mini Llama & Alpaca**

**20\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I chose to exhibit:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**I Learned:**

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**My favorite part of Mini 4-H this year was:**

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**List who helped you with your project:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_