

Ewe may find this un-baa-lievable

BY JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent

YORK — Ewe may find this tale almost un-baa-lievable.

Mabel, a two-year-old purebred Hampshire ewe, gave birth last week to quadruplet lambs.

All four of the tiny, black-curl-covered infants are lively and growing well.

What's even more incredible, Mabel's capacious udder is

equipped not with the usual two, but four, productive teats, evidence that Mother Nature plans well. With the exception of a few booster bottles given the tiniest infants soon after birth, Mama and babies are handling the feeding situation quite well all by themselves.

Owner Judy Waltersdorff woke the Bob Waltersdorff household on Hollywood Drive early on the

morning of Feb. 15 with the news that Mabel had given birth to triplets. Shortly thereafter, she revised that announcement with the discovery of the fourth arrival.

While twin lambs are commonplace, and even triplets a fairly frequent occurrence in modern, well-fed flocks, quadruplet births are relatively rare among most breeds of sheep.

Ewes with four teats are also

fairly uncommon, and for all four to be milk-producing is downright unlikely. But last year Mabel delivered twins, then raised them on three milk-producing teats, while the fourth was flind, or unproductive.

Thus the odds on a ewe raising her own quads have been uncalculated at this point, Mabel seems to have set out to beat the records.

The productive ewe was purchased from the purebred Hampshire flock of Stewart and Steve Ebersole, Red Lion R3. One of the Ebersole's former show champions sired the rare quads.

Former egg producers, the Waltersdorff family acquired their first lambs a dozen years ago when daughter Chris joined the county's 4-H lamb club. Her younger sisters Judy and Linda followed into the 4-

H lamb program. While the chicken houses are now all empty, and the family "graduated" from the 4-H, Judy has maintained a small flock for open-class competition.

"I had five - now all of a sudden I have ten," she grins as she points out still another newcomer in an adjoining pen, a 16-pound lamb a few days younger than the quadruplets.

Judy plans to keep the lone female of the four, named Shiney, to raise for open-class showing, while the trio of males, Bo, Booker and Bingo, will most likely be sold to 4-H club members for market lamb projects.

Already the suspense about next year's lambing season is starting.

What in the world will Mabel do for an encore?



Mother Mabel, purebred Hamp ewe, and her four new offspring pose with their owner Judy Waltersdorff for family portrait.

Equine seminar planned

LANCASTER — The New Jersey Morgan Horse Club in conjunction with the United Professional Horsemen's Association, Chapter 15, will sponsor a "Day With The Experts" next Saturday at the Quality Inn, Centerville Road, Lancaster.

The day-long seminar will feature Dr. Stanley Brown, DVM, of New Bolton Center, who will discuss natural and artificial breeding. Dressage interests will be addressed by Mrs. Lazelle Knocke, noted dressage authority, who will speak on schooling the

dressage horse and rider. Dr. Lengel, DVM, representing the American Horse Shows Association will explain the importance of the Drug and Medication Program. Claude Bailey, Equine Dentist, who will speak on proper equine dental care and Dr. Evans, DVM, well-known expert on horse lameness, will round out the days program speaking on acute laminitis.

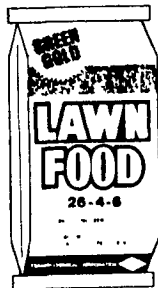
The evening hours will be devoted to a dinner-dance and an auction of horse related articles.

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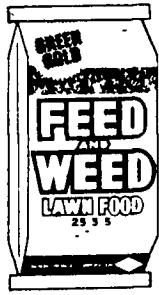


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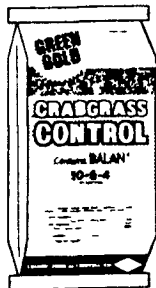


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