



It was a full seven in a bed at the Lancaster Stockyards last Monday when over 2000 Easter lambs and goat kids were marketed at the Easter Sale.

Easter lambs

[Continued from Page 1] the Protestant Easter and Orthodox Easter fall on the same date. Normally, animals would be held back to cater to the later holiday market. Horace Plank,

commission agent for Walter M Dunlap and Sons, the major firm in the Lancaster Easter sale, said that he normally holds back as many as 500-600 animals if the Easter holidays fall on different dates.

Morgan also noted that there is also a growing demand for the young lambs and goats during the holiday season.

Individuals of Mediterranean descent have always sought these animals but the demand seems to be growing. Possibly, this is because the markets are providing them with the lamb, and they are aware they can get it," he speculated.

So, farmers who would normally sell privately have now been drawn into the market because of the higher prices and increased demand.

While this year proved to be an overly abundant market, the fact is that the overall numbers of sheep, both around the Commonwealth and the nation, are steadily decreasing. In Pennsylvania the numbers dropped by four per cent.

"Sheep numbers have gone down continually since 1961," Morgan noted.

Various factors have led to the phenomenon. Morgan is convinced it is not because of

a monetary reason. He thinks, however, that cattlemen find less prestige in raising sheep than in raising beef. The situations in the range country are also hard to overcome where individuals must live on the range with as many as 2000 sheep. The Department of Interior is also cracking down on the number of the animals which can be grazed on federal lands. And, one other outstanding difficulty is coyotes. Now protected to avoid their extinction, the wild animals are on the increase, and killing large numbers of sheep.

Easter sale averages for the most desirable kinds of Choice spring lambs, those weighing from 20-35 pounds were \$.85-\$1.15 around the state; 45-60 pounds .68-.90, 50-65 pounds .60-.80; and 70-85 pounds .55-.65.

Goat kids ranged from \$25 to \$36 per head for milk fed kids weighing 20 pounds. Older, thin goats that lacked quality rated from \$7.50-\$14 per head.

Morgan, who has watched the trend of lamb prices each year, predicted the market will drop back to .60 per pound average as soon as the season is over. The price should continue to drop until June when the prices will be in the .40 bracket.



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DID YOU KNOW? *By Janice*



EASTER ISLAND

A CHILEAN DEPENDENCY IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN, IS NOTED FOR THE MORE THAN 600 STONE STATUES WHICH RANGE FROM 10' TO 37' TALL. ONE UNFINISHED STATUE IS 68' TALL. THREE DISTINCT CULTURES ARE IDENTIFIED ON THIS ISLAND. EXPERIMENTS BY NATIVES SHOWED THAT IT TOOK 180 PERSONS TO PULL A MEDIUM-SIZE STATUE OVER THE GROUND. A DUTCH ADMIRAL, JACOB ROGGEVEEN, WAS THE FIRST EUROPEAN TO FIND THIS 45-SQ. MI. ISLAND, (ON EASTER SUNDAY, 1722).

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