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SALE ENDS APRIL 9, 1977

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COUNTY AGENT'S NOTEBOOK

By LEROY J. HAJDIK
County Extension Agent

Oak Buds Can Produce Toxic Poisoning

It is time to think about toxic poisoning of livestock from oak buds. Dr. John Reagan, Toxicologist at the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, indicates that this problem generally becomes apparent in many Texas areas starting around the first of April. Usually a shortage of feed is the main reason to turn out the tender buds that are the only source of green material available. The skin of oak buds, tender flowers and newly formed leaves are palatable and poisonous. The tannins in the buds is the toxic agent and causes an upset in the digestive tract of the affected animals. Cattle, sheep and goats have been poisoned.

Due to the severe losses of livestock many years, some ranchers pen and feed cattle for three to four weeks when the tender buds are out.

Supplementary feeding will help reduce losses, however the use of a properly mixed feed containing calcium by drydose (hydrated lime) in a palatable formula has proven to be a more effective antidote than the supplement alone. The concentration of the calcium hydroxide in the feed must be high enough to

counteract the oak tannins, but low enough to be palatable and eaten by livestock. A feed formula developed by Dr. W. D. Dickey and others at Texas A&M University, that is palatable and economically feasible is as follows: Ground Alfalfa 600 lbs., Cotton Seed Meal 1080 lbs., Vegetable Oil 120 lbs., and Calcium Hydroxide (hydrated lime) 200 lbs.

This will make up a one ton feed that can be mixed by the owner or any experienced commercial feed producer. Problems have occurred when substitutions to the ingredients have been attempted. Care must be taken not to get the hydrated lime too moist, so as to cause heating. The vegetation of in the oak buds is the main cause of the toxic agent and causes an upset in the digestive tract of the affected animals. Cattle, sheep and goats have been poisoned.

When sprouting coastal bermudagrass, the dormant sprouts should not be planted deeper than two to three inches. The sprout must be placed in moist soils and packed with parker wheels at the time of sprouting.

In planting seed type grasses, the seeds should be planted deeper than is recommended. The spring must be placed in moist soils and packed with parker wheels at the time of sprouting.

When sprouting permanent grasses in Colorado County from Feb. 15 to May 15, one exception to this planting date is coastal bermudagrass which can be planted from Jan. 1 to May 15.

In preparing a proper seedbed for planting or sprouting grasses, a disk, harrow, or roller should be used to incorporate the seeds into the soil.

Grass plants are adapted to different kinds of soils. For instance, gorg bluestem is adapted to the dark blackland clay type soils. Coastal bermudagrass and Persian grass are well adapted to the sandy type soils. For adaptability of other grasses, you should contact the local office of the Soil Conservation Service.

It is recommended that the young grass plants be fertilized during the first year of growth so that they may become established quickly. Also, it is recommended that the young grass plant not be grazed during the first growing season so that a good root system may be established.

Assistance was given to Otto Loessin, Commissioner of Precinct 1, on flooding problems in the Garwood area. RC&D funds are available through the Sam Houston RC&D for helping solve these problems.

District contractor Lavorino of the Menil area is planning to establish a pond to establish grass as part of his pasture improvement program.

Dorothy Kallina has completed smoothing 80 acres of rice land in the Garwood area.

District contractor Billy Strunk of the Oakland area is planning to construct a pond for irrigation.

The Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge at Eagle Lake is in the process of installing a drainage system.

Ed Hanzelka, a district contractor of the Glidden area, is planning to shape and establish grass on eroded areas to control erosion.

P. R. Hancock is having the conservation work done on his farm near Rock Island updated. He plans to establish some land to call bermudagrass for hay production.

Assistance was given to H. A. Braden of the Bernardo area on fertilization requirements and proper management of coastal bermuda grass.

The Soil Conservation Service personnel are proud to tell you that we are back at home in the County Agricultural Building. Come by and see us.

Outdoor classroom assistance was given to the District Conservationist Connie Fair and Biologist Ken Moore of Victoria.

Outdoor classroom studies are held each week for students from the Houston Independent School District.

Assistance was given to Fred Grahman of Terrell, Texas, in identifying and discussing the needs for RC&D as

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SOIL CONSERVATION NEWS NOTES

Willie Fuchs, a district contractor of the New Braunfels area, has established a good cover of bermudagrass on areas which are shaded.

Eugene Harsh, a district contractor of the Menil area, is planning to establish 20 acres to Bahia grass this spring.

District contractor Charles Herzig of the Weimar area has established 11 acres to Gorg bluestem grass.

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Win Prizes At Anderson Assurance Anniversary



Billy Reynolds, Jr. Rock Is. Fire Honored On Second Birthday BBQ Apr. 24

On Saturday, March 5, 1977, Billy Reynolds, Jr. and friends celebrated his second birthday. Those attending Billy's party were Karen Seeholm, Shelly Glaser, Shelly Lamm, Jeff Holden and Gardner Reynolds.

After Billy opened his gifts, everyone enjoyed cake, juice, chips and dips, and tuna sandwiches.

Special guests also attending were Mrs. Lucinda Dawson of Eagle Lake, Mr. and Mrs. John Seeholm of Houston, and Gardner "Paw" Seeholm of Eagle Lake.

whereby cost sharing assistance may be used in planting grass. This assistance also provides cost sharing on fertilizer for establishing the young grass plants after they have been planted.

The personnel at the Soil Conservation Service office in Columbus will be happy to assist you in case you have questions on grass establishment, on seed rates and proper fertilization rates and on proper fertilization rates for grass establishment. Feel free to come by.

Bowden Aberton of Anderson Assurance Agency, Inc., extends congratulations and a \$50 U. S. Savings Bond to A. J. Zacek, winner of the first prize at the firm's recent two-year anniversary event. In the lower picture (left) are Bowden Aberton, left, and the second place winner, Sherry Sanders, left, and Janice Fink, right. Those associated with the firm extended thanks to all who came by for a visit during the two-year observance and comment that if you did not make it by on that date, you are always welcome to come in for a visit and a cup of coffee.

Time to Plant Permanent Grasses

"Now is the time to start thinking about planting or sprouting permanent grasses on your farm. Yes, the spring grass planting season is upon us," said Connie Fair, district conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service in Columbus.

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Fort Bend Czech Fest Plans

The second annual Fort Bend County Czech Fest has been set for April 15-17 at the county fairgrounds at Rose

Czech Fest is a giant spring festival which features three days of good food, family entertainment, lively music and dancing, and good times in the authentic Czech tradition.

The delicious barbecue chicken and sausage dinner will be served beginning at 11 a.m. for \$2.50 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 12 years of age.

The price is invited to make plans to attend and to see the work of the volunteer firemen in the Rock Island community. Tickets to the dinner and for other activities for the day may be obtained from any of the firemen.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Added to the Eagle Lake Headlight's subscription list during the past week were Prairie Farm of Eagle, Bernardo, Mrs. Leona Leander, Columbus Mrs. Alex Orsak of Garwood, W. C. Dupree of Sheridan.

Our office in the newly redone Colorado County Agricultural Building anytime or call us at 732-2773.

home from the Eagle Lake Hospital.

Our wish for each of them is continued improvement.

Honor Daughter

Mr. and Mrs. James (Fritz) Gruber of Columbus entered with their daughter home in Columbus Tuesday evening of last week at 6:00, honoring their daughter Jane on her 16th birthday. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gernoch at Nada.

Later last Sunday

Mrs. Chester Hauseman and Mr. and Mrs. Marion Smith and son Madison flew to Snyder last Sunday to visit Mr. and Mrs. James W. and family. They also met their daughter Sherry and helped her celebrate her 19th birthday. Other guests there were Jan Griffith and Daryl Hunt, Sherry, Jan and Daryl are students at Abilene Christian University.

Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Crane, home from the Eagle Lake Heritage House this past Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hoffman of Edinburg honored their son, Mr. Rudy Hoffman, at his 21st birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Billie Binkley last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Mrs. Bobbi Jo Hauseman of Garwood, Columbus, celebrated their 25th anniversary.

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