

Across the County

Effects of freeze on forages

By
Marty
Fear



County Extension Agent

When plants freeze, changes occur in their metabolism and composition that can poison livestock. But you can prevent problems.

Sorghum-related plants, like cane, sudangrass, shattercane, and milo can be highly toxic for a few days after frost. Freezing breaks plant cell membranes. This breakage allows the chemicals that form prussic acid to mix together and release this poisonous compound rapidly. Livestock eating recently frozen sorghums can get a sudden, high dose of prussic acid and potentially die. Fortunately, prussic acid soon turns into a gas and disappears into the air. So wait 3 to 5 days after a freeze before grazing sorghums; the chance of poisoning then becomes much lower.

Freezing also slows down metabolism in all plants. This stress sometimes permits nitrates to accumulate in plants that are still growing, especially grasses like oats, millet, and sudangrass. There has been some new plant growth following some rain a few weeks ago. The new plant growth can have very high nitrate levels and be dangerous for livestock. I would encourage producers to test before turning cattle out in those stock fields. Some samples from across the state have reported very high levels of nitrates in corn, forage sorghum, milo, and millet. Some as high as 18,000 ppm NO3!

Alfalfa reacts two ways to a hard freeze, down close to twenty degrees, cold enough to cause plants to wilt. Nitrate levels can increase,

but rarely to hazardous levels. Freezing also makes alfalfa more likely to cause bloat for a few days after the frost. Then, several days later, after plants begin to wilt or grow again, alfalfa becomes less likely to cause bloat. So waiting to graze alfalfa until well after a hard freeze is a good, safer management practice.

Frost causes important changes in forages so manage them carefully for safe feed. Please contact the Cheyenne County Extension office with any questions or to test feed samples.

Till next week - Marty

Writers plan reading program at church

The public is invited to the Old Country Church, St. Francis, from 2 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 28, for a reading by Kim Queen of a children's book she has written and is preparing for publication. Time for questions and input will follow.

In addition, several members of the Rough Writers, a local group of writers, will read some of their original poetry. Janet Carman will read some poems written by her mother, Janetta Evins.

The Rough Writers have been gathering monthly during the school year since September 2007. Their primary purpose is to encourage each other "to write and to keep on writing." Some also assist with monthly writing workshops at the Good Samaritan Village.

In January, they published the book *Memories & Musings* of the residents of the Good Samaritan Village, available through the Cheyenne County Historical Society.

This is the third of a series of quarterly readings at the old church, located near the Cheyenne County Museum on U.S. 36, sponsored by the Historical Society. Free-will donations, to help cover the expenses of using the church, are encouraged.

This program of readings will be held in conjunction with the Historical Society's open house and membership drive at the Cheyenne County Museum the same Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. Cider and cookies will be served. People will be able to attend the readings at the old church and then walk over to the open house at the museum.

The Rough Writers plan to host more such readings on a quarterly basis. Please call Lucille Rossbach (332-8903) if you are interested in doing a reading or joining the Rough Writers.



GARAGE BUNCH BAND from Burlington entertained during the festival and many people could be seen tapping their toes to the music. They have entertained at the festival for the last three years.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Nice crowd attends fesitval

Haigler hosted their fifth annual Fall Tumbleweed Festival on Saturday, Oct. 13. A beautiful, sunny autumn day brought over 150 people throughout the tri-state region of Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado to attend the festival activities. Banners on both sides of town, flags lining the streets and balloons on the museum grounds welcomed all driving U.S. 34 (the GoldenRod Hi-Way) to the event.

Village garage sales had nine sites and 15 families participating. Lunch was served under the tents on the museum grounds where everyone enjoyed sloppy joes, hot dogs, homemade dill pickles, chips and drinks.

Homemade pies and ice cream were served in the Golden Inn Senior Center. Ladies from the community had baked 24 pies for the event.

Other activities throughout the day included treasure hunts, horseshoe pitching, carousel rides on the maypole merry-go-round, and a spook parade for kids of all ages. Open house was held at both the Country Schoolhouse Museum and the Haigler Cornerstone Museum.

This was the first year for the Art Show, and the response from area artists and festival goers was fantastic. The tumbleweed contest was great fun; and entries were displayed along a fence on

the grounds. Winners were Deb Bush of Haigler, Chris McAfoos of Parks, and Mike David of Parks.

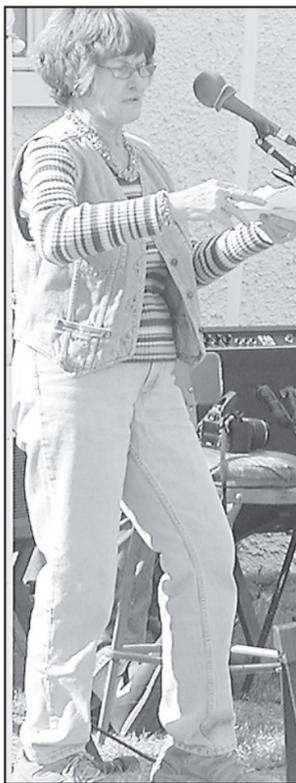
Music was provided throughout the afternoon by the Garage Bunch of Burlington, who have been a part of the annual festival for three years.

Haigler's Tumbleweed Festival is a major fundraiser for the Haigler Museum projects.

"People in our communities have just been wonderful in their support of both financial and artifact donations," said coordinator LaNeta Carlock, "This year, generous free-will donations from attendees and business donations contributed \$1,500. In addition, there were 52 businesses and individuals from our tri-state area that contributed gifts and gift certificates totaling almost \$2,000.

"It takes a lot of caring people to make good things happen—and this caring is what keeps our small community alive."

Maypole Awards, given in recognition of exemplary support and service, were awarded this year to all area newspapers who have been so good to provide continuing news coverage of the museum projects these past five years. Awardees were: *The Benkelman Post* and *News Chronicle*, *The Saint Francis Herald*, the *Wray Gazette* and the *McCook Daily Gazette*.



LANETTA CARLOCK recognized some of the people responsible for helping with the festival. Mrs. Carlock is one of the of the festival coordinators.



FIGURES

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years of 11-man football.

He said that even with only 14 junior high boys, they had an undefeated season. In another year, playing eight-man football, the high school will have a good chance of being a championship team.

This year, the football schedule had eight games. Because of Col-

orado scheduling, St. Francis will not be able to play Wray and there will be only seven games unless something else can be lined up.

Some of the other 11-man football teams in 2-1A are Oakley with 107 students; Oberlin-Decatur with 92 students; Smith Center, 106 students; and Syracuse, 80 students.

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ISABELLA TAUBE, right, was the September Good Samaritan Village Resident of the Month. Cathy Loop, activities director, interviews her. Left is Isabella when she was a child.

Land Auction

Friday, November 2nd, 2012, 10 AM CT

American Legion Hall, Atwood Kansas
Selling: 400 (+/-) acres, Cropland, CRP, Bottomland, Creek and Timber, Excellent hunting property, Rawlins Co. KS

Tract 1: E/2 SW/4 of 34-4-32, 80 acres m/l
Tract 2: E/2 of 35-5-32, 320 acres m/l

Seller: Marvin Nelson Estate

For details or a tour of this land contact:
Rocky Hayes, Sales Agent / Auctioneer

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Auction to be Held on the Farm

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