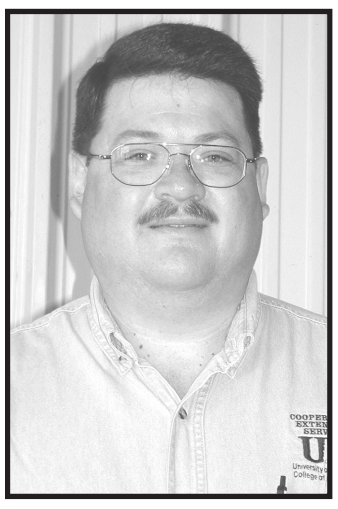
Winter Weather Conditions Impact Ky. Cow/Calf Herds



Eric Baker
Estill County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

This winter has impacted our beef cow/calf herds. We have had long periods of colder temperatures and greater snow/ice cover than most Kentucky beef producers have encountered in the past 15-20 years. It is likely that winter feeding programs on many farms have been inadequate for pregnant/lactating cows and growing calves. UK and MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Labs have observed increased submissions and telephone consultations with veterinarians and producers who are experiencing animals losing excessive body condition and/or dying of apparent malnutrition.

Poor cow performance in herds where winter feeding consists of hay only suggests that the 2013 hay produced was of poor nutritional content. Although hay may look good, you do not know what the true feed value is without testing. Producers need to realize that cattle can actually 'starve to death' while consuming all the hay they can eat, especially if crude protein levels are 3-4% and TDN (Total Digestible Nutrients) is <30%. Remember, in the last 60 days of gestation, an adult cow (1200 pounds eating 2% of her body weight) requires at least 54-56% TDN and 8-9% available crude protein while an adult beef cow in the first 60 days of gestation requires 59-60% TDN and 9-10.5% available crude protein.

UK Veterinary Diagnostic labs have also received numerous calls and diagnostic submissions associated with 'weak calf syndrome' or full-term calves which were presumed to have been born dead. Almost without exception, these calves have been born alive, but never stood or nursed, and there have been no gross or microscopic lesions or pathogens identified in fetal tissues or placenta, which would indicate an infectious cause of mortality. Dietary protein levels during the last trimester pregnancy have been well-documented to play an important role in calf survivability. Calves born to protein-deficient dams are less able to generate body heat and are slower to stand and nurse compared to calves whose dams had received adequate dietary protein during the last 100 days of pregnancy. Calves born during unseasonably cold weather, with ice or snow on the ground, are at risk of chilling and death if they do not gain their feet and nurse soon after birth; inadequate energy and protein nutrition in the dam often leads to higher calf mortality in these conditions. Additionally, colostrum quality and quantity from protein- and energy-deficient dams may be less than optimal for best calf survival and performance.

It is evident that some producers in Kentucky have not provided adequate mineral supplementation to their cattle this winter, as copper and selenium levels in liver samples analyzed from a number of animals have been far below acceptable levels. Many of these cases have died of malnutrition and/or herd-wide outbreaks of respiratory disease (including pneumonia in pre-weaned calves). Additionally, we have seen a number of grass tetany/hypomagnesemia cases in early-lactation beef cattle consuming only hay suggesting that 2013 hay supplies may also be low in magnesium content.

It is important to understand that the winter of 2013-2014 has been exceptionally difficult for cattle in Kentucky and cows are "pulled down" much more than we typically see in late winter. This fact is why we are seeing an increase in death loss across Kentucky due to malnutrition in all ages of cattle and many stillborn and weak calves that do not survive. What has normally worked in years past (feeding cattle hay exclusively throughout the winter) will not necessarily work this year. Consider supplemental feed to help your cattle through the next month to 6 weeks until grass is growing and is past the "watery" stage. Energy and protein are both crucial; protein tubs will not be sufficient in most cases to fulfill the energy requirements. Contact Cooperative Extension, nutritionist, or your herd veterinarian to review your feeding program.

Adequate nutrition is not just important today but also down the road. Continued milk production, the return to estrus and rebreeding, and overall herd immunity are also impacted over the long term. Continue to offer a loose trace mineral mix high in magnesium in order to prevent "grass tetany" at least through the first of May.

For more information, contact the Estill County Extension Office at 723-4557.

[Source: Michelle Arnold, DVM- UK Ruminant Extension Veterinarian and Louis L. Pittman, Jr., DVM (Breathitt Veterinary Center)]

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

Agriculture Events

Through March 21, 2014

Strawberry Plants & More

The Estill County Cooperative Extension Service will be taking orders for reasonably priced and good quality strawberry, blackberry, blueberry, raspberry, asparagus, and Candy onion plants through March 21st. Orders must be prepaid with delivery expected early April. If you are interested or need more information, call 606-723-4557.

Monday, March 24th @ 7:00pm

Good Agricultural Practices

•Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training for fresh fruit/vegetable/direct meat producers. Starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Estill County Extension Office.

Wishing Well®

8	5	8	3	4	2	7	3	6	8	2	8	5
A	E	C	A	A	L	T	T	A	C	I	O	X
2	3	7	3	2	4	2	8	7	8	2	4	6
F	E	A	L	E	C	I	R	K	D	S	T	I
8	7	4	5	4	2	7	3	7	6	8	3	5
W	E	I	P	V	N	A	E	C	M	I	P	A
4	7	3	2	7	3	7	8	3	2	7	8	6
I	T	H	O	I	O	O	T	N	T	N	H	H
5	2	7	3	7	5	3	2	6	7	3	6	4
N	B	N	E	O	D	C	O	I	W	A	G	T
3	8	3	5	6	5	2	8	4	2	5	8	5
L	N	L	L	H	E	R	A	Y	I	A	T	R
4	8	5	8	2	8	5	2	4	5	4	5	4
H	U	N	R	N	E	I	G	I	N	G	G	H

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

© 2014 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is **LONGFELLOW**

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

JQ ZBQ WQBQ NS ZUU

JWZN JQ IZG NS FYMQ, GSN

NS TQN JWZN JQ IZG MBSR

YN. - JYFFYZR SKFQB

©2014 King Features Synd., Inc.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: **T** equals **S**

AB M UGKTDO PJD UKGTTGT

HDEK XRDLJGT SMWGT PKH

PATGXKMXWT, AT LJML MO

AKDO-AX TGOTG DB JESDK?

© 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.

ABSOLUTE AUCTION

240 Minor Lane, Irvine, Kentucky

Saturday, March 29th • 10:00AM

We have been authorized to sell at absolute auction the house and personal property located at 240 Minor Lane in South Irvine, KY on Saturday, March 29th at 10:00 AM.

The house will sell promptly at 11:00 AM.

This property is very conveniently located less than one mile from Irvine and is on city sewer and KU electric. The house sits on very large lot with garden space, carport and out building. Interior includes a living room, dining room, kitchen, utility room and two (2) bedrooms downstairs plus finished upstairs that has been used as two bedrooms.

Great rental potential!

Personal property selling includes the following partial list: two recliners, couch, coffee tables, end tables, miscellaneous small side tables, 4 piece bedroom suite, Wurlitzer console piano, Bybee Pottery, wood dining table and chairs, round drop-leaf dinette table and chairs, microwave cart, vintage telephone stand, wood magazine rack, vintage tall kitchen cabinet, antique wash stand, froe, lawn mower, miscellaneous tools, dishes, glassware, what-nots and more.

Everything sells to the bare walls!

Prospective purchaser will have 10 days prior to sale day to conduct a lead-based paint inspection with requirement to sign a lead-based paint waiver on day of sale. All inspections must be completed prior to sale. **All real estate and personal property is selling as-is, where-is.**

TERMS: **Real estate -** 10% down day of sale with full payment upon closing within 30 days. **Personal property -** Full payment day of sale. All items must be removed day of sale. **Viewings** one hour prior to sale or by appointment. Call Willis Estes at 606-723-6925.

DIRECTIONS: From Main Street in Irvine take Highway 89 South (South Irvine Road) approximately ¾ mile, left onto Minor Lane. Watch for signs.

Announcements day of sale take precedent over all prior printed or verbal statements.

Willis Estes Realty & Auction, Inc.

Willis Estes, Principal Broker/Auctioneer

Call 606-723-6925

"Visit www.auctionzip.com for photos"

Puzzle Answers

March 19, 2014

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

How do they count muffins in a camp kitchen?

They have a roll call.

FEAR KNOT answer

Letter Box

Solution

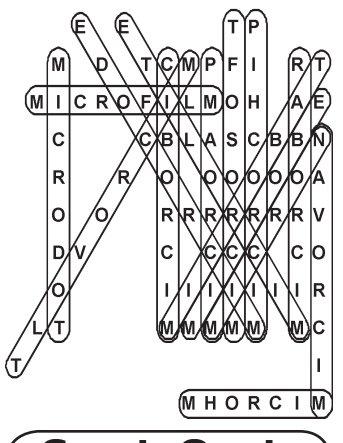
N	I	G	H	T	M	A	R	E
E	M	A	G	N	R	T	I	H
R	T	H	I	E	A	N	G	M
I	A	N	R	H	G	M	E	T
H	G	E	T	M	I	R	N	A
T	R	M	N	A	E	G	H	I
A	H	I	M	G	N	E	T	R
G	E	R	A	I	T	H	M	N
M	N	T	E	R	H	I	A	G

Even Exchange

answers

1. Boost, Boast
2. Carton, Carson
3. Aspen, Ashen
4. Sydney, Sidney
5. Clear, Clean
6. Ranger, Ringer
7. Pantry, Paltry
8. Ferry, Jerry
9. Writer, Whiter
10. Union, Onion

MICRO WORDS



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

7	9	5	1	2	4	6	3	8
1	6	4	9	3	8	7	2	5
3	8	2	7	5	6	9	1	4
6	1	9	4	8	2	3	5	7
4	7	3	6	1	5	8	9	2
5	2	8	3	7	9	1	4	6
8	3	1	5	4	7	2	6	9
2	4	6	8	9	3	5	7	1
9	5	7	2	6	1	4	8	3

CryptoQuote

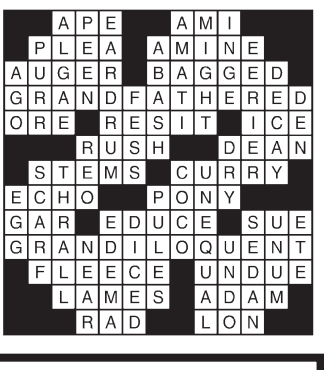
answer

We are here to add what we can to life, not to get what we can from it. - William Osler

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.



CryptoQuip

answer

If a person who presses your clothes makes wry wisecracks, is that an iron-ic sense of humor?

Bible Trivia Answers

Casey's trivia book "Know It? ... or Not?" is available from BearManorMedia.com

ANSWERS : 1) Neither; 2) Saul; 3) Released; 4) Gerar; 5) Asenath; 6) Orpah)