

Easter Sheep and Goat News for 2020 – from the Cornell Goat & Sheep Program

There is a lot of uncertainty as to what impact the COVID 19 pandemic will have on consumer demand for lamb and goat this spring. NYC and other large Northeast cities are the traditional Easter market for suckling kids and lambs. While many families are home this year rather than vacationing, it is less likely that extended families are joining for large celebrations. Some auctions are reporting that NYC buyers are missing from their auctions. If you normally sell goats and sheep for Easter we strongly urge you to contact past buyers and auctions about anticipated market demand and assess your risk.

Western (Roman) Easter is on April 12th and Greek (Orthodox) Easter is on April 19th. Passover begins at evening April 8th and ends at sundown April 16th while Ramadan starts in the evening on April 23rd and ends the evening of May 23rd. Keep in mind that market demand for the breaking of the fast at Ramadan is typically for weaned market kids and lambs rather than for the suckling animals in such demand for the traditional early Spring holidays.

The Cornell Sheep & Goat Program has compiled the following list of Easter sales. Keep in mind that your local auction barn may also have more buyers lined up as Easter approaches even if they are not holding a special Easter sale. Please try to call ahead and alert the salebarn if you plan to bring in a large group of animals so that they have the opportunity to advertise your group ahead of time if they have a facebook page and/or try to line up a good set of buyers for your group.

More info about the pluses and minuses of selling slaughter goats and sheep at auctions is available on the web at <http://www.sheepgoatmarketing.info/education/livestockauction.php> and <http://www.sheepgoatmarketing.info/education/NEauctionbarns.php> . The education section of that web site also has several articles on evaluating lambs and kids and on marketing them through various channels. The market directory at http://sheepgoatmarketing.info/marketing_dir.php?col=categories lists buyers and slaughter houses as well as auctions. However, many listings are out of date so please be sure to call them to double check on info listed.

EASTER Sales for 2020

SPECIAL NEWS – *In order to maintain social distancing, all the sales listed below are requiring that only buyers enter the salesbarn. In most cases buyers must fill out a questionnaire before being issued a buyer number. Spectators and children are asked to remain home. Sellers are asked to leave the premises after animals have been unloaded and information collected rather than remaining to tour the barn or observe the actual sale. The auctions ask for your understanding for any inconveniences you experience. **Be sure your animals are scrapie tagged/ID'ed, otherwise you will be charged a tagging fee.***

The Dutchess County Sheep & Wool Growers second annual Easter Lamb Sale at Dutchess County Fairgrounds has been cancelled.

The Empire Livestock Dryden Market's request to USDA to lower their commission for goats and sheep has been approved. The new commission of \$6/head (with a \$2 tagging fee for animals brought to the sale without a scrapie tag) will take effect on March 30th, 2020 just in time for their first Easter Lamb & Goat Sale. Their second Easter sale will be April 6th.

List of Easter Sales for Goats & Sheep

Empire Livestock Bath Market

Jonathan Lubic

7418 Rt. 415 N , Bath NY 14810 (Steuben County)

Cell (585) 250-2032 or salesbarn (607) 776-2000

<https://www.empirelivestock.com/our-network/bath>

Easter auction: Thurs. April 2nd, 6 PM. Goats by the head, sheep by the lb., barn opens 8 AM, best to bring in by 1 PM so buyers get good chance to view. *Jonathan suggests calling ahead if bringing a bigger group of lambs, kids or sheep so he can notify buyers.*

Commission: \$9/hd.

Empire Livestock Central Bridge Market

Tim Miller

872 Rt.30A, PO Box 279, Central Bridge, NY 12035 (Schoharie County)

Cell (315) 440-9683 or salesbarn (518) 868-2006

<https://www.empirelivestock.com/our-network/central-bridge>

Easter auction: Tues. April 7th, 1 PM. Goats by the head, lambs and sheep by the lb., check in on Monday from 8:30 AM to 2 PM or Tuesday 8 am to noon, earlier best. *Can call in ahead if bringing in big group.*

Commission: 10% + \$1/hd tagging fee for animals without scrapie tag

Empire Livestock Dryden Market

Danielle Cornelius

49 East Main Street, PO Box 387, Dryden NY 13053 (Tompkins County)

(607) 280-9378 or (607) 844-9104

<https://www.empirelivestock.com/our-network/dryden>

Two Easter auctions: Mon. March 30th and April 8th, 2 PM. Cull goats by the head, all other goats and sheep by the lb. Check in starting 7 AM or day before. *Can call in ahead if bringing big group.*

Commission: \$6/hd + \$2/hd tagging fee for animals without scrapie tag.

Empire Livestock Pavilion Market

Sue Rudgers

357 Lake Street, PO Box 423, Pavilion NY 14525 (Genesee County)

cell (585) 447-3842 or salesbarn (585) 584-3033

<https://www.empirelivestock.com/our-network/pavilion>

Easter auction: Mon. March 30th 2 PM. Check in starting at 8 AM until 1 PM or so, goats and sheep sold by the lb.

Commission: \$10/hd + \$1/hd tagging fee for animals without scrapie tag.

Empire Livestock Vernon Market

David Sherwood

11 Ruth St., Vernon, NY 13476 (Oneida County)

Cell (315) 436-0804 or salesbarn (800) 257-1819 or (315) 829-3105

<https://www.empirelivestock.com/our-network/vernon>

Easter auction: Mon. March 30th 12:30 PM. Check in starting at 8 AM until ~11:30 AM, goats sold by the head and sheep by the lb.

Commission: 10% with a \$10 minimum fee

Finger Lakes Livestock Exchange

Barb Parker

3865 Rts 5 & 20 Geneva Turnpike, Canandaigua, NY 14424 (Ontario County)

(585) 394-1515

<http://www.fingerlakeslivestockex.com/>

Easter auction: Wed. April 1st, 5 PM. All goats sold by the head, lambs and sheep by the lb., check in 8 AM to 2 PM, can also come in on Tuesday.

Commission: \$8/hd + \$1/hd tagging fee for animals without scrapie tag

Gentners Livestock Commission Market – all sales cancelled until further notice

Shirley Gentner

341 W. Main St., Springville NY 14141 (Erie County)

(716) 592-4062

<https://www.facebook.com/GENTNERSCOMMISSIONMARKET/> info@gentnersspringvilleauction.com

Hosking Sales

Tom & Brenda Hosking

6071 NYS Rte. 8, New Berlin, NY 13411 (Chenango County)

(607) 847-8800 or Tom's cell (607) 972-1770 or Brenda's cell (607) 972-1771

<http://www.hoskingsales.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/Hoskingsalesauction/>

Two Easter Sheep, Lamb, Goat & Pig Sales: Monday March 30th and Monday Apr 6th~2 PM, check in Sunday (call to set up time), or Monday 8 AM – noon. Goats sold by the head, lambs and sheep by the lb. *Tom would welcome feedback on whether sellers would prefer goats to eventually be sold by the lb. If you have a group of animals you would like them to advertise ahead, please call.*

Commission is a sliding scale based on the price the animal sells for: ≤\$20 commission is \$3/hd, >\$20 to \$60 is \$5/hd, >\$60 to \$100 is \$7/hd, >\$100 to \$150 is \$9/hd, >\$150 to \$200 is \$11/hd and >\$200 to \$300 is \$13/hd, >\$300 is \$15/hd.

Unadilla Livestock Company, LLC

Nelson Weaver

76 Maples Avenue, Unadilla NY 13849 (Otsego County)

(315) 719-3459 or day of sales (607) 369-8231

<http://www.unadillalivestockcompany.com> <https://www.facebook.com/UnadillaLivestockCompany/>

Easter small animal & lamb sale: Sat. April 4th, 2 PM Goats, lambs and sheep, all animals sold by the head, animals can start coming in at 8 AM.

Commission: 10%

New Holland Sales Stables

Tim Baumert

101 W Fulton St.

New Holland, Pennsylvania 17557 Lancaster 17557

(717) 354-4341

Goat & Sheep Sale: Mondays March 30th and April 6th. Sales starts 9 AM, 24 hour check-in starting Sunday morning. Goats sold by the head. Sheep sold by the pound. Please note that if there are excessive numbers of goats, sheep may not sell until Tues. but should still come in before Monday morning in case all animals sell on Monday.

Commission: \$6/hd, call for yardage fee