

# Y ask

## OU ANSWER

This column is for readers who have questions but don't know who 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.

Or, you may e-mail questions and answers to LGOOD.EPH@LNPNEW-S.COM

Please clarify what question you are answering when responding.

Do not send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a reply. If we receive the answer, 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. However, if your question requires someone to mail items to you, you must include your address or phone number for publishing.

**QUESTION** — Amy Marple, Mullica Hill, N.J., wants to know where to purchase Pride of Wisconsin cantaloupe seed. Her father grew them in the 1950s. The cantaloupe were of great size and excellent flavor, she writes.

**QUESTION** — Bruce Natties, Fleetwood, wants to know if anyone knows of a source to buy replacement tips for the cone on a Woodbuster PTO driven log splitter. Or, perhaps a reader has an extra one to sell. Call (610) 944-9162.

**QUESTION** — Betty Jakum, Littlestown, wants to know where to purchase a gasoline-powered rotary lawn mower that cuts 18 inches or less to use for trimming.

**QUESTION** — Mary Sasscer, Maryland, is looking for a Dick and Jane reader that dates back to about 1943-1944. The book contained a story about a neighbor who was restoring an old rocking horse, which was white with dapple spots on the rump and the platform was red. Mary has a rocking horse like the one in the story and has always remembered the story. Hers had leather ears, real horse hair mane and tail, a saddle, bridle, and reins. She would like to have the book to keep with her rocking horse. The

rocking horse is well over 100 years of age and belonged to her father. Any information on the Dick and Jane reader would be appreciated. Call her at (301) 627-5178.

**QUESTION** — Dick Herring wants to know where to find railroad ties.

**QUESTION** — Jennifer is trying to locate an article that she believes appeared in one of our June issues about a father and son team from the Allentown/Lehigh area who specialize in painting old farmhouses. Anyone know to whom she is referring?

**QUESTION** — Diane Gray, 70 Damascus Rd., Blandon, PA 19510, wants information and bottles from the former Lebanon or Lebanon Valley Dairy.

**QUESTION** — W. Spence Haines, Lansdale, has several push, old-style reel mowers, which she heard may have some value. She asks how she can find out the worth of the mowers.

**QUESTION** — Jean W., Newmanstown, wants to buy the book, "It Happened in the Hills of Kentucky," by John Vogel, copyrighted 1952. Call (717) 949-2846.

**QUESTION** — C. Faus, Hegins, wants to know how to store raw vegetables such as carrots, squash, kohlrabi, and more to store for winter use.

**QUESTION** — Nicolette Wagman, Seven Valleys, is doing research for a book about musical instruments and makers in York County. She wants information and photographs of instruments and their makers from any era. Call her at (717) 428-1856.

**QUESTION** — Shirley Schwoerner, Wysox, writes that some time ago she had clipped an answer in this column from Joyce Raubenstine who told how to make creams from aloe vera. The instructions were unclear, and she asks if someone can tell her the exact amount of aloe vera to use. The directions she has are as follows: To prepare a herb ointment or salve, crush the leaves of the aloe vera and mix with four parts melted fat (lard or shortening) and one part dry white wine. Heat gently for 20 minutes. Cool slightly and strain.

Shirley writes that her husband's chronic back problem was aggravated during haymaking. She rubbed aloe vera leaves on his back, and it helped instantly. He was amazed. It was a sloppy procedure, so they'd like to make the salve if possible.

Shirley adds a bit of humor by writing that she

can't boil water without a 3x5 card, "so you can see my problem with the aloe vera (Instructions)."

**QUESTION** — Kenneth Wirtz, White Hall, Md., is having trouble finding replacement parts for his electric three-point hitch that is on a 10HP Sears garden tractor purchased in 1977. The parts are no longer available through Sears. The item is Model number 917.253130 electric 3-point hitch. Wirtz would appreciate hearing from someone who no longer uses the part. He doesn't need the complete hitch, just the power assist lift. He is willing to pay a fair price for the item. Call him at (410) 329-2175.

**QUESTION** — Sharon Heller writes that they have 75 acres in Perry County. About half of the acreage is mowed by a neighbor who sells the 1/2 ton mixed hay rolls for his own profit. She wants to know how to find an average rental for the acreage. What is the best way to advertise the available acreage?

**QUESTION** — Cindy Eshleman, R.3, Box 7957, Jonestown, PA 17038, wants to know what day of the week the Selingsgrove Horse Sale is conducted. Also, she asks, if a sequel was written to "Gone With the Wind" and "Scarlett"? If so, what is the title of the book? Eshleman also wants the May 2003 issue of "Paper Horse." She is willing to pay postage.

**QUESTION** — Mike White, Bernville, writes that the last few years, he has a problem with black birds (grackles) after he plants field corn. When the corn first comes up until it is two to three weeks old, the birds either pull out the small plants or tear them off. This year, he had to replant a three-acre field because of the destruction the birds caused. No one else in the area seems to have a problem, but White has witnessed the birds digging and pulling out the corn. It seems the area is hardest hit on the hills where the morning sun first shines. He has tried scarecrows, which only works in a 20-foot area around the scarecrow. Any help or suggestions will be appreciated.

**QUESTION** — Marie Hixson, Crystal Spring, wants to know how to grow wild rice. They live on a farm with some wet areas that she believes would be suitable for growing rice. Anyone know where she can find information?

**QUESTION** — Warren Glidewell, Bloomsburg, wants to know where to find Flemish giant rabbits in a fawn color.

**QUESTION** — C. Gutshall, Carlisle, is looking for proper cleaning instructions for printed cotton seed sacks made in the 1940s. She also would like a Web site address that offers information on older cotton and burlap feed sacks.

**QUESTION** — Eugene Maute, 327 Asbury Ave., Elkins Park, PA 19027 wants to know who sells thick, clear, flexible plastic sheeting like that used to make seat covers. Maute wants to buy several yards.

**ANSWER** — A reader wanted to know what causes swimmers in a farm pond to become itchy the morning after swimming in the pond. It looks like mosquito bites over their bodies and they are very itchy. Thanks to a reader for writing that they believe the problem may be what is known as "swimmer's itch," caused by cercariae, a larval form of animal flat worms penetrates the epidermal skin layer. After penetration, these parasites remain and die, causing an allergic reaction in some people. The embedded parasite does not mature, reproduce or create a permanent infection. Symptoms usually appear from 5 minutes to two hours after exposure. Some people experience a tingling or burning sensation. At each point of penetration, a raised, red spot will develop on the skin. The spot may increase in size during the first 24-30 hours. Itching may last as long as a week. In some people, itching may subside for 10-15 hours and then re-occur with greater intensity. Some individuals may develop blisters, which may later become pustules. Symptoms typically disappear within a week. Most cases do not require medical attention. May treat it with calamine or anti-itch lotions. Also baking soda paste and baths may help. Avoid scratching or the skin reaction may worsen or

become infected. Swimmer's itch does not necessarily mean the water is polluted. Birds and snails are potential hosts, which propagate the occurrence. You can try to reduce pond vegetation so that snails do not have an ideal environment to grow. For detailed information about swimmer's itch go to the Website: [www.bunganut-lake.org/itch.htm](http://www.bunganut-lake.org/itch.htm).

**ANSWER** — Harriet Newlin, 1287 Ridge Rd., Grantville, PA 17028, requested names and addresses of Amish families who serve meals in their homes. Marian Martin sent in this name: Jacob and Naomi King, 707 W. Elizabethtown Rd., Manheim, PA 17545.

**ANSWER** — Gene Maute, Elkins Park, and the Bellers wrote that they received answers to their questions through this paper. Many people such as Maute write that they find this column very interesting and look forward to reading it each week. So, keep those answers coming. In case anyone else is interested in clear, flexible plastic, Amy Marple, Mullica Hill, N.J., writes that it is sold by the yard at WalMart.

**ANSWER** — Virginia Snyder, Millersburg, wanted to know where to find Fullers Earth Powder and also Cuticura soap. Thanks to David Anspach for writing that it is sold at Websites [www.stuff-julielikes.com](http://www.stuff-julielikes.com) and [www.drugstore.com](http://www.drugstore.com).

**ANSWER** — For the reader who wanted the name of a father and son team who do house pointing on old farmhouses, Jenny Coffey believes it is L&N Construction, Sinking Spring.



Pleasant Hills Hay and Dairy Farm was the site of Lycoming County Farm-City Day.

## Farm-City Day At Lycoming Dairy

REGINA STEPPE  
Lycoming Co. Dairy Princess  
WILLIAMSPORT (Lycoming Co.) — Pleasant Hills Hay and Dairy Farm is a five-generation, family run, century farm. It is owned and operated by my parents, James and Deborah Steppe, with help from their family of nine children.

The farm consists of 240 acres where we milk 60 head of Holstein. My family is one of the largest commercial hay growers in Lycoming County. My father was awarded the 1999 Outstanding Conservation Cooperator of the year. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have been given the honor of having Farm-City Day 2003 conducted on our farm.

More than 1,000 people visited Pleasant Hills Farms.

There were various displays and informational tables set up. Among those was that of my Lycoming County Dairy Royalty. My court, which includes two alternate dairy princesses, six maids, and two misses were present to assist me in selling brownie sundaes and t-shirt's. We also had a table of free goodies, like

cow and cheese erasers, recipe brochures, and got milk pencils and stickers.

We also made homemade butter from real heavy cream, using an antique butter churn. Butter is made by churning the heavy cream in the churn until thick, and then draining off the excess liquid called buttermilk. The finished product is wonderful, tasty butter. You can also add a pinch of salt for taste. This demonstration showed what things were like long ago.



Regina Steppe