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Lancaster Farming, Saturday, April 25, 1998-B19

This Chayas Indian brother and sister from Macusani, Peru were featured in Wolinsky's 40-page feature article. Julian and Juliana Gayoso carried their alpaca for three days on a llama train to an annual mountain festival that occurs during shearing season that is actually a market, said Wolinsky. Each llama carried 25 pounds of alpaca. "We went into this little town, and the road ends. It actually goes down into the jungle and into the Amazon," explained Wolinsky. He captured the photo after the alpaca had been sold. The garments the couple wore were hand-woven.

Maryland Sheep And Wool

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share his photographs and experiences in his presentation.

Dr. Ron Pope from Texas, who holds the last Ph.D. in wool science granted in this country, will speak on fleece judging and grading. During his presentation participants will evaluate fleeces for grade, yield, and soundness. Pope will then judge the fleece and provide individual fleece evaluations in a separate workshop.

A breeds display will present an opportunity to see more than 30 different breeds of sheep in one place. Display presentations will explain each breed's characteristics, advantages, and disadvantages. A parade of breeds will include rare and exotic as well as more popular breeds of sheep.

New to the festival this year is a club lamb jackpot. Wether and ewe lambs will be shown in

four classes divided by weight. The jackpot is geared toward youth showing market lambs at county fairs, according to Robert Dinsmore, president of the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association, and will have an educational focus. "The primary goal is to kind of let the kids know where they are. To give them some pointers on feeding; and let them know how the lambs are coming along. We're excited about that.'

A carcass contest and feeder lamb sale are also scheduled for those interested in the meat breeds. Carcass data from the contest will be available for display in the food building. The contest gives people a better understanding of what to look for in a meat-type animal, according to Mr. Dinsmore.

There is no admission charge for the festival, and parking is , free.



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Wolinsky photographed this half-shorn Marino ewe in New Zealand. "First I tried in Australia," he explained. "We were driving along the road and we saw a pen of sheep a woman was keeping. She hadn't sheared them in 18 months. The shearer I brought with me was game, so we tried shearing one. He had to stop and think how to shear just half a sheep. The sheep was so woolly and dirty when he finished it fell over on it's side and it lay there, pedaling at the air. It couldn't get up. We tried a couple more times, then I realized we needed a much better organized effort. I went to New Zealand, where a rancher set aside 100 ewes. The crew got an enormous piece of canvas and painted it with waterproof house paint, so it could be sponged off between sheep. This is the 30th sheep."