

My 4-H Story

My name is Scarlett Rodas, and I am 9 years old. My mom is Megan, and my dad is Marcos.

I have a younger brother named Levi who is 5, and an older sister named Ali who is 14. I live on a small farm in Blanco, New Mexico. We have lots of animals—horses, cows, pigs, goats, chickens, ducks, dogs, and cats. I even have a corn snake named Phoenix!

I like having all the animals, especially when they have babies. I really like helping my mom with the horses. She trains wild mustangs, and she lets me help. I'm learning how to gentle them and how to take care of their feet. My mom just got a new mustang for the Mustang Challenge, and I really liked her, so my mom said she could be my horse. I named her Echo of a Nightmare. I like giving her treats, and next year I want to do the horse project with her and maybe show her at the fair.

This year I ran for office in our club, and I was voted as one of the Song and Recreation Leaders. It was fun coming up with games to play at the meetings. I tried hard to be a good leader and I hope to run for another office this year. I think it would be fun to be the historian or reporter.

This was my first year showing animals at the fair. I showed a lamb and a pig in the market classes. I liked having them, but I didn't like having to go out every single day to take care of them and wash and blow-dry the lamb's legs—it was a lot of work! My lamb's name is Greg, and my pig's name was Ham. My sister and I had to walk them every day. I got 5th place with my lamb and 4th place with my pig. I was hoping to make the sale this year, but I didn't.

Last year we bred our own pig, and we are doing that again this year. The baby pigs were so cute! It was fun watching them grow up, and I can't wait for more baby pigs. I want to show a pig and a lamb again next year.

I also did a lot of indoor projects. I didn't want to at first, but my mom made me, and I'm glad she did because I had so much fun. I did several baking projects and went to FCS School in Albuquerque. I learned how to use the oven and how to read recipes, and now I can bake at home without help. I entered my favorite recipe, snickerdoodles, in the fair and got first place! I also did the Favorite Foods Contest at County Contest. I made French toast, and my theme was "Country Breakfast." I did well making my food, but I had trouble with the interview. I can't wait to do that contest again next year.

Another project I did was origami. I liked it because it was fun making things out of paper. My favorite was the crane. My sister and I also did the flower gardening project. We planted seeds and bought some flowers from the store to grow over the summer. The hardest part was keeping the weeds out of the flower beds!

This year we also went to Youth Get Away, and it was my first time being away from home. I was very nervous at first, but it was fun, and I can't wait to go again next year. Another activity I did was Day Camp. We did lots of fun activities and made some great projects.

My sister and I also did many community service projects. As a family, we like to help other people. My favorite is volunteering at the animal shelter. We foster puppies and kittens and walk dogs so they can get out of the shelter for a little while. We also buy Christmas gifts for

kids through USPS Operation Santa and The Salvation Army Angel Tree. We buy birthday gifts for nursing home seniors through The Connection Initiative too.

This year in 4-H was one of my favorite years ever. I learned so many new things, met lots of nice people, and had fun spending time with my friends and family. I liked learning how to take care of my animals and do new projects, even when some of them were hard. I'm proud of how much I've grown and all the things I've been able to do. I'm thankful for my leaders, my family, and everyone who helped me this year. I can't wait for next year to do even more projects, show my animals again, and keep learning new things in 4-H!