

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Maryland Alpaca Breeders Association Presents

The Third MABA Alpaca Celebration

November 12 & 13, 2011

Carroll County Agriculture Center & Shipley Arena

Westminster, MD 21157

www.carrollcountyagcenter.com



www.marylandalpacas.org

The Maryland Alpaca Breeder's Association is sponsoring the third MABA Celebration Alpaca Halter Show at the Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster, Maryland. This event features nearly 400 registered alpacas, locally produced hand made alpaca products, Fair-Trade alpaca items from Peru & Bolivia, a fleece exhibition, a two ring halter show, a youth agility course, a Herdsire Services Raffle, FREE educational seminars and a youth Costume Class not to be missed.

The weekend's events are FREE and the public is welcome.



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY'S COSTUME CLASS!

MABA Alpaca Celebration

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page 1

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Most people don't know there are over 65 alpaca farms in Maryland. Worldwide, there are approximately 3 million alpacas, with 99% living in South America. The U.S. alpaca industry is working toward the goal of a large fiber production herd, but right now with roughly 160,000 U.S. registered alpacas, breeding farms and fiber production as a cottage industry is the norm.

Alpacas have been domesticated for over 5,000 years, and they are valued for their exquisite, soft fiber, which is shorn once a year. Their incredibly lightweight fiber is warmer and stronger than wool. The highest grade alpaca fiber competes favorably in quality with cashmere.

Farms in the U.S. vary in size from those with a few non-breeding alpacas to those that are seriously involved in seed stock breeding and may have hundreds of alpacas on their farms. Many alpaca breeders have little to no prior livestock experience and ventured into the business looking for new challenges and a better quality of life.

This event provides the opportunity to see these wonderful, gentle animals up close, speak to the breeders that raise them and take in a variety of activities. There will be many farms from Maryland and throughout the region bringing their best animals to compete for fleece and conformation championships in their classes as awarded under the AOBA National Certified Show System. This national association recognizes 22 distinct colors, establishing the alpaca as the fiber animals offering the widest range of natural colored fleece.

Many farms will also be showcasing items they have produced from their herds and demonstrating many of the handcrafting techniques they use to produce these items. Visitors will be able to view and purchase locally produced yarns, fiber, rovings and handcrafted alpaca products in the [MARYLAND FIBER SHOWCASE](#). Seminars will also be available to breeders and the public that will discuss fiber and craft projects that feature this wonderful fleece.

The MABA Celebration is sure to have something for everyone, whether a visitor's interest is focused on becoming an alpaca farmer or just wanting see and touch an alpaca or purchase a locally handcrafted alpaca item. Spending time around these endearing animals will melt your heart.

For more information or to request an interview please contact:

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MABA Alpaca Celebration

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page 2