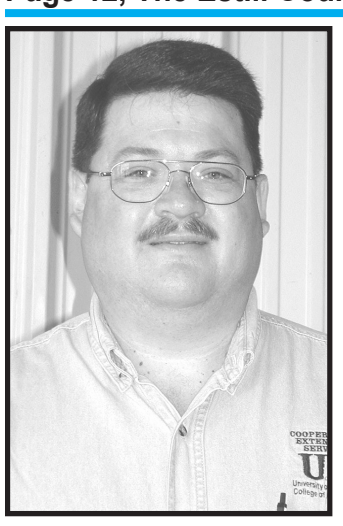
# Making Quality Hay



**Eric Baker**
**Estill County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources**

Hay is the most common form of stored animal feed on farms. Therefore, it is important to understand the factors that affect hay quality.

Of all factors that affect hay quality, stage of maturity when harvested is the most important. As legumes and grasses go from the vegetative to the reproductive (seed) stage, they become higher in fiber and lignin content and lower in protein content, animal digestibility, and animal acceptance. It is important to harvest forages at the optimum stage of maturity.

The most common forage crops and time of harvest based upon maturity are as follows: 1) Alfalfa- bud stage for the first cutting, one-tenth bloom for remaining cuttings. For spring seedings, allow the first cutting to reach mid to full bloom; 2) Red Clover- early bloom; 3) Orchardgrass, Timothy, & Tall Fescue- boot to early head stage for first cut, aftermath cuts at 4-6 week intervals; 4) Oats, Barley, Wheat- boot to early head stage; 5) Annual Lespedeza- early bloom before the lower leaves fall; and 6) Sudangrass, Sorghum-Sudangrass Hybrids, & Pearl Millet- height of 30-40 inches.

Another factor impacting hay quality is the curing and handling conditions. After mowing, poor weather and handling conditions can lower quality. Rain can cause leaf loss and leach nutrients form the plant during curing. Sunlight can lower hay quality through bleaching and reducing the Vitamin A content. Raking or tedding dry, brittle hay can cause excessive leaf loss. Since leaves are of higher quality than stems, we need to reduce leaf losses. You can avoid reduced quality by crushing stems (conditioning) at the time of mowing. Conditioning helps cure the crop one or more days quicker than no conditioning. Also, raking or tedding when the hay is moist (40% moisture) and baling before hay is too dry (less than 15% moisture) can reduce leaf losses.

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

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

## FARM SERVICE AGENCY AGRICULTURE NEWS

**Richmond FSA Service Center**
**1024 Ival James Blvd., Ste A-2**
**Call 888-758-6909**

### 2014 Acreage Reporting Deadlines

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds agricultural producers of the acreage reporting requirements that must be met prior to receiving program benefits. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

**The 2014 Kentucky Acreage Reporting Deadlines are:**

May 31 -- Nursery Preceding Year (Report 2014 for 2015)

July 15 -- All other crops and CRP

Sept. 30 -- Aquaculture; Value loss and controlled environment crops (except Nursery). Examples: Christmas Trees, Crustaceans, Finfish, Flowers, Ginseng, Grass Sod

Dec. 15 -- Fall Seeded Small Grains. Examples: Barley, Canola, Oats, Rye, Wheat Preceding Year (Report 2014 for 2015)

**The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:**

●If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

●If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendars days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

●If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local FSA office at 1024 Ival James Blvd., Ste A-2 in Richmond at 859-624-1980.

**USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.**

## Agriculture News

**May 19 through June 2, 2014**

### County Agricultural Investment Program

Applications will be available for Estill County's CAIP to assist farmers in making important on-farm investments during an application period, between May 19 and Jun 2. No applications will be accepted except during this period.

Please obtain your Farm Serial Number (FSN) from the Farm Service Agency at the Richmond USDA Service Center prior to applying.

For Application Availability:

**Estill County Conservation District**
**1505 Richmond Road**
**Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm**

For More Information, call 606-723-5104 or Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ECCDKY.

**Friday, June 6, 2014**

### Fish Sale For Re/Stocking Farm Ponds

The Estill County Conservation District 2014 FISH SALE will be Friday, June 6, 2014, in the District parking lot, 11:00 am - 11:30 am. This will be the only fish sale the District is holding in 2014.

Orders forms can be picked up at the Conservation District office or you can place your order by phone. Payment for fish is on delivery.

Species available: White Amur (Grass Carp) 10", $12.00 each; Channel Catfish 5-7", .50 each; Coppernose Bluegill 2-3", .50 each; Hybrid Sunfish 2-3", .50 each; Largemouth Bass 6-7", $4.00 each; Fathead Minnows 2", $9.00 per lb.; Koi Ornamental Fish 6+", $7.00 each are also available. A transportation container for the fish will be provided.

Mr. Ken Jacobs, Whiskers Catfish Farm, will be here on delivery day to answer any questions you might have concerning the condition of your pond, problems you might have with fish living in the pond, or the number, or variety of fish needed, to properly stock your pond.

The Conservation District is located at 1505 Richmond Road, Phone 723-5104. Or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ECCDKY.

## Wishing Well®

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

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.

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## 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.

TJB XZXG DBX HYDWXC PR
SBTRA MXWDJGX PA PG
KTBX PKHTBADRA AT YTTN
DFXDC AFDR AT YTTN MDWN.
– GTJBWX JRNRTIR

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## 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: **E** equals **T**

OJDKR VNUAMJMNH EIJE
YWVEJDVA JHEDYKNA WV EIN
RJVBNNA JVO EIN LNEA:
"EIN VNU RWHB ENJLA."

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## Puzzle Answers

**May 14, 2014**

### Puzzles4Kids

Answer

What goes under your feet and over your head?

A jump rope.

### FEAR KNOT answer

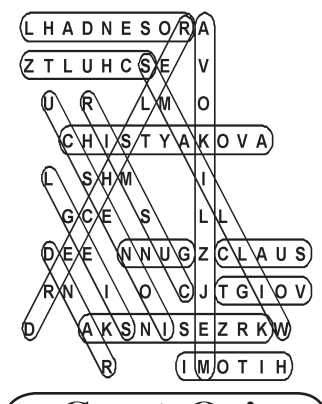
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | S | U | D | D | E | N | | | | | |
| | | C | ■ | A | | | A | | | | | |
| R | U | I | N | | | | D | | | | | |
| | B | | | | J | I | B | | | | | |
| | A | | F | L | O | R | A | L | | | | |
| | | | L | ■ | I | | N | | | | | |
| | | | U | R | N | | D | | | | | |
| | | | N | ■ | E | | | | | | | |
| | | | G | A | R | B | | | | | | |

### Letter Box

Solution

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | R | O | A | E | D | H | W | I |
| D | W | I | H | R | F | A | O | E |
| A | E | H | W | I | O | D | R | F |
| R | A | F | D | O | E | I | H | W |
| E | I | D | R | H | W | F | A | O |
| H | O | W | I | F | A | R | E | D |
| O | D | E | F | A | R | W | I | H |
| I | F | R | O | W | H | E | D | A |
| W | H | A | E | D | I | O | F | R |

HELD THE WORLD RECORD IN WOMEN'S LONG JUMP




### Even Exchange

answers

1. Follow, Fellow
2. Orion, Onion
3. Brick, Brisk
4. Dense, Tense
5. Casper, Camper
6. Sailor, Tailor
7. Flame, Frame
8. Mercy, Merry
9. Shock, Spock
10. London, Lyndon

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

### CryptoQuip

answer

Daily newspaper that contains articles on the Yankees and the Mets: "The New York Teams."

### CryptoQuote

answer

Our eyes are placed in front because it is more important to look ahead than to look back.
– Source Unknown

### King Crossword

*Answers*

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | O | W | ■ | R | O | T | ■ | P | U | R | E | E |
| U | S | A | ■ | A | P | O | ■ | A | R | E | N | A |
| S | I | N | ■ | H | A | R | B | I | N | G | E | R |
| H | E | N | ■ | S | Q | U | I | D | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| I | R | A | Q | ■ | U | S | N | ■ | W | E | R | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | U | S | E | ■ | G | L | A | M | O | R |
| I | G | L | O | O | ■ | ■ | ■ | E | L | U | D | E |
| S | N | A | I | L | S | ■ | H | I | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| M | U | T | T | ■ | A | L | I | ■ | Z | O | N | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Q | U | O | T | A | ■ | K | O | I |
| H | A | M | B | U | R | G | E | R | ■ | R | I | G |
| A | T | A | R | I | ■ | I | C | E | ■ | A | S | H |
| S | T | R | A | P | ■ | C | H | A | ■ | S | E | T |

### Bible Trivia Answers

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

**ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) 146-150; 3) Daisy; 4) 30; 5) Damascus; 6) Barnabas**

*Vote Dean, Circuit Judge on May 20th*

*CIRCUIT JUDGE RACE IS NONPARTISAN!*

*To the Voters of Estill, Lee, and Owsley County*

*On May 20th you will vote for the person you want to be your next Circuit Judge. This is a nonpartisan race. This means that regardless of which political party you belong to, you can vote for either of the candidates in the primary.*

*Michael Dean has lived in Estill County for 14 years and his children attend school here. Dean is from the mountains and an Owsley County native, who understands the problems we face. He is honest and will be tough but will be fair and impartial.*

- *Thorough knowledge of the law with 26 years Experience;*
- *Graduate of University of Kentucky College of Engineering;*
- *Graduate of University of Virginia College of Law;*
- *Licensed Civil Engineer;*
- *Master Commissioner since 2007;*
- *Domestic Relations Commissioner since 2007;*
- *Domestic Relations Commissioner since 2007;*
- *Former Trial Commissioner*

*Everyone be sure to get out and vote in this important election!*

*Vote Michael Dean, Circuit Judge*

**Paid for by Michael Dean, 103 Main St., Irvine, KY**