

# Sheep producers receive practical instruction

By DIETER KRIEG

LANCASTER—Pennsylvania sheep producers who may want to introduce western ewes into their flocks should make their wishes known to Extension livestock specialist Ben Morgan at Penn State, or their respective county agent.

Morgan, who was "Livestock Man of the Year" in 1975, made the remarks during a barn meeting held at the Clyde Brubaker farm near here. The livestock specialist noted that demand for western ewes is evident, but that orders for the Rocky Mountain sheep aren't coming in like they should. One large order is needed, rather than several small orders, so that shipping costs might be minimized.

Lancaster County Agent Max Smith, who coordinated the barn meeting held here last Monday afternoon, figured it would take an order of about 400 sheep to fill a trailer. An order of about 200 sheep is needed from the eastern Pennsylvania region, Morgan and Smith indicated. The Lancaster County Agent has compiled producers' purchase intentions in previous years, and would do so again this year. Both he and Morgan made it clear, however, that the program could not get off the ground, unless a large enough composite order was materialized. Interested shepherds should make their wishes known as soon as possible.

Two of the advantages offered by western sheep is that they are hardier and their wool is finer, Morgan explained during questioning. They would be priced according to market lamb prices plus a freight charge of \$4 or \$5 per head. The animals would be black-headed yearling ewes.

Morgan spent the majority of his time on the Brubaker farm demonstrating proper sheep management techniques, including drenching for internal parasites, shearing, docking, castrating, and foot trimming.

Donning a pair of overalls, the veteran livestock specialist taught sheep management by doing. A

gathering of about 25 Lancaster County sheep producers watched as he went about his work.

Morgan demonstrated the Australian method of shearing, whereby a fleece is removed from the animal in one piece. He noted that as many as seven or eight different grades of wool may be in one fleece, and that separation of them is easier if the fleece is kept whole. "If it comes off like scrambled eggs it's worth less to the buyer and to the farmer," Morgan said. He reminded the producers that wool purchasers remembered how wool was presented to them and that lower prices would be paid if fleeces were not clipped and folded properly.

After removing the fleece, Morgan suggests it be allowed to dry out and that dirty or otherwise undesirable portions be removed. A take of about 7 pounds per fleece is about average for adult sheep in Pennsylvania.

While discussing the sheep shearing technique, Morgan recollected some of his experiences abroad, especially New Zealand, where sheep production is highly specialized. He pointed out that the world's sheep shearing record for one man is 584 fleeces in just nine hours. The New Zealand Department of Agriculture confirms results, as well as the quality of the shearing. Another record which stands above the rest is 20 sheep sheared in just under 22 minutes. Morgan said he saw the results of the latter contest and the shearer made no more than six nicks during his record performance.

The reason Morgan made the point is that he believes the Australian shearing method to be the most efficient and fastest. He considers 150 sheep sheared in eight hours

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Ben Morgan, Extension livestock specialist from Penn State, shows how to shear sheep by the Australian method, whereby the entire fleece comes off in one piece. It was one of several practices taught at a barn meeting for shepherds on Monday.

## PUBLIC SALE

OF ANTIQUES

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1977

10:00 A.M. SHARP

Located one mile west of Richland, near Elco High School, Lebanon County, Pa.

### MOTOR VEHICLES

1918 Model T Truck, 1940 Packard 120, 1958 Edsel 4 Door Hardtop, 1947 Studebaker Coupe, 1959 Lincoln, All In Good Condition. 1971 International 4 Wheel Drive Pickup Truck With Snow Plow, Massey Ferguson 12 H.P. Tractor With Mower and Snow Plow, Super C Farmall Tractor And Attachments, One Aluminum Boat With 7 H.P. Motor. Vehicles Sold At 2:00 P.M.

### ANTIQUES

One, Two, and Four Horse Wagons, and Smaller Wagons, Three Wooded Beam Plows, One Horse Corn Planter, Corn Sheller, Corn Crackers, Grindstone, Wheelbarrow, Few Sets Good Harnesses, Walking Cultivator, Grain Cradle, Flail, Hay Forks and Pullies, Wooden Forks, Wooden Rakes, Buck Saw, Sleigh Bells, Butterchurns, Milkcans (50 & 85 lb.), Brass Kettles, Small Copper Kettles, Several Broad Axes (Some Signed), Beam Scales and Other Balance Scales, Large and Small Coffee Grinders, Assorted Early Tins, Jugs, Crocks, Wooden Kegs, Piano Stools, Drop Leaf Tables, Sausage Stuffers, Butcher Spoons and Forks, Apple Peeler, Cherry Seeder, Brass Bed, Rope Bed, China Closets, Old Rockers, Old Cradle, Reed Baby Coach, Old Water Pumps, One Gasoline Engine, Old Grandfather's Clock, Mantle Clocks, Steeple Clocks, Kerosene Lamps, Some Railroad Lamps, Assorted Figurines.

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Sale Time: 10:00 A.M. Sharp.

Terms by:

**IRVIN H. COPENHAVER**

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Refreshments Served.  
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## CONSIGNMENT HORSE SALE

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12:00 Noon Sharp

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Route 522, 3 miles East of Middleburg  
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1 Load Canadian Draft Horses by Ken Pierce.  
1 Load Draft Horses by Roy Collins of Tennessee.  
1 Load Sharp Standard Bred Driving Horses.

Horses Hitched at 9:30 A.M.  
Tack Sold at 11:00 A.M.

For Information Call  
717-922-1490 or 717-837-2222

KEISTER'S MIDDLEBURG AUCTION SALES, INC.

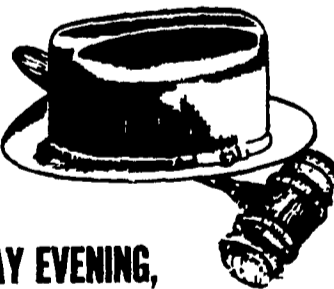
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SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1977

11:00 A.M.

Located along Newport Road between Penryn and Elm.

HOUSEHOLD

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