

Ewe Delivers Quads

JOYCE BUPP
York Co. Correspondent
DALLASTOWN (York Co.)—
A purebred Romney ewe has ac-

complished a rare feat for her delighted York County owners, Pat and Allen McKinney and their sons Blake and Clay.

Athena, a four-year-old ewe with champion fleece awards to her credit, not only delivered but has successfully raised her own litter of four bouncing baby lambs. That just does not happen, according to the Romney purebred sheep association's secretary, John Landers, of Corvallis, Oregon.

"Quads that live long enough to be registered are more rare than a fifth Sunday in February," quipped Landers in a letter he wrote to Pat McKinney when she registered the matching set of two ewe and two ram lamb siblings. He declined to speculate what the odds might be for the ewe's successful mothering accomplishment.

Of course, Athena did have a little assistance from McKinney, as would any mother caring for four infants.

McKinney is a physical education teacher at Dallastown Senior High School. When she fed the sheep before heading to school on March 12, she felt certain Athena was about to lamb and asked Allen to keep an eye on the ewe. The second school period was a free one for Pat. She rushed home during her teaching break to find a ram lamb, instead of a ewe lamb she had been hoping for. Athena had delivered ram lambs after her two prior pregnancies.

"This was her third delivery and she always twinned. I really wanted a girl," Pat remembers. Before long, Athena obliged, delivering a healthy ewe lamb.

"She's a keeper," a delighted Pat told her husband.

But after the delivery, the veteran ewe "didn't act right." Pat recalls that Athena laid down and again began to push. With all-encompassing assistance, the ewe delivered the third lamb, another chubby ram.

Pat made another quick trip back home from school following lunch. Athena was still lying down and Pat feared her prized ewe, winner of champion Farm Show fleece honors in 1994, was about



Though she hasn't followed Pat McKinney to school yet, pet lamb Little Bit likes to be cuddled, even laying her head on Pat's shoulder.



This column is for readers who have questions but don't know whom to ask for answers.

"You Ask—You Answer" is for non-cooking questions. When a reader sends in a question, it will be printed in the paper. Readers who know the answer are asked to respond by mailing the answer, which will then be printed in the paper.

Questions and Answers to this column should be addressed to You Ask—You Answer, Lancaster Farming, P.O. Box 609, Ephrata, PA 17522. Attention: Lou Ann Good.

There's no need to send a SASE. If we receive an answer to your question, we will publish it as soon as possible. Please include your phone number because we sometimes need to contact the person to clarify details. We will not publish your phone number unless you request it.

QUESTION — Agnes DeFonde, R.D.2, Box 319, Portersville, PA 16051 would like to purchase a machine for shelling peas.

QUESTION — Gregory Badger, Collegeville, enjoys planting wildflowers. He would like a source to purchase seeds for Lance Leaf Coreopsis (Coreopsis lanceolata), which are a brilliant yellow and long stemmed daisy-like flower.

QUESTION — Virginia Haines, Tabernacle, N.J., would like instructions for making eggs look like wood. She saw it demonstrated on television but didn't hear the amount of vinegar and water nor did she get the address so she could write to them for the recipe. She said that a flower or design is put on the raw egg and wrapped in nylon stocking pulled tight with a twister. Let it cook slowly in onion skins for four or five hours. She writes that the eggs are beautiful and look just like wood and will last a lifetime.

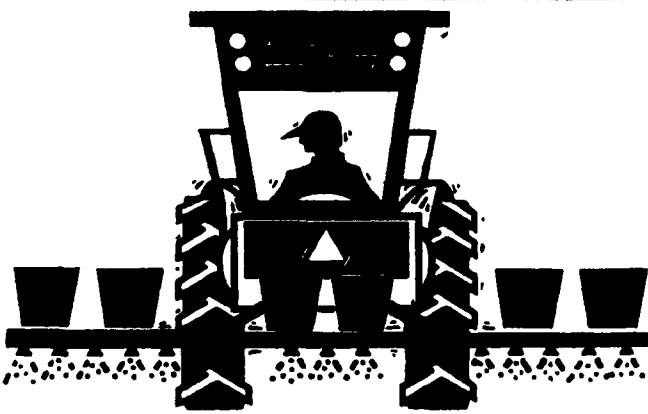
QUESTION — Jerry Johnson, Herndon, would like to know where to purchase light blue with white pinstripe beanie caps with a short bill. They are used under hardhats and welding hoods. The denim-like material is similar to an engineer hat but in a beanie style.

QUESTION — Leona Spangler, P.O. Box 41, Spring Mills, PA 16875-9419, would like to buy a copy of "Searchlight" cookbook and a Rumford cookbook, which were printed between 1930-1940. Other cookbooks from that era are also welcomed.

QUESTION — June Kummerer, 1505 Kummerer Rd., Pottstown, PA 19464, is looking for books on bobbin lace; how to make it, where to purchase bobbins, and a book "Beginners Bobbin Lace," and everything else on the subject.

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