



New Mexico 4-H Greentop Project Guide



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

400.R-1
Revised 2005

Range Basics

Introductory and Advanced Project for Novice, Junior and Senior Members

How much do you know about the rangelands of the West? This project allows members to get on the ground and learn about the plants that make up the majority of our landscape.

You will learn:

- Range Talk – Definitions and terms that are used in range management
- Differences among plants and plant communities
- Grouping of plants – grasses, grasslike, forbs and shrubs
- Growth habits of plants
- How plants respond to grazing
- Parts of the grass plants
- How plants are named
- How to do plant collections

Activities for this project include:

- Complete the quiz at the beginning of the project, and find the answers as you work through the information.
- Interview a rancher, explore the history of a piece of land, make a map of New Mexico's original vegetation, or create a list of all the grassland areas within two miles of home.
- Make sketches of six range plants
- Find an example of the four different plant types
- Collect 10-12 plants and make a classification system
- Make a plant press, and collect different range plants to mount with label.

You will be able to exhibit:

- This project will help you to put together 10-12 individual plants that you have identified and proper labeled using the guidelines.

Other ways to be involved in Range Management project:

- Participate in the Pasture and Range Judging Contest
- Do community environmental projects that work with BLM, State land Office, or Wildlife refuges.

Additional Resources:

CR374	Range Plants of New Mexico
CR531	Livestock Poisoning Plants of New Mexico Rangelands
CR537	Ornamental Grasses for New Mexico
400 B-1	Poisonous Range Plants of New Mexico
400 H-19	Landscaping With Native Grasses
Book	Weeds of the West

T. Dean, February 2005