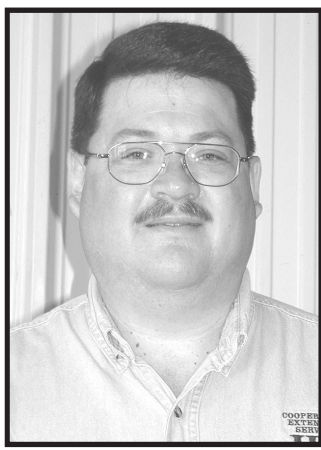


UK poultry specialist urges safe handling of backyard flocks



Eric Baker
Estill County Extension
Agent for Agriculture
& Natural Resources

the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "It may be because many people are staying home more during the COVID-19 pandemic and expanding their interests. Since you can order chicks through the mail, it can be a popular stay-home adventure. Every year, we seem to see an uptick in salmonella outbreaks linked to backyard flocks, so it's a good time to emphasize safe management practices."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that Kentucky has one of the higher rates of current salmonella infections in United States. As of May 15, Kentucky was reporting nine cases. The CDC reports 97 cases nationwide. "It's important to remember that we are just in the beginning of this outbreak," Jacob said. "It's important for people to stay safe around their chicks to keep cases to a minimum. In 2019, Kentucky had 41 cases."

All the outbreaks have a few things in common in-

cluding brooding and raising poultry in the house, letting birds run loose and deposit droppings everywhere, not washing hands after handling eggs and birds, washing dirty eggs in kitchen sinks and not disinfecting the sink afterward, and allowing birds to have close contact with human mouths and noses.

"A large number of cases have involved children under age 5," Jacob said. "It's especially important for families with backyard flocks to teach their children safe handling practices." Jacobs presented a webinar earlier this year about staying healthy with backyard flocks. It is available online at <https://learn.extension.org/events/3757>.

It is important to remember that the intestinal tracts of all mammals and birds have various types of bacteria as part of their natural intestinal microflora, and many situations naturally expose people to those bacteria. Some types of bacteria

cause disease, so hygiene is always important. Vigorously washing hands with soap and warm, running water is vital. Jacob said to remember to wash the backs of hands, between fingers and under fingernails and then rinse well and thoroughly dry. If there is no access to running water, anti-bacterial hand sanitizers or wipes are acceptable.

"I know it's hard to tell children not to nuzzle or kiss animals, chicks and ducklings, but it is necessary to avoid infection," Jacob said. "Always remind children not to touch their face after handling birds and don't allow them to eat or drink before thoroughly washing their hands. Most of these sanitation techniques are the same things health professionals are telling us to do to prevent COVID-19 infection."

If backyard flock owners are thinking about selling eggs from their flock, Jacob recommends they learn about egg laws. UK College of Agriculture,

When school is out and the weather turns warmer, people become more interested in raising backyard chickens. Since human interactions with poultry can raise the risk of bacterial infections, University of Kentucky poultry specialists are urging new and experienced backyard flock enthusiasts to remember safe handling principles.

"We're seeing an even higher interest in raising backyard flocks this year," said Jacquie Jacob, poultry Extension manager for

Preventing Hay Fires

Farmers can prevent hay bale or barn fires if they bale hay at appropriate moistures and monitor the temperature of recently baled hay. Generally, hay will go through a heating phase within one to two weeks after baling. During this time, you should monitor the hay to make sure it doesn't reach temperatures that can damage the hay or lead to spontaneous combustion.

According to UK Extension forage specialist Ray Smith, it is not unusual for the temperature within a bale of hay to reach 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and it may go as high as 130 degrees before beginning to decline. If the temperature peaks below 130 degrees, there may be some loss of quality but no danger of fire. With free air circulation around a bale, both heat and moisture can dissipate. A single bale rarely heats enough to

catch on fire, but when you place bales close together or stack with other bales that are also heating, it is much more difficult for the heat to leave the bales. A good practice is to leave bales scattered in the barn for three to four weeks before placing them in a stack.

If the bales are wetter than they should be, the temperatures can easily rise above 130 degrees. At 140 to 150 degrees, more microbial growth and chemical reactions within the hay cause it to generate heat at an increasingly rapid rate.

If hay temperatures reach 150 degrees, you need to move bales to allow for better air circulation and frequently check the temperature. At 180 degrees, fire is imminent, and at 200 degrees, it is likely present. In either case, you need to notify the fire department. It is best to wait for them to arrive before removing the hay from the stack in case of a flare up.

Smoke from hay treated with an acid preservative may contain toxic fumes, so keep people away from the smoke and inform the firefighters of any treatments ap-

plied. To check hay temperature, you may use several types of thermometers. Find one that is durable, easy to use and will measure up to 200 degrees. It is best and necessary in most cases to use some kind of commercial hay probe from the farm supply store or online source.

Measure the wettest hay first. Probe square bales from the side, round bales from the end. Insert the probe near the center of the bale. In round bales, if the core is loosely formed, probe 6 to 12 inches away from the center where the hay will be more tightly packed.

In large stacks, it may be difficult to reach the center, but it is important to get at least 5 to 10 feet down from the top or in from the side. The most critical factor is to reach where the wettest hay is stored. It is best to probe at several locations and at different depths within a stack to locate the warmest spot.

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

The Garden Bug

Bird calls online

A free reference library is online for wildlife enthusiasts of any age: "naturesongs." This collection provides recordings of North American bird calls, Costa Rican bird and animal calls, insect sounds, mammal sounds, amphibian and reptile noises, and also sounds of water and weather phenomena that you may experience in any meadow or marsh or forest in the U.S. and Costa Rica.

www.naturesongs.com

-Brenda Weaver
Source: www.naturesongs.com

Birding BITS

BY Cindy Brook

Happy Father's Day!
Give your Dad the gift of time. Pack a bag with binoculars, a field guide, a sketchpad, some colored pencils and lunch. Scope out your favorite park or go to the beach, lake or river. Create some happy memories with your Dad. You'll be grateful you did.

E-mail: birdingbits@cfl.r.com
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Puzzles4Kids

Answer

What do you get if you cross bubble bath and a famous detective?

Sherlock Foams.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

POPULAR BOAT NAMES

Wishing Well®

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

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 P

VFSMUE ZRSZUR NR ZRAGOIIRE IS

WOQR WAOLLUORV WMCV?

O NRUORQR OC IFR AOWFI IS DAG

NRDAV.

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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.

NDAZVTA QFDULMK LV VLU

NVTJM BZVVKU AV JDXU,

AZVTRZ ZU ZOM OJJ

VAZUF RVVMK.

— OFDKAVAJU

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Puzzle Answers

June 3, 2020

FEAR & KNIGHT

answer

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

Even Exchange

answers

- Pastry, Pantry
- Truck, Trunk
- Boast, Blast
- Around, Ground
- Croak, Cloak
- Lance, Dance
- Braise, Bruise
- Danny, Donny
- Night, Fight
- Cannon, Canyon

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

Letter Box

Solution

H	E	Y	I	V	L	N	S	O
N	S	I	O	Y	H	L	E	V
O	L	V	S	E	N	Y	H	I
I	N	L	E	O	Y	S	V	H
S	Y	H	V	N	E	O	I	L
L	V	O	H	S	I	E	N	Y
E	H	L	N	I	O	V	Y	S
Y	O	S	E	H	V	I	L	N
V	I	N	Y	L	S	H	O	E

Bible Trivia Answers

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.

ANSWERS (1 Old; 2 20; 3) Deuteronomy 1:1; 21: 21; 4 Pomegranates; 5) 119:70; 6) Elijah.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

YOU CAN'T LIE THERE, STRIPE. I CAN'T OPEN THE DOOR.

MOVE, STRIPE! YOU'RE BLOCKING MY LIGHT!

YOU GET DOWN NOW! I'M GONNA SIT UP HERE.

ZOOM... OUTTA MY WAY, STRIPE.

AND DON'T CAMP THERE! I CAN'T SEE THE PICTURE.

GANGWAY, STRIPE!

WERE YOU LONELY WHILE I WAS OUT, PUNKINHEAD?

NO. I HAD STRIPE TO TALK TO.

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