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Farmers know that alfalfa needs a rest period during the fall to get ready for winter. To provide for this rest, the last summer cutting usually occurs before September 15. After the first hard freeze (24 degrees Fahrenheit or lower), or November 1, a final harvest can be made. This final harvest will not hurt the alfalfa and may reduce pest problems.

According to UK Extension forage specialists, cutting alfalfa stands during the critical fall rest period affects the plant response in the following year. In the very least, it will reduce the speed of regrowth in the spring and may reduce the yield of the first cutting. In the worst case, stands may be thinned significantly. However, there are

Alfalfa Needs To Rest In The Autumn

situations where the risks of stand damage or future yield reduction from harvesting between September 15 and November 1 are reduced. If (a) the stand is in bloom at the time of the fall cut, or (b) it has been at least 45 days since the last harvest, or (c) the stand is old and will be plowed under for another crop anyway, the value of the forage may be great enough to risk stand damage. Conditions where the risks associated with cutting during September 15 and November 1 are greatest are: (a) The stand is less than one year old; or (b) The field of alfalfa has been stressed during the past year by late frosts, disease, excessive insects, or weed pressure, etc.; or (c) The alfalfa field has not been adequately top-dressed with phosphorus, potassium, and boron; or (d) the variety lacks multi-pest resistance. In general, it would be better to cut an older stand rather than a younger stand during the fall rest period. Older stands have already allowed the costs of establishment to be recovered and by definition have few productive years remaining. Younger stands have more of their productive years ahead of them and as such should not be abused by being cut between September 15 and November 1.

Deciding whether to cut an alfalfa field in late September or early to mid-October is an individual judgment that should be based on the benefits of the extra yield and quality outweighing the risks of yield and stand loss the following year. Keep in mind that you will never hurt the stand by not cutting during the traditional fall rest period. Also keep in mind that fall cutting will affect next year's production. If you do cut during the fall and want to get a few more years of production from the field, make sure that soil fertility needs are taken care of by liberally top-dressing during the late fall or winter and using a dormant herbicide spray to control the growth of winter weeds such as henbit and chickweed.

If the alfalfa is to be removed by grazing, don't leave livestock on it too long and don't let them graze when the soil is muddy to prevent damage to the stand. Grazing of alfalfa is becoming more popular in Kentucky. Grazing must be done

on a rotational basis to maintain thick productive stands. Stocking rates should be high enough to remove the forage in 7-10 days. Allow enough time between grazing (4-5 weeks) for alfalfa to reach the bud-to-early-flow-er stage.

Take precautions to prevent bloat in grazing animals. Do not graze alfalfa for three days following a killing frost (below 28 degrees Fahrenheit). The harder the frost the greater the risk for bloat. Including a cool-season grass with alfalfa will help to reduce the chances of bloat. Other recommendations for grazing alfalfa include feeding a bloat preventative and not turning hungry animals out onto alfalfa, especially lush alfalfa that is wet with rain or dew.

For more information about alfalfa or other forages, contact the Estill County Extension Service at 723-4557.

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New Programs Help Farmers Manage Risk

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has unveiled highly anticipated new programs to help farmers better manage risk, ushering in one of the most significant reforms to United States farm programs in decades.

The new programs, Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), are cornerstones of the commodity farm safety net programs in the 2014 Farm Bill, legislation that ended direct payments. Both programs offer farmers protection when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices and/or revenues. Producers will have through early spring of 2015 to select which program works best for their businesses.

Farm owners may now begin visiting their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices if they want to update their yield history and/or reallocate base acres, the first step before choosing which new program best serves their risk management needs. Letters sent this summer enabled farm owners and producers to analyze their crop planting history in order to decide whether to keep their base acres or reallocate them according to recent plantings.

For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Stickeler's Puzzle



One of the numbers below does not belong with the others based on a simple, straightforward reason.

Which is the odd one out?

None of the numbers is a prime number.

- a. 13872
- b. 53635
- c. 41890
- d. 80824
- e. 22873
- f. 15736

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 11

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CRS, GRI, ABR

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

H YUSUO MYUL ZY UYUWQ

XP VIYR LNP LZR YPX ZY

HFF-YZXIOUC WZY.

- ANZOFUR FZWG

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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: A equals S

T YLRX DFQPH QG GQJNA PTA

SQVVWMR BYX KFQHLDX ABTMH,

AQ W SWAAXH SC QKKQFBLMWBC

BQ RQ WM GQF BYX NTJX.

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Puzzle Answers

October 1, 2014

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

Why did the horse go to the doctor?

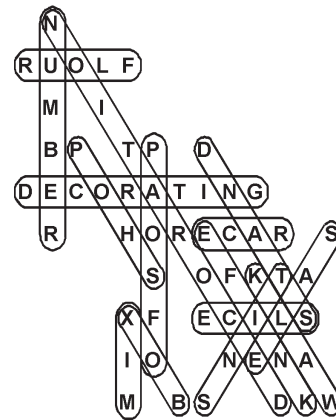
Because it had hay fever.

Letter Box

Solution

I	E	H	U	A	O	T	R	Z
T	R	U	Z	H	I	O	E	A
Z	O	A	R	E	T	H	I	U
U	T	E	O	Z	H	R	A	I
R	H	I	A	T	E	Z	U	O
O	A	Z	I	R	U	E	T	H
E	I	O	T	U	Z	A	H	R
H	Z	R	E	I	A	U	O	T
A	U	T	H	O	R	I	Z	E

CAKE



CryptoQuote

answer

I never knew an enemy to puns who was not an ill-natured man.
- Charles Lamb

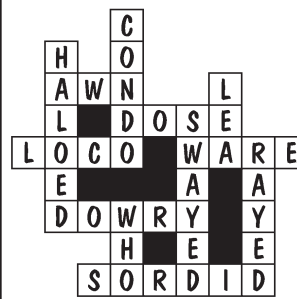
CryptoQuip

answer

A huge crowd of folks was mobbing the produce stand, so I missed my opportunity to go in for the kale.

FEAR & KNIGHT

answer



Even Exchange

answers

1. Akron, Apron
2. Elmer, Elder
3. Middle, Muddle
4. Barter, Carter
5. Cruet, Crust
6. Flame, Flare
7. Rookie, Cookie
8. Baton, Baron
9. France, Fiance
10. Chili, Chill

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

T	A	R	O	G	A	S	B	R	E	W	
I	N	I	T	I	A	T	E	R	A	R	E
E	I	G	H	T	E	E	N	U	N	I	T
S	T	O	R	M	B	I	L	E			
H	A	G	S	B	E	E	L	I	N	E	
E	R	R	A	R	E	N	A	E	R	G	
S	E	A	P	O	R	T	G	A	S	P	
P	E	C	S	P	E	T	E	S			
F	E	D	O	R	A	S	R	I			
A	G	O	G	D	I	T	E	S	M	O	I
M	A	N	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T	
E	D	G	E	S	E	W	A	R	E	S	

Bible Trivia Answers

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

ANSWERS 1) New: 2) On the Mount; 3) Zachariah; 4) Snow; 5) Glory of God; 6) 1

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