

Kids' KOrner

Kids Have Fun With Woolly Sheep

BY LOU ANN GOOD
MILTON GROVE (Lancaster County) — If you have attended sheep shows during Lancaster County's Fair season, you probably saw Lorie and Joelle Boll with their hampshire and suffolk sheep.

Nine-year-old Lorie won the reserve champion market lamb at the Lampeter Fair and her thirteen-year-old sister Joelle placed first in Junior fitting and showmanship.

The sisters say it is exciting to win trophies and ribbons with their sheep, but they admit preparing their sheep for the shows involves some hard work.

At first the sheep act wild because they are scared of the girls. Lorie and Joelle make friends with the sheep by petting the woolly lambs while they are eating. The sheep must be fed twice a day.

"But you must be careful you don't overfeed them," Joelle warned. Usually their dad feeds the sheep so they don't gobble down too much food and get tummy aches.

If you go to sheep shows, you will notice how the sheep allow their owners to lead them around

with halters. But it isn't always like that.

Joelle said, "The first time you put a halter on sheep, they fight and buck."

Joelle's daddy learned a trick that can easily teach the sheep to stop fighting the halter. After he puts the halters on the sheep, he ties the halter to the back of his tractor and takes them for a walk. They soon realize the tractor is stronger than they are so they stop fighting and quietly follow the tractor. After that, they allow the halters to be placed on their heads and they walk with the girls.

Lorie said, "It is easier to walk them when they are hungry because they think they are going to get a treat."

You would like Lorie's sheep named Skeeter because he pulls Lorie on her bike so she doesn't have to pedal in the long lane that leads to their house.

Two days before the show, the girls help their dad wash their sheep by squirting water from the hose on them and sudsing them with Ivory soap. Then they put the sheep on a special table called a fitting and blocking stand. The



Joelle, left, Lorie and Rodney work together to pack the eggs that their 30,000 chickens lay.

sheep's neck is tied to the stand while their thick wool is cut with a clippers. Then, the girl's dad takes a shears and blends in the marks left by the clippers. The girls cord the sheep's hair by using a prickly brush that pulls the curls out of the sheep wool so their hair lays smooth and silky across their body.

The sheep are just like children because Lorie said, "They don't like to have their hair pulled while combing."

After the sheep have a bath and a hair cut, the girls put blankets on

their sheep to keep them clean. They want their sheep to look their very best so they wash the sheep's ears with cotton balls dipped in alcohol. The sheep don't like that either.

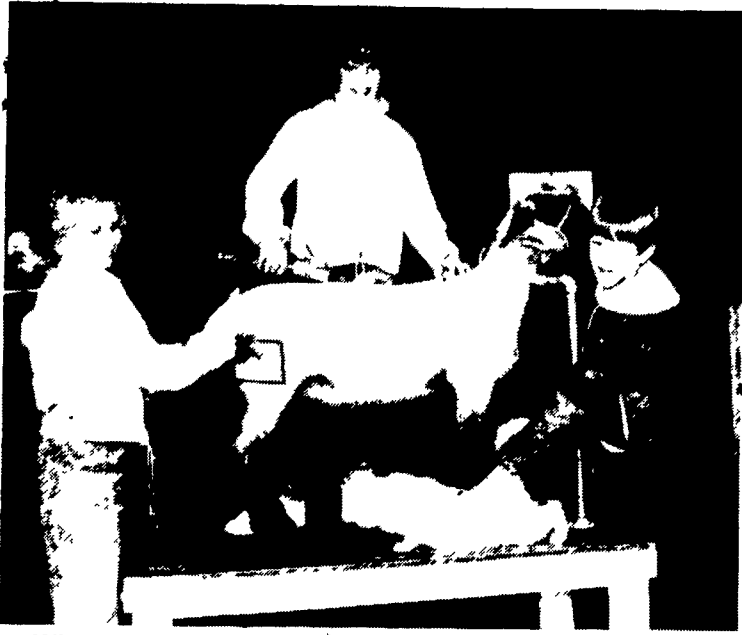
The best thing about having sheep is showing them, Lorie said. "But sometimes they step on my toes."

The girls live with their parents, Jay and Lois Boll, on their Milton Grove farm. Their seven-year-old brother Rodney likes to play in the creek that runs through their fields. On weekends, all the children help

their parents gather eggs from their 30,000 chickens. The girls don't like the chickens they said because, "They stink."

Lorie said, "I have five rabbits, but I like my sheep best because rabbits just sit there; you can't walk them around."

If you would like to own sheep, the girls suggest you join a 4-H club that teaches you how to raise sheep. That is where the girls and their parents learned how to care for the sheep and win ribbons by showing them.



When 9-year-old Lorie takes a try at shearing her sheep even their white fluffy cat wants to get into the action. From left, Joelle, Lorie and Rodney.



Lorie likes her sheep to pull her bicycle so she doesn't need to pedal.

