

Animals needed for Spring Ram Lamb Test

STATE COLLEGE — To date, only 32 ram lambs have been nominated for the Spring Ram Lamb Test, according to Edward Barben, Acting Director of the Pa Meat Animal Evaluation Center.

In order to conduct a meaningful test, Barben feels that at least 80 animals should be enrolled in the program.

In an effort to encourage more breeders to take part, the Center has extended the nomination deadline to April, 31. Barben said that at least 80 rams should be entered in order to conduct a valid test.

Interested breeders can obtain an application form by contacting Barben at the Meat Animal

Evaluation Center, 651 Fox Hollow Rd., State College, Pa. 16801.

Rams should be delivered to the Center on May 8, accompanied by a veterinarian's health certificate. All animals must be registered with their respective national breed associations, and must weigh at least one-half pound per day of age.

During the 84-day test period the rams will be weighed every 14 days, and cared for by University veterinarians. A tentative ram sale date has been set for Sept. 1.

The purpose of the test is to promote performance testing in Pennsylvania, and to provide a genetically sound program for both large and small breeders.

Action teams help speed emergency loans to farmers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Stepped-up efforts to speed processing of applications for weather-related disaster loans for farmers who suffered losses on their 1983 crops are resulting in better service to farmers, a USDA official announced recently.

Michael E. Brunner, associate administrator of USDA's Farmers Home Administration, said special action teams have been assigned the task of spotting potential problem areas and recommending changes where needed. Teams have so far visited Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi and Missouri. Other states will be visited as needed.

The special action teams are made up of FmHA specialists from the national office in Washington and from non-affected states. The teams visit agency county offices, review processing procedures, talk to farmers and determine if additional staffing or other support is needed.

Brunner said efforts to speed up processing include hiring and training temporary employees sending in specialists from other areas, authorizing overtime and streamlining the check-issuing

system.

Efforts to inform farmers they may be eligible for emergency loans and to urge them to file their applications early to avoid the last-minute rush have been under way since the program started last September, Brunner said. Deadline for farmers to apply for disaster loans is six months after their county has been named eligible.

"Now the applications in many states are flooding in and we're working to get those checks out to farmers by planting time," he said. "We expect the action team to pin-point problem areas so we can speedily meet our commitment to provide needed assistance to farmers."

Agri-Learn funds donated

YORK — The South Central Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association believes that there is a need for increased education of young people about the agriculture industry.

To back up that philosophy, the beef producers and breeders have donated \$500 to Agri-Learn, a third-grade curriculum study guide developed through the efforts of York Agri-Women, and written by former Dover High School vo-ag instructor William Fleet.

The \$500 grant from the SCPCA

will fund limited numbers of free copies of the Agri-Learn curriculum materials to interested elementary school teachers, administrators, and related childhood educators and leaders.

Agri-Learn's curriculum guides include lessons on various segments of agriculture, including beef, dairy, poultry, crops and horticultural production and

relates in easily-understood examples how agriculture contributes to the overall domestic and world economy.

Limited free copies of Agri-Learn materials will be available by contacting York County extension agent Tony Dobrosky at the extension office, 112 Pleasant Acres Road, York, or Mrs. Gail McPherson, R.D. 1, New Park.

Hay meeting planned

TERRE HILL — The Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer Program will sponsor an educational meeting on Hay Preservatives on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., at the Union Grove School.

The speaker for the evening will be Lester Vaughn, forage crop specialist from the University of Maryland. Vaughn has done some interesting research with the use of hay preservatives such as organic acids, anhydrous ammonia, and most recently with chemical driers. He will also be discussing the use of plastic bags to preserve silage in round bales.

Since much of the hay in the Northeast can be affected by weather damage, learning more about preserving the feeding value of our forages becomes important.

All interested persons are invited to attend. The Union Grove School is located near Terre Hill on route 625, 2 miles north of route 23. For additional information call the Adult Farmer Program office at 445-5041.



Walter Laird, president of the South Central Cattlemen's Association, presented a \$500 check to Gail McPherson, coordinator for Agri-Learn. The grant from the cattlemen will make agriculture learning materials available free to elementary schools and related teaching institutions.

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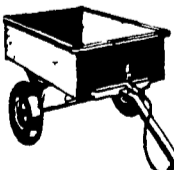
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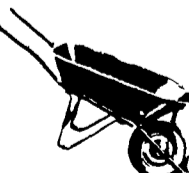
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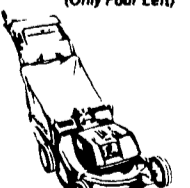


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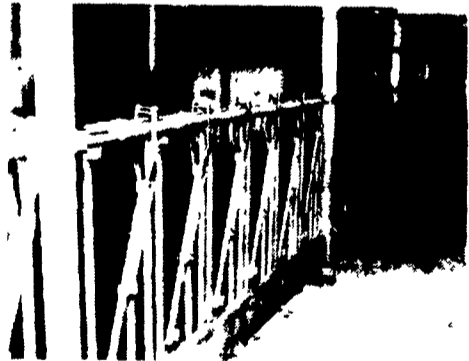
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