

4-H Round Up

Howdy partners! My name is Jaime Flora. I am 10 years old and am an Honor Roll student at Alhambra Traditional School. I belong to the Saveren Pathfinder Horse Club and the Saveren Sheep Club. Belonging to both clubs is very hard work. With school and animals I have a very busy day. I always look forward to a break from school so that I can work with my animals. My main project is horse and my other project is sheep. I've been around sheep and horses all my life and I'm very fond of them.

This is my first year as a junior member. I was in Cloverkids Horse for four years and although I did as many activities as I was allowed to, I could not ride in 4-H competitions. This year I was finally able to ride in the 4-H gymkhana! I had a lot of fun and won a lot of ribbons. My pony Cinderella is 30 years old, and I have outgrown her, so this was my first year to compete, but my last year to compete on her. I plan to retire her and let her have a well deserved rest. I got a new project horse in November, but he needs some work before he will be ready for me to ride.

In addition to riding, I have been involved in a lot of educational activities in 4-H. One of my favorites is demonstrations. I like to learn about something and then show and tell others about it. My demonstration this year was titled "Telltale Teeth" and was on how to tell a horse's age by its teeth. I gave this demonstration at both county and state. I received a first place at the county and state competitions, scoring better than many senior members! I also got to participate in

horse judging and quiz bowl for the first time. Although I didn't do as well in those as I did in demonstrations, I learned a lot and will be more prepared for it next year. I was not able to participate in the horse hippology contest and would like to do that next year.

Our horse club has a lot of fun activities. In the fall, we go through a Corn Maze. This year I went through with a Senior member and we both got lost. We were the last ones from our group to finally get out. It was embarrassing! We also rode in a Thanksgiving Parade. It is fun to dress up and wave at the crowds. Each year we have a club Christmas party, with carolling, games and a gift exchange.

Besides fun, we have a lot of educational activities, like workshops, clinics, riding practices and training sessions. I have learned a lot from these activities about caring for my horse, my tack, showing, training and other important horsemanship lessons. We also go on field trips. Sometimes they are related to our horse project, like touring a vet clinic, saddle maker's shop or feed mill and sometimes they aren't like touring the State Capitol.

I got the opportunity this year to hold the office of Treasurer. I like being in charge of money! I had been hoping to be Secretary, but it didn't work out that way. I would like to try being Secretary next year however, as I do understand the job and would like a chance to do it.

My sheep club is very small-- just me and one other person. Sheep just happens to be a specialty of mine, as my mother and

grandmothers have been raising them for more than 25 years! I have been at sheep shows all my life. I was given sheep to start my own flock of registered Natural Colored sheep for my birthday last year.

This year, when I took some of my sheep to a show, I didn't expect Reserve Champion or Champion. I was very surprised when I won 2 Reserve Champion ribbons and 1 Champion ribbon. I worked hard for those ribbons. I was disappointed however with showing sheep in the junior division. I enjoyed showing in the Open division more, because my sheep are a wool breed, although they have meat breed bloodlines, and the junior show judges didn't seem to know how to judge them.

It was disappointing to say the least. I showed in market classes for the first time. It is a much different style of showing than breeders. One skill that I am learning is how to groom wool. My mother tells me it is a lost art with the junior exhibitors. I am hoping to get as good at it as my mom.

I am continuing my breeding project. Just this spring two of my ewes that I bred gave me 5 new lambs to work with. My sheep project helps me pay for my horse and other expenses.

Well, that's about it for my year. Next year I will be riding a new project horse and continuing my sheep project. I plan to work on both of my projects over the summer. I will have to work very hard to keep up two projects again and maintain my grades. I will be starting 5th grade. With a little luck, maybe once again you will be reading my story!

A thought to finish:

Some people call us lucky because we live where we can keep these kind of animals. We kindly accept their compliment but for every admirer that visits our sheep and horses, we try to make it something to remember.