



New Mexico 4-H Greentop Project Guide



New Mexico 4-H Is A Program of New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service

**400.G-1
(New 2006)**

New Mexico 4-H: The Consumer in Me 4-H Consumer Savvy – Level 1

Are you a consumer? You bet – we all are! Youth consume more than \$175 billion of goods and services each year. *Consumer Savvy* will help you to become informed and responsible consumers in today's dynamic marketplace. In this project you will experience what it means to be a consumer through saving, spending, and sharing.

Project materials include:

- Consumer Savvy: The Consumer in Me – Level I Project Book 100.G-1 (N-05)
- Consumer Savvy: The Consumer in Me – Level I Greentop 400.G-1 (N-06)

In this project you can learn to:

- Make wise spending decisions
- Identify 10 businesses in a community that provide goods and services
- Focus on needs before wants
- Compare differences in peoples' opinions about needs and wants
- Write a savings goal
- Make a savings plan to help reach a goal
- Record your spending for one month
- Write a spending plan
- Compare prices of two products
- Compare product prices in different sizes and brands
- Set priorities
- Create a gift or share your talents as a gift
- Make money grow by earning interest
- Use compound interest to increase savings faster
- Calculate how savings increase over time

Activities you can complete:

- Know your shopping style
- Locate goods and services in the yellow pages
- Using a shopping list
- Identify personal needs and wants
- Develop a written savings plan
- Keep a spending diary
- Keep track of spending

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Activities Continued:

- Complete a cost comparison chart
- Managing thoughtful choices among alternatives
- Choose less expensive alternatives
- Calculate simple interest
- Recognize the time value of money.

What you can exhibit at the fair:

- Poster related to some aspect of consumerism
For example, a poster about comparison shopping or a savings plan
- Any other project related to Unit I
For example, a scrapbook that includes several of the activities you completed with descriptions, what you learned, and any pictures.

Leadership and Citizenship Activities:

- Give a talk or demonstration to your club on one of the following topics:
 1. Making wise spending decisions; wants versus needs.
 2. Developing a savings plan to help reach a goal.
 3. Keeping a spending diary.
 4. How to be a bargain shopper.
- Organize a trip to a local store to do some comparative window shopping with your consumer savvy project group.
- Teach another person one of the consumerism skills you've learned.

Additional Information:

How Do You Rate as a Money Manager?- NMSU CES Guide 219

Managing Your Money: Where Do I Begin?- NMSU CES Circular 591

Managing Your Money: Where Does All The Money Go? - NMSU CES Circular 592

Managing Your Money: Stop Spending Leaks- NMSU CES Circular 593

Managing Your Money: Developing a Spending Plan- NMSU CES Circular 594

For more Consumer Savvy activities and on-line interactive games visit:

<http://www.4hccsprojects.com/consumer/>

Other projects you may enjoy:

Consumer Savvy II: Consumer Wise

Consumer Savvy III: Consumer Roadmap

Home Management & Consumer Education SD

Entrepreneurship: Be the E

Financial Champions I: Money FUNdamentals

Financial Champions II: Money Moves