Lamb On Verge Of Entering Fast Food Market

ORLANDO, Fla. — "Make mine a lamburger and fried to go please." This might not be a common order at fast food drive-up windows today, but it soon could be if lamb makes its way into the fast food world.

Attendees of last week's American Sheep Industry Association's convention learned about lamb's potential in the fast food lane. Marketing experts told convention goers lamb has great chances of being a major item on fast food menus. "We are just getting started," said ASI's director of Foodservice Marketing Tom Bashaw. "We think there is tremendous potential in this niche."

New lamb items being consid-

SCRANTON (Lackawanna

Co.) — The Northeast Regional

Vegetable Growers meeting will

be held on Thursday, February 7

from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the

Milwaukee Methodist Church in

Lackawanna County. Reservation

deadline is February 4 at the Lack-

awanna County Cooperative

Extension of Penn State Universi-

ty and the Lackawanna County

Horticultural Association, the

program topics will include infor-

mation on vegetable varieties;

weed, insect, and disease control;

safe use of pesticides; and federal

Sponsored by Cooperative

Extension.

drought relief.

Vegetable Meeting

On Feb. 7

ered for fast food menus are a lamb sausage pizza topping, lamb kabobs, a lamburger seasoned with ranch dressing and lamb gyro combinations. Bashaw explained to convention goers that most of these new entrees come from the shoulder section of a lamb carcass. "Just imagine the positive impact this would have on the induustry," he said.

Bashaw told the group that lamb would draw new consumers to fast food restaurants. The major fast food chains, he explained, work toward broadening their base. He said they want new products that will draw new customers, not new products that will compete with existing items. "Lamb has an upscale image," he

Speakers from Penn State Uni-

versity include Alan MacNab,

plant pathologist; Michael

Orzolek, vegetable specialist;

Shelby Fleischer, entomologist;

and county extension agents Don

Overdorff and Tom Jurchak.

Joseph Colangelo will represent

the Pennsylvania Department of

Agriculture and Kent Swartz, the

U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Training credits will be provided

for recertification of private appli-

cators of restricted use pesticides.

made by mail or phone before

February 4 with the Lackawanna

County Cooperative Extension,

200 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA

18503, (717) 963-6842.

Reservations are \$6 and can be

said, "so it should draw an upscale crowd."

There are still some major factors to be reckoned with before lamb hits the big time. Bashaw said a consistent supply is very important. Fast food restaurants depend and make their money on consistency, he told the crowd. Another factor is a consistently lean product. Bashaw said these factors were just two more reasons why growers should push for the implementation of a coupled quality and yield grading program in the industry.

Sheep producers from across the nation also heard from a local fast food entrepreneur who markets a Hovan lamb sandwich in the southeastern section of the United States. Nicholas Mazzawi, area store manager for Hovan Gourmet, explained that his restaurant featured the sandwich and consequently experienced a 22 percent increase in sales.

MAILBOX MARKET FOR SALE

Warm Morning coal or wood stove, large size, nice. Amos J. King, 3542 W. Newport Rd., Ronks, PA 17572 (Intercourse). AKC breeders LhasaApso Pomeranian, Yorkies, Westies, any serious inquiries welcome. Everything must go. Lanc. Co. 717-768-8669.

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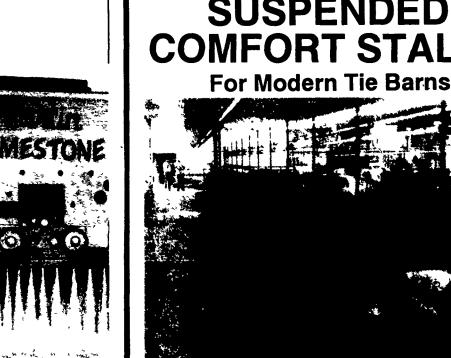


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