## Lambs, Goats From 24 States **Sell At Local Auction**

(continued from Page A1)

There were hundreds of lambs to cry, and human cries of sheer joy were in the air after sheep receipts reached 1,676 head (mostly lambs) Monday at the New Holland Sales Stables.

The goat sale began at 9 a.m. and bidding was active from the outset. Auctioneer was Dale Stoltzfus with Roger Floyd, retired manager of the New Holland firm, clerking (via computer). Ring man was Tom Sharpe, a perennial figure in the area livestock trade. By the close in late afternoon, 1,697 head were sold.

At the three main sales for the Easter trade at New Holland this year, sheep and lambs were recorded at 4,816 head and goats numbered 4,466 for a grand total of 9,282 head. This is probably a record for sales for the Christian Easter (March 30) and the Passover trade. Passover began at sundown Wednesday

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Goodville is the fastest-growing farm program in the

and will continue for eight days. Last year there were four religious or ethnic celebrations occurring at the same time, which resulted in the record numbers. The Christian Easter and the Greek Easter were observed Sunday, April 14, and it was also the first day of the Islam Year 1421 and the last day of the 8day Jewish Passover observance. Record numbers of 4,884 sheep and 6,953 goats were sold

at four sales within 10 days at

New Holland from Monday,

April 2 to Monday, April 9,

2001. Ken Smoker, New Holland's manager of the sheep and goat division, said most of the sheep and goats went out of state to be slaughtered. He said they went to New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

Goat and sheep receipts at New Holland come from 24 states. In addition to the seven

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states surrounding Pennsylvania, Smoker said goats and lambs are trucked from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee for sale at New Holland, where the demand is good from a wide range of buyers - large and small volume packers and individuals for religious observances.

Smoker has been involved in the livestock trade for more than 25 years. He got his start in the "short legs" division with the Walter M. Dunlap commission firm at the Lancaster Stockyards in the mid-'70s — "back in the days when Horace Plank was in charge," Smoker said.

With the influx of mideastern ethic groups of the Islamic faith in the eastern metropolitan areas, Smoker has experienced ever increasing numbers of meat goats being marketed at New Holland Sales Stables, where they had the facility in place to handle the trading.

This pen of lambs awaits sale for the Easter trade early Monday evening at the New Holland Sales Stables. Sheep and lamb receipts totaled 1,676 head.

market prices for lambs and goats were in the same range. Lambs are sold on a perhundredweight basis and goats on per-head basis. When asked

when the proposal in USDA channels to sell goats per hundredweight will begin, Smoker said he doesn't think that will happen. Buyers on the market are not pushing it.

Palmetto Palm

## Compared with last year, Smoker said, this year the

### **Notes About Holiday Sales**

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) Greek or Easter Orthodox Easter will be observed Sunday, May 5, this year. It is determined from the equinox (March 21) in the Julian Calendar while the Christian Easter is determined in the Gregorian Calendar and occurs on the Sunday following the first full moon after March 21. Sale dates for the Greek Easter trade will be Thursday, April 25, and Monday, April 29 at New Holland.



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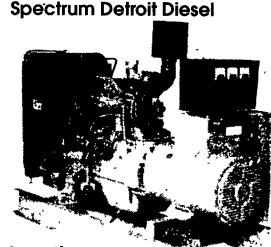
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