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Record keeping may not be every farmer's favorite activity, and probably not the

# Make Farm Record Keeping A Priority

reason you got into farming as a career. With time, patience and a commitment to get it done, it can make your financial life a lot less worrisome.

According to UK Agriculture Economist Steve Isaacs, record keeping doesn't have to be stressful. It's a way to discover things about your farm that will help you make better long-term decisions. You can use a ledger book or a computer—whatever helps you maintain consistency. Software programs can make your data more meaningful.

Software has become more user-friendly over time, and while it may not make the record keeping process fun, it could help you see the overall picture of your operation. Some programs track purchases of inputs and how you use the input on a particular enterprise or field. You'll be able to keep track of repair and maintenance records for specific farm equipment and produce balance sheets, income statements and cash flow budgets.

For many livestock operations, a good time to start keeping records is when the veterinarian comes to check the herd. Vets usually charge per head, so that data can help you develop a list of animals that need attention. You can use the same data to develop health histories of your animals, which will lead to more informed exams and

diagnosis in the future. Make record keeping a team effort for your family. Sit down and work on the records and budget together. Perhaps one person can read the information while another person types it into the software program or writes it in the ledger book. Also, if you do a little bit each day and don't save it all up for the end of the year, you won't become overwhelmed.

If you've done the work throughout the year, year-end procedures can feel more satisfying. You can generate year-end reports with a few simple clicks and not have to sort through stacks of bills lying around the home or office. The University of Ken-

tucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Department of Agricultural Economics has several tools online that could help with budgeting and decision making. Visit <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agecon/index.php?p=29> to see what is available.

If you prefer to keep records on paper, we have the Kentucky Farm Record Book available for \$6 each and free KY Farm Tax Guides. Contact the Estill County Extension office at 723-4557.

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**Birding BITS** BY Cindy Brook  
**Winter Mix**  
Mix together equal portions of black oil sunflower, hulled sunflower heart chips, safflower seed and peanuts. Fill a tube or mesh feeder or toss on the ground. Soon you will have tufted titmice, chickadees, buntings, finches, sparrows, cardinals, woodpeckers and nuthatches. Everyone will be happy!

E-mail: [birdingbits@cflrr.com](mailto:birdingbits@cflrr.com)  
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This well-known resource for gardeners (online at <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html>) displays the average lowest temperatures for all areas of the U.S. A plant's tag should give its "hardiness" (the lowest temperatures the plant can withstand) and usually refers to this map to do so. An example would be: *Green Mountain Boxwood: hardy to Zones 5-9.*

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**The Garden Bug**  
Remove all rust and debris from your tools, and sharpen dulled edges. Use a mild disinfectant to cleanse your tools of disease, mold and mildew. Dry them, and give them a wipe of linseed oil on the wooden and metal areas to help prevent rust.  
- Brenda Weaver  
Source: [www.wikihow.com](http://www.wikihow.com)

**Prepping tools for storage**

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## Farm News

January 5-6, 2015

### Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference

The 2015 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference will be held January 5-6, 2015 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Lexington, KY. The hotel is located just off Newtown Pike. This meeting will be of great benefit particularly for new growers that are considering growing and marketing a crop, as well as for experienced growers. We encourage fruit and vegetable growers in Estill County to attend this very informative meeting.

This year we have sessions on commercial fruit and vegetable production, organic production, farmers' markets, small fruit production, agritourism, direct and wholesale marketing, greenhouse and high tunnel production, and the Grape and Wine Short Course. Pre-conference Sunday evening sessions include tree fruit, small fruit, and vegetable round table discussions.

Pre-registration is requested by December 19 but on-site registration at conference is accepted. Program and registration forms can be found by going to UK Horticulture Department web site at: [http://www.uky.edu/Ag/CCD/2015\\_KYFVC\\_Program\\_REG.pdf](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/CCD/2015_KYFVC_Program_REG.pdf) or call 270-365-7541 (dial extension 216).

If you need more information, contact the Estill County Extension Service at 606-723-4557.

Starting April 1, 2015

### Beef Producers Approve Check Off

Kentucky beef cattle producers voted to assess themselves an additional \$1 per head on cattle marketed in Kentucky in a statewide referendum held in November.

The final tally was 1,816 in favor of the state check off and 1,423 against. The assessment will take effect April 1, 2015.

Producers who pay the assessment may request a refund from the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association in writing within 30 days of the date that the assessment is collected.

The Kentucky State Board of Agriculture called for the referendum in August at the request of the KCA. State law requires the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to carry out a referendum at the direction of the board.

In a letter to the board requesting the referendum, Dave Maples, executive vice president of the KCA, said the assessment would be used "to promote [and] stimulate, by research, market development, and education, the use and sale, domestic and foreign, of bovine animal products." The entire \$1 state check off will be used for programs in Kentucky, whereas the \$1 national check off is divided between the state and the national Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board.

For more information, contact Dave Maples at (859) 278-0899 or [dmaples@kycattle.org](mailto:dmaples@kycattle.org).

## Stickeler's Puzzle

**STICKELERS** [sic]  
by Terry Stickels

There are few common words in the English language with two consecutive "i's." Some might guess "skiing" as one word.

How many other words can you find with two consecutive "i's"? Try to keep your answers to the more common, non-medical words. We'll give you one set of answers, but there may be more.

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 11

## Wishing Well®

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

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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## 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: Z equals Y

VOQG B VHU IMZBGT BG H  
YHGIQ IKWL ROHR OHY URMNLQ  
KBTORU, INWKY ZNW UHZ B OHY  
H YBUIN LHVK?

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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.

M QGI PAA IOS NTOGGAMXQ  
PX PTILSNN XSSKN. IOPI MN,  
M ASPLXSK IG FLMIS  
SXGCQO IG NMQX TGXILPTIN.  
— OSLJMGXS QMXQGAK

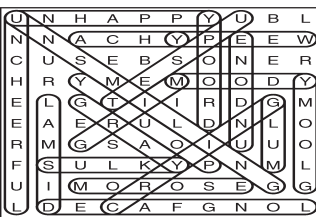
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## Puzzle Answers

December 31, 2014

### Puzzles4Kids

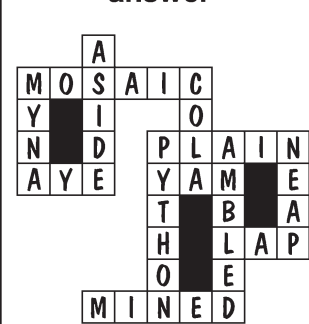
Answer



Riddle Answer:  
Blueberries.

### FEAR & KNIGHT

answer



### Letter Box

Solution

H	A	R	L	E	Q	U	I	N
L	N	E	U	I	A	R	H	Q
U	Q	I	H	N	R	E	A	L
R	H	N	E	A	L	Q	U	I
E	L	Q	I	U	H	A	N	R
A	I	U	Q	R	N	H	L	E
I	E	H	N	Q	U	L	R	A
N	R	L	A	H	E	I	Q	U
Q	U	A	R	L	I	N	E	H

### Even Exchange

answers

1. Gamble, Garble
2. Shrek, Shrew
3. Ardor, Arbor
4. Teller, Taller
5. Hearly, Hearth
6. Listen, Liston
7. Water, Waver
8. Curve, Curse
9. Botch, Batch
10. France, Prance

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

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

ANSWERS (1) Neber; (2) Mov- ing forward; (3) Nebuchadnezzar's; (4) 1 John; (5) Ekron; (6) Moab