

Paper Bales Are Half The Cost Of Straw

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Bales of shredded newspaper for bedding were recently sold at Green Dragon Farmers Market and Auction.

"This was the first time we sold a load of shredded paper," said Bill Rohrbach, auction manager.

Last week, 60 bales weighing 1.635 tons went for \$40 a ton at the Green Dragon auction, held every week at the market, located east of Ephrata. The paper, baled in shredded form, was placed at the sale by Henry R. Martin of Litz.

"I had some shredded paper left over so I baled it up and took it to the auction," Martin said.

After he placed an ad in a local town newspaper, people dropped

off stacks of newspaper at Martin's farm. Martin shredded the paper and used some of it for bedding on his 50-head steer farm. The rest was baled and placed at the auction.

Martin will continue to shred paper for his own farm, but admitted he "needs a bigger shredder."

Elvin Hursh, a steer farmer in Litz, purchased the bales for bedding.

"About a week ago, I used the first of it," said Hursh. About 20 bales were placed on top of a bed of corn fodder for about 50 head of steer at the farm. About 40 bales remain on a wagon in a storage shed, ready for spreading.

"If the paper is cheap and I need more of it, I'll use it again," said Hursh, noting that straw costs

about \$70 to \$130 a ton, and paper bedding is less than half the cost.

"We've had some mixed reports about using shredded newspaper for bedding," Rohrbach said. "Some say it is a pretty good substitute, that it is cheaper than straw and does a decent job, and others say that straw is better. The jury is still out on this one."

Jersey Shore Livestock Market, Inc.

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at 4:00 p.m.
Jersey Shore, Pa.
Report supplied by Auction
Thursday, April 19, 1990
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COMMON STEERS 55.00-67.00.
COMMERCIAL COWS 48.00-56.00.
CANNERS-CUTTERS 45.00-56.00.
SHELLS 38.00-44.00.
CHOICE HEIFERS 73.00-76.00.
SELECT HEIFERS 68.00-72.00.
COMMON HEIFERS 55.00-67.00.
GOOD FEEDERS 70.00-91.00.
COMMON FEEDERS 50.00-69.00.
BULLS 59.00-66.00.
GOOD HOGS 51.00-55.35.
SOWS: 40.00-45.00.

Bales of shredded paper are unloaded at the Elvin Hursh farm near Litz. About 20 bales were placed on top of a bed of corn fodder while about 40 bales remain on a wagon. "If the paper is cheap and I need more of it, I'll use it again," said Hursh.

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