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County Agent's NOTEBOOK

(By Leroy J. Hajdik, County Extension Agent Colorado County)

Buy Hay Now Or Later??

If you need additional hay to winter your livestock, should you buy it now or plan to buy it during the winter, when needed? Making a decision to "buy hay now" versus "buying later" involves numerous uncertainties. Among these are hay and pasture growing conditions during the remainder of the year, amount of hay on hand from the previous year, and the severity and length of the coming winter.

Due to last year's poor crop, estimated hay stocks on May 1 this year were down 40 percent in both Texas and Oklahoma compared to May 1, 1980. Texas farmers had intended to increase hay acreage by 12 percent this season.

Making a decision to buy hay now versus later should reflect the comparison of the cost of buying now and storing until the feeding season against the anticipated cost of hay purchased during the feeding season. From 1970 to 1979, the average price received by Texas farmers for all hay tended to be lower in the May-July period, with obvious exceptions in 1971 and 1975. As a basis for evaluating the alternatives of buying now and buying later, the highest and lowest monthly pricesduring the May-July period in each year was compared with the highest monthly price in the January-February period of the next year.

Data indicate that from 1970-1979, if the hay were purchased at the highest monthly price during the May-July period and financed at 14 percent, the average cost would have been $1.60 per ton less than if bought at the highest monthly price in the succeeding January or February. In three out of the 11 years, the hay could have been purchased cheaper in January or February. Over the same time period, if the hay was purchased at the lowest monthly price during the May-July period, (assuming the same 14 percent interest rate on money invested in the hay), the average cost would have been $4.15 per ton less than if bought at the highest monthly price in the succeeding January or February. In one year out of 11, the hay could have been purchased cheaper in January or February.

Another alternative for producers is to buy hay routinely in October. Compared to buying hay in January, the average cost per ton would have been $2.75 less per ton when buying hay in October during the 1970-79 period (assuming a 14 percent interest rate; except in 1974-75 and 1976-77.

With the hay harvesting season in progress, now is the time to evaluate your forage requirements for your livestock next winter.

KC's Cancel Sale Of BBQ Chicken Sunday

The local Knights of Columbus are cancelling their barbecued chicken sale regularly held on the first Sunday of each month and the KC's urge you to support the Chamber of Commerce barbecue to be held Saturday, July 4th. The orders placed with the KCs for July will be carried over to August 2nd.

"OVER MY SHOULDER"

(By Rodney B. Kruse, Port City Stockyards Co. Sealy and Brenham)

June's market began realizing that cattle prices can go up.

Total market receipts in South, Central and East Texas continue to stay around 10 percent less compared to last year's receipts. Rains and more rains have kept cattle in grass, allowing some cowfolks to hold onto their calves in hopes that prices will improve.

Increasing numbers of new crop calves started moving into the market channels. Many of these calves were fat and fleshy because of the abundance of grass.

To wipe the dust off last year's cattle prices can shed some light on the condition of the industry.

Similarities in slaughter cow, bull and fed slaughter cattle prices exist between June of 1980 and '81. For both time frames big packer cows were roughly $43 and $47, bulls $52 to $57, while fed slaughter steers in the Texas panhandle around $71.

However, the big gap is in stocker-feeder prices. This June good 300 to 400 pound steer calves were mostly $65 to $75, 400 to 500 pounders $60 to $70, which is approximately 16 percent less in price compared to June of '80. Heifer calves in June were $60 to $70 12 percent less than last year's figures.

The difference between stocker-feeder prices last year and this year is the amount of confidence in the future of the feeding industry. With feedlot managers having been burnt "betting on the come" for the past months, managers now plan to buy stocker-feeders with a more critical eye for price.

Hog prices in June climbed to their highest level for the year. Packers searching for market hogs pushed grain fed top hogs $51 to $53 as the month closed.

Fewer "piggies to market" is shown in the recent USDA Hog and Pig Report. Swine inventory is down 8 percent, breeding industry 12 percent less and 8 percent fewer market hogs compared to a year ago.

Looking into the next few months finds those hot, summer days still out there. At that time grass will fade and more cattle and calves will move into the market channels, hopefully prices will stay level.

Beaumont Rice Field Day Wed.

The 34th Annual Rice Field Day is scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 1981, at the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Beaumont, and interested persons are cordially invited to attend.

The activities will begin at 8:30 a.m. with registration and will continue until 2:15 p.m. Tours of the research plots will begin at 9:00 a.m., where Experiment Station personnel will explain latest research findings. Discussions on varieties, water, insects, weeds, diseases, fertility and other rice production and handling problems will be held. Ed Weaver, Jefferson County Extension Agent, will serve as Field Master. County Extension Agents of District 11 will be tour guides.

Following a noon barbecue lunch, the afternoon program opens at 1:00 p.m. with Robert Bauer presiding at the annual meeting of TRIA. The keynote speaker will be H. M. "Hank" Beachell, former Beaumont Center Scientist and world renowned rice breeder. There will be ample time for questions, answers and discussions, said Julian P. Craigmiles, resident director of the station.

Darrell Stancik Kills Big Timber Rattler At Shaws Bend

Darrell Milton Stancik, eleven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin J. Stancik of Eagle Lake, is shown displaying a 5 foot timber rattlesnake he killed Sunday afternoon, June 28, 1981. Darrell and his dad were bird hunting on the Lloyd Poenitzsch farm [Darrell's aunt and uncle] in Shaws Bend, near Columbus, when they came upon the huge snake on a branch of a tree about 2 feet off the ground. The rattler measured 8" around in the middle and had 13 rattles and a button. Darrell's afternoon bird hunt turned out to be quite an exciting experience.

Royal Hennecke New CS&WD Dir. Study Is Made

The regular monthly meeting of the directors of the Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District was held on June 16. Royal Hennecke, new director from Zone 5, was welcomed by the other directors.

Other directors attending were Herbert Engstrom, Henry Sunderman, Melvin Albright, and Theo. Schultz.

A feasibility study was made on gully erosion in areas of Colorado County. These areas will be reclaimed for grazing and hay production to prevent critical erosion. A new program will provide 80% cost share funds for those areas as funding becomes available. If you have an active gully on your place, and are interested in reclaiming the gullied area, contact the Soil Conservation Service personnel in Columbus.

4-H Horse Program Results

(By Leroy J. Hajdik County Extension Agent)

Results in the 4-H Summer Horse Program from June 15 are as follows:

Barrel Racing

Beginners: 1 Jill Phillips, 2 Marisue Ford, 3 Lisa Dromgoole, 4 Cory Eisel; 8 and Under: 1 Sheralyn Sunderman, 2 Jackie Dromgoole, 3 Dena Shea Dromgoole; 9-12 years: 1 Terry Eisel, 2 Mack Wade Dromgoole, 3 Paula Baumgarten, 4 hestie Sunderman; 13 years and over: 1 Sonya Besch, 2 Glenda Hoegemeyer, 3 Bruce Besch, 4 Brendon Ford, 5 Michelle Phillips.

Pole Bending

Beginners: 1 Lisa Dromgoole, 2 Jackie Dromgoole, 3 Jill Phillips; 8 and Under: 1 Sheralyn Sunderman, 2 Dena Shea Dromgoole; 9-12 years: 1 Paula Baumgarten, 2 Mack Wade Dromgoole, 3 Terry Eisel, 4 Shee Marie Venghaus, 5 Leslie Sunderman, 6 Mark Besch; 13 and over: 1 Glenda Hoegemeyer, 2 Bruce Besch, 3 Brendon Ford, 4 Michelle Phillips.

Results from June 22 are as follows:

Barrel Racing

Beginners: 1 Marisue Ford, 2 Cory Eisel; 8 and Under: 1 Sheralyn Sunderman, 2 Dena Shea Dromgoole; 9-12 years: 1 Paula Baumgarten, 2 Mack Wade Dromgoole, 3 Terry Eisel, 4 Shee Marie Venghaus, 5 Mark Besch, 6 Leslie Sunderman; 13 and over: 1 Glenda Hoegemeyer, 2 Sonya Besch, 3 Bruce Besch, 4 Brendon Ford, 5 Michelle Phillips.

Pole Bending

Beginners: 1 Marisue Ford, 2 Jill Phillips; 8 and Under: 1 Sheralyn Sunderman, 2 Dena Shea Dromgoole; 12 years: 1 Mack Wade Dromgoole, 2 Terry Eisel, 3 Paula Baumgarten, 4 Shee Marie Venghaus, 5 Leslie Sunderman, 6 Mark Besch; 13 and over: 1 Sonya Besch, 2 Glenda Hoegemeyer, 3 Brendon Ford, 4 Michelle Phillips.

Private Pesticide Applicator Licenses Due Recertification

The more than 12,000 Texans currently certified as private pesticide applicators in the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Brenham district will be receiving recertification forms soon, Commissioner Reagan V. Brown has reported.

The forms will hold TDA update department files on licensed applicators.

The TDA Brenham district includes seventeen counties including: Austin, Colorado, Lavaca and Fayette in this area.

The recertification program will continue through the summer, and all 116,000 private applicators in the state will be recertified, Brown said.

Applicators do not have to be retrained or attend meetings, and there is no fee involved, Brown continued. Even new applicators who have recently received their pink certificates need to fill out the application. The new certificates are blue and will be dated.

Questions on these and/or other areas should be directed to the Texas Department of Agriculture, attention Charlie Rogers, Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78751 or any of the twelve TDA district offices.

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Vacation Bible School At Baptist Ch.

The annual Vacation Bible School of First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake will be held from Monday, July 6 through Friday, July 10th from 9:00-12:00 noon daily. Provisions have been made for children ages 4 through grade 6. The school will feature Mission and Bible studies, arts and crafts, and games and refreshments. Everyone is invited.

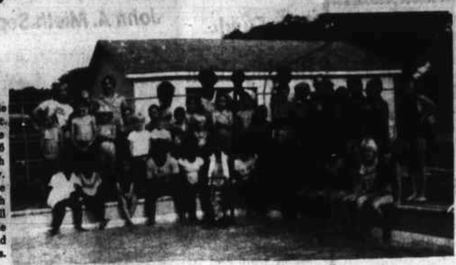
On Friday, July 10, students and faculty will bring their lunches for a noon picnic. Drinks will be furnished by the church. A Commencement Service will take place at 7:30 Friday evening with families and friends invited.

The faculty includes the Reverend Melburn Sibley, Principal; Mrs. Clara May Nash, Secretary and Pianist; and Mrs. J. K. Davidson, Refreshment Chairman. The Arts and Crafts will be led by Mrs. Vicki Powers, Mrs. Linda Wiese and Michael Sibley.

Grades 5 and 6 will be directed by Mrs. Pam Hengst, David Guess, Mrs. Elizabeth Boothe, and Mrs. Martha Sibley. Children in grades 3 and 4 will be taught by Mrs. Anne Pool, Mrs. Linda Lipperdt, Mrs. Sherry Marse and Sharon Sillivan.

In the department for grades 1 and 2 the workers are Mrs. Claudette Powers, Mrs. Carolyn Baird, and Pat Bradshaw. The 5 year old Pre-school is led by Mrs. Jacalyn Ashby, Mrs. Carol Hollub and Valerie Benge. Mrs. Carolyn Ferrill will direct the 4 year old Pre-school with Mrs. Pam Nicar and Roxanne Ripper. The Nursery will be staffed by Mrs. Hazel Hurd, Tony Hosman and Darlene Stancik.

Sheridan Red Cross Swimmers



Shown above are some of the 104 youngsters who enrolled in the Red Cross Swimming Lessons at the Sheridan Swimming Pool June 15-26.

104 Enrolled In Red Cross Swim Lessons

Two favorite sayings heard from the Beginner group during swimming lessons at the Sheridan Swimming Pool from June 15-26 were "Watch me; I can do it" and "I can't; I get water in my nose." After two weeks of practice, these youngsters mastered various skills to become better adjusted to the water enabling them to take care of themselves. Sixty-five percent successfully completed all the skills.

There were 55 Beginners, 24 Advanced Beginners, 9 Intermediates, 10 Swimmers, and 6 Basic Rescue and Water Safety participants.

Instructors were Tammy Wied, Kim Wunderlich, Jon Wunderlich, and Tina Grahmann.

DPS Says 44 Texans To Die In July 4th Traffic

The Department of Public Safety estimates that as many as 44 persons may die in Texas traffic accidents during the upcoming July 4th weekend unless drivers exercise extreme caution.

Colonel Jim Adams, DPS Director, urged motorists to maintain safe driving habits during the holiday to help minimize the loss of life.

Adams said DPS Regional Commanders will deploy additional troopers where heavy volumes of traffic are expected.

The DPS will be conducting "Operation Motorcide" during the holiday period to call attention to the dangers of holiday driving. The Department will tabulate traffic fatalities and release totals three times daily at 10 a.m., 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. The first report will be made at 10 a.m. Friday, July 3.

The 78-hour counting period will begin Thursday, July 2, at 6 p.m. and continue until midnight, July 5.

Fifty-two persons died from traffic injuries received during the July 4th holiday period last year. Texas traffic deaths in 1980 totaled 4,424, a record high for the fourth consecutive year.

House Casts Historic Votes On Fed. Budget

[By Cong. J. J. Pickle]

The House this week cast what many observers painted as some historic votes on budget reconciliation--the process where all authorizing committees must comply with the spending limit established in the first budget resolution previously set by the House. The crucial vote was whether to allow separate votes on some six amendments, containing spending cuts favored by the Administration.

The House had to come up with some $35 billion in cuts to comply with the budget resolution. But actually, we cut some $37 billion, even more than required. Allowing votes on the six amendments individually would have determined whether another $3 billion in cuts were to be made.

The House rejected the chance to cast votes on the six amendments, which means the final vote on reconciliation was the up or down contest between the House Budget Committee's product -- which complies with that first budget resolution -- or the additional spending cuts which goes beyond the resolution.

I voted to consider the six amendments for a specific reason. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security, we were instructed to cut some $2.5 billion from the program. We not only met this goal but exceeded it by about $1 billion.

We were instructed to immediately cut the minimum benefit and student benefit. The minimum provides a floor of $122 a month to some 3 million low-income elderly people who worked infrequently or at sub-minimum wages. Under the Administration's plan, these people were to see their minimum benefit cut, beginning next January. Students who depend on the survivors benefits to help finance their college education would have faced a three-year phase out beginning immediately, under the Administration's plan.

Our subcommittee adopted a more gradual phase out of these benefits. Everyone with the minimum benefit would have been protected. The benefit would be eliminated for future recipients. Under our plan, students would get a few years notice and then a more gradual phase out of the student benefit.

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Defensive Driving Course At WCJC July 7, 9

Wharton County Junior College in Wharton will offer the 8-hour Defensive Driving Course on Tuesday and Thursday, July 7 and 9. Julio Guerra will be the instructor.

The class will meet from 6 to 10 p.m. in Room 101A, Administration Building, WCJC Campus. Tuition is $12.

Students must be prompt for the class. They must also pay their tuition on the first night and bring a pen or pencil. The Defensive Driving Course will also be offered August 4 and 6.

Senior Citizen funds are available to pay the tuition for individuals over 60 years of age, according to Joy Wind, director of Community Services. For additional information, call 532-4560.

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"Happy Birthday To Me"
Rated R
Mon.-Fri., 7:00, 9:05
Sat. & Sun., 2:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15
PLAZA III
"LEE IS BACK"
Rated R
Mon.-Fri., 7:20, 9:15
Sat. & Sun., 2:30, 5:15, 7:20, 9:45

Michelle Spanihel Celebrates 3rd Birthday June 20th

Michelle Lynn Spanihel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mike Spanihel, celebrated her third birthday on Saturday, June 20 at a party hosted by her mother at their home. Twenty youngsters joined the honoree for an afternoon of fun from 3:30 to 5:00.

Guests also watched the birthday girl open her presents and blow out the candles on her decorated birthday cake before enjoying refreshments of cake, cupcakes, cookies, ice cream, and punch.

Helping Michelle celebrate were her sister, Stacey; uncle, Mark Kucherka; cousins, Chad and Kurt Sunderman, Kyle and Kevin Poenitzsch, Trey and Amy Kucherka, Adam and Stephanie Briscoe, Shane and Shara Glaiser, Jill and Chuckie Stephens, Sunny and Ralph Gertson, and Patty Ann Stephens; and friends, Todd Mascheck and Rachel and Kelli Matthys.

The three year-old presented party favors to each of her guests as they departed. Michelle's actual birthday was Thursday, June 18.

LVN's Attend State League Meet In Huntsville

Mrs. Elsie Kahlden, LVN of Columbus, and Mrs. Lillie Shaw, LVN of Weimar, recently attended the 30th Annual Convention of the Texas League of Licensed Vocational Nurses. The event was held at the Holiday Inn in Huntsville on June 18, 19 and 20th.

Highlight of the program was when Mrs. Kahlden, the 1980 Texas Licensed Vocation Nurse of the Year, had the privilege and honor of crowning the 1981 Nurse of the Year, Mrs. Marcella Matthews of Temple, Texas. Mrs. Matthews is currently serving as the State Treasurer for the League, is the Pins and Emblems Chairman for the State League, and also serving as the President of her Local Component Society, the Bell County League. Mrs. Matthews has been a member of the TLVN for many years, and has also been very active with the League, both on a local and state-wide basis.

Among other items of interest, was the election of officers and the installation of the officers. New TLVN President is Mrs. Paul Holland of Huntsville, 1st Vice-President is Mrs. Bess Davenport of Marlin, 2nd Vice-President is Mrs. Elsie Kramer of Huntsville. Mrs. Kahlden was appointed by the new President to serve on the Legislative Committee, along with Mrs. Loy Patton of Stephenville, who is speaker of the house for the State League, and Mrs. Ora Nell Cavin, who was just elected to the Board of Trustees.

The Fall Seminar and the Spring Seminar will be held in Austin, in Oct. and Feb. The 1982 Convention will also be held in Austin.

Sr. Citizen Activities Schedule

Thursday, July 2: 4th of July Picnic and Party, 11 a.m.

Friday, July 3: County Holiday!!

Saturday, July 4: Independence Day!!

Monday, July 6: Weimar Trans., Macrame, Columbus, 10:30.

Tuesday, July 7: Bank Rep., 10 a.m., program on Direct Deposit and Bank Fraud; Purse making, Doll making, Eagle Lake.

Wed., July 8: Blood Pressure Check, 10 a.m.; Glass Staining Class, Columbus.

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Here For Father's Day

Father's Day guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Seaholm were Mr. and Mrs. John Seaholm, Eric and Erin and Mr. and Mrs. Bud Seaholm of Houston, Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Payne of Alvin and Mr. and Mrs. Gus Seaholm and Kari of Eagle Lake.

Visitors Here

Mrs. Bill Reynolds and son of Bridgeport visited during the past weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Seaholm and other relatives.

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