

# You Ask We 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@LNPNEWS.COM](mailto:LGOOD.EPH@LNPNEWS.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** — In Williamsville, New York, outside of Buffalo, there is a former gas station/minimart of which Polly E. Mathys, Spring City, Pa. is part owner. She writes: "We are selling the ground, and the building will in all likelihood be torn down. In this building are store-type items such as display shelves, a walk-in cooler with five glass door fronts, and five 6-foot-long chest coolers (you know the kind you reach into in the store to get your Popsicle or what-not). The buyer of the ground doesn't want them and neither do we. But rather than get a certified refrigerant remover to come in and then trash all this equipment, we're looking for a food bank, a farm, a produce stand, or whoever to come to Williamsville and claim these items.

None of this stuff is new, but to our knowledge, it all worked the last time the electricity was on." Call Polly at (610) 495-6185 for more information.

**QUESTION** — L. T. Burke, Southampton, wants to know where to buy outdoor iron furniture from the 1960s-1970s that is in new or very good condition. He wants straight and rocking chairs.

**QUESTION** — Naomi King, Lititz, wants to know where to purchase replacement thermos lids with attached spouts to drink from. They are the 2-quart Rubbermaid jugs with screw-on lids.

**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 ap-

preciated. Call her at (301) 627-5178.

**QUESTION** — Dick Her-ring 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 Sellingsgrove 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 suit-

able 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.

**ANSWER** — In response to A.M. Hurst's request for a copy of the Wenger Family history book dates 1727-1959, which has a black cover, Anna Martin, Denver, writes that she contacted the Mennonite Historical Society. Copies of that book are no longer for sale. However, the Wenger Family History book was brought up to date in 1978. It sells for \$49.50 plus shipping and handling. The price includes a free index, which used to sell for \$35 separately. Contact the Mennonite Historical Society at (717) 393-9745.

**ANSWER** — Mrs. Ivan Rissler, Mohnton, writes that her family had the same problem with itchininess after swimming in a farm pond. They searched for a solution for years. She agrees with the reader whose response was in last week's issue. She writes the most common parasite problem in ponds is swimmer's itch, which is caused by a small, free-swimming parasite that burrows under the skin where it dies and causes itching for about a week. A brisk rub-down with a towel immediately after the swimmer emerges from the water minimizes the irritation caused by the parasite. The most practical way to control the parasite is to control the snails that serve as intermediate hosts, by draining the pond and letting it dry for several months. Stocking of redear sunfish may be effective since they are natural predators of snails. The Risslers purchased swans to help control that algae in the hope that less algae is less homes for snails. No chemicals are registered for controlling snails. Rissler's information is from the Penn State publication "Management of Fish Ponds in Pa." It is available at local county extension offices or call University Park (814) 865-6713.

## Penn State Extension Offers Free Parenting Videos

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — The "I Am Your Child Campaign" is a national public awareness effort devoted to making early childhood development a top priority in the U.S. It was created by the Reiner Foundation and works with many other child-centered agencies and organizations, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Coalition for America's Children.

The I Am Your Child (IAYC)

video series addresses critical early childhood and school readiness issues, including early bonding and attachment, quality child care, early literacy, discipline, health and nutrition, and child safety. Video topics include:

- The First Years Last Forever Hosted by Rob Reiner, this introductory video provides information on the importance of bonding, communication, health, nutrition, child care, and other issues discussed in the video series.

- Ready to Learn — Hosted by LeVar Burton and Jamie Lee Curtis, lead a discussion on the importance of early literacy and show parents and caregivers how to help young children develop language skills through everyday activities like talking, singing, and playing.

- Quality Child Care — Hosted by Maria Shiver, this video focuses on the importance of finding quality child care. It shows what to look for when choosing a

care provider, whether at a child care center or in a private home.

- Safe from the Start — Gloria Estefan shows parents and caregivers how to keep children safe from accidental injuries.

- Your Healthy Baby — Children's health and nutrition is the focus of this video, hosted by Phylcia Rashad. Your Healthy Baby discusses children's changing health needs as they grow and provides useful information on prenatal care, breastfeeding,

visiting the pediatrician, children's nutritional needs, and exercise.

- Discipline — Renowned child development experts Dr. Berry Brazelton explains why children actually look for behavioral limits. The video shows that a firm but gentle approach is best and demonstrates useful techniques to promote discipline. Copies of these videos can be obtained, free of charge, by picking them up at county Cooperative Extension offices.