

# Everything for farming small

By KIM CHAPPELL

**S**MALL-area farmers and lifestyle-changers are set to descend on the Hawkesbury Showground in November in search of information, equipment, and new technology as part of the annual Farming Small Areas Expo.

Equine displays, poultry exhibits, farm machinery, cattle, sheep, goats, and more will fill the showground in Clarendon, in Sydney's Hawkesbury district.

There will be education sessions on shearing sheep, milking goats and fencing across Friday, November 12, and Saturday, November 13.

Plans are afoot for a vintage car and machinery rally to join the jam-packed line-up of livestock, machinery and farm equipment already on display.

The expo, run by *The Land*, routinely attracts between 10,000 and 13,000 visitors, and has something for all the family, said *The Land* special projects manager, Guy Rowllison.

"There will be a range of

**RIGHT:** Caleb Clarke, Camden, visited Shadow the alpaca, from Gunnamatta alpaca stud, Galston, at the Farming Small Areas Expo 2009.

activities to delight both adults and children, from chook and horse handling demonstrations to horse-drawn carriage rides and big boys toys in the form of tractors and bikes," Mr Rowllison said.

Equine and poultry would feature strongly again with breeders on hand to answer any inquiries.

A variety of purebred poultry and waterfowl suitable for backyards and small acreage will be on display, while club members will demonstrate practical skills involved in successfully keeping the birds.

The equine event will feature a range of demonstrations and talks on everything from horse nutrition to anatomy, nursing, vaulting, leatherwork and racing.

"It's the perfect event for those Sydneysiders dreaming of a rural life to come and find out all the information they need," Mr Rowllison said.

"Livestock breeders are on-hand to answer any questions about their breed, as well as the country way of life, while small acreage consultancy groups are also available to answer questions about the ins and outs of the move."

He said many would-be tree-changers hesitated with the move because they couldn't find the information they needed to ensure it would be successful.

But the expo was a one-stop-shop for finding out exactly that.

■ To book a site or find out more, contact *The Land* on (02) 4570 4444.



Moss Vale TAFE teacher, Graham Fahey, shows James Healty, Grose Wold, how to shear at last year's expo.

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