

Record-Breaking Number Of Easter Lambs, Goats Sold At New Holland

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Market Staff

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Baa baa-a-a! Naa-a-a-a! Baa baa-a-a-a-a!

These are the sounds of spring in the "short-leg" pens at the New Holland Sales Stables.

Hundreds, make that thousands, of lambs and kids came to market in the past 10 days at the New Holland Sales Stables, setting Easter season records.

A total of 11,797 head of sheep and goats were sold at four sales within eight days at the New Holland auction site. The sheep numbers totaled 4,844 and an almost unbelievable 6,953 goats.

These are record-breaking marketing numbers in Lancaster County for the Easter season.

The major factor for the unprecedented large lamb and goat marketings is the occurrence of the Christian Easter and the Orthodox Easter at the same time, Sunday, April 15, which is also the first day (Muharram 1) in the Islam calendar year 1421. In addition, Palm Sunday, April 8, was the first day of the 8-day

Jewish Pesach (Passover) celebration, when there is always an increase in lamb purchases.

Considering the convergence of the religious holidays on the same date, the New Holland management scheduled an extra lamb and goat sale to better accommodate both buyers and sellers who deal at New Holland. Thus, there was not a one-day sales record for lamb established this year. Last year, for the main sale for the Easter trade, there were not enough pens to hold all the offerings and animals had to be returned to livestock trucks to await sale.

Ken Smoker, New Holland's manager of the sheep and goat division, said that in his 20 years of handling, sheep and goats, "to be fair," he said, he would have to say the lamb sale numbers are not as large as some he's handled. The record for sheep, mostly lambs, sold at one sale is nearly 4,000, he recalled.

For the last 10 years, Smoker noted, the meat goat offerings continue to increase along with the influx of mideastern ethnic

groups of the Islamic faith to eastern metropolitan areas.

Goat marketings in Lancaster County now outnumber the sheep and lambs. According to the USDA Market News Service, the official numbers for sheep marketings at the New Holland auctions last year totaled 55,346 head and the goat marketings totaled 73,402.

Where do all these "short legs" come from? When asked, Ken Smoker said, "Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri, and Mississippi."

Lancaster County has been called the livestock market center of the East. It appears that the sheep and goat sales are carrying on that tradition.



Goats are sold for the Easter trade in the small livestock sales ring at the New Holland Sales Stables Monday.



Pen of goats, a small lot out of the 2,307 head sold at the New Holland Sales Stables, await sale Monday.



A Pen of Easter lambs await sale at New Holland, where prices on Choice and Prime 35-60 pound lambs ranged from \$140-210 per hundredweight.

Spring Jersey Sale

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ners were recognized at the sale. First place in 2001 was Mollie Van Lieu with Stoney Hollow Malcolm Iris-P. This mature equivalent record of 18,682 pounds of milk, 842 pounds of fat, 645 pounds of protein, and 2,863 cheese yield dollars, earned her \$565.

In second place was Rebecca VanTassel who earned \$339 for her mature equivalent record of 18,916 pounds of milk, 753 pounds

of fat, 622 pounds of protein, and 2,652 cheese yield dollars on Twin Haven Marcus Sue-ET.

Christer Slick earned \$226 for his record on CA Theo Barber Reese of 15,536 pounds of milk, 776 pounds of fat, 587 pounds of protein, and 2,651 cheese yield dollars.

Alta Genetics, Select Sires, ABS, and Semex joined the sale with proceeds from the sale of donated semen going toward the Pennsylvania Jersey Youth fund.



Jennifer Cogan, Craig Sprout, Lee Bailey, and Don Stonerook gather around the second high seller at the Pa. Spring Jersey Sale. Bryan Marcoot, field representative for the American Jersey Cattle Association, looks on from the sale booth.

4-H Equine Garage Sale April 21

NAZARETH (Northampton Co.) — On April 21, the annual tack swap or "equine garage sale" will be conducted at the Northampton County 4-H Center, Nazareth. The tack swap will be from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

The Northampton County 4-H Center is located on Bushkill Center Road, 2.2 miles south of Rt. 512 at the Bangor Lumber light or four miles north of Nazareth on Bushkill Center Road.

There will be new and used items for sale for all horse interests and disciplines. Also, there will be horse crafts, Breyer model horses, clothing and other horse related items. All sellers must preregister for a sale table or space; there are

no consignments. No live animals are permitted.

Food, courtesy of Backtrackers 4-H Horse and Pony Club, will be available during the sale hours. This is a rain/shine event; being held inside non-heated buildings and outside.

Anyone wishing information concerning the tack swap is asked to call Janice Martin at (610) 837-7294. Anyone wishing general information concerning the 4-H program in Northampton County is asked to call Phyllis Laufer, Northampton County 4-H coordinator, weekdays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at (610) 746-1970, or your local Agriculture Extension Service in your county.

State Milk Marketing Board To Hold Hearing May 16

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — On May 16, the Milk Marketing Board will conduct a public hearing for Milk Marketing Areas, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony and exhibits concerning the continuation of the current over-order premium, and whether an adjustment should be made to the level of the current over-order premium (\$1.40 per hundred pounds of Class I milk) that is due to expire on June 30.

Milk Marketing Board Members stress that this hearing will not affect the \$.25 per one hundred pounds of Class I milk added to the current over-order premium to help offset the increase in fuel costs.

The hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m. in Room 202 of the Agriculture Building, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg.

