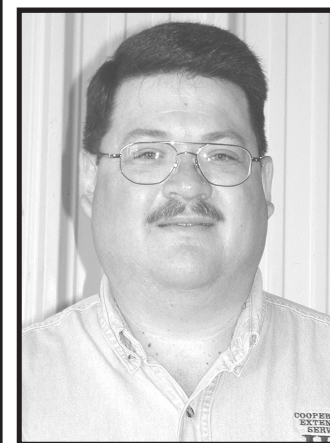


Ways to improve Hay Quality



Eric Baker
Estill County Extension
Agent for Agriculture
& Natural Resources

If you raise livestock, you know it is very important to feed your animals nutritious hay to keep them healthy. You can take many practical steps to improve your hay quality since spring is just around the corner.

You must first get and maintain a good forage stand. Making sure your soil has adequate nutrients is key to getting good stands. A soil test is important, because it will let you know the nutrient levels in the soil, so you only apply what is needed. To learn how to effectively test your soil and submit your samples to the Extension office, contact me for details. I can help you understand the results as well.

According to UK Extension forage specialist Jimmy Henning, soil tests with adequate levels of phosphorus and nitrogen but low levels of potassium are becoming common across Kentucky hay fields. In-

adequate potassium can increase the amount of broom sedge, a very undesirable forage. There may be a couple of reasons for low potassium levels. When you cut hay, potash is removed at nearly three times the amount that phosphorus is, and the soil is not able to replenish this nutrient to sufficient levels on its own. Repeatedly using only 'balanced' fertilizers like triple-19 (19-19-19) will deplete potassium in hayfields. In tight financial times, producers may want to skip potash applications to save money but potash is critical.

Controlling weeds at the right time and using the right herbicide will help you improve hay quality. With many weeds, like buttercup, by the time you see the blooms, they are much harder to control. UK has an extension publication, AGR-207: Broadleaf Weeds of Kentucky that contains common pasture weeds, when to treat each, and which herbicide you can use for effective control. This publication is available online at <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/AGR/AGR207/AGR207.pdf>. You can also get a paper copy at the Estill County Extension office.

The stage of maturity when you cut your hay is the most important factor affecting quality. You must harvest at the right

time, when the plant is switching from a vegetative to a reproductive (flowering) stage. Many times, this means cutting the hay earlier than normal. Of course, the challenge of cutting hay in the spring in Kentucky is our wet weather. However, we often get a string of days with good sun and dry weather in late April and early May. Being ready to cut early when the weather allows is extremely helpful.

Using legumes, especially the tall ones like red clover and alfalfa, provide high yields and will add nitrogen to the soil over time. They are higher in protein and energy than grasses and continue to yield well in the summer when many of our cool-season grasses are suffering from the heat. Research shows that red clover, in particular, is good at minimizing the adverse effects animals get from consuming too much toxic endophyte-infected tall fescue.

Tedding and raking hay are integral parts of harvesting. But if you ted or rake the hay when it is too dry, it can lead to leaf shatter. This hurts hay quality, because the high-quality nutrients are concentrated in the leaf.

Making good hay means baling at the right moisture content and protecting hay from the weather. Proper

moisture at baling will prevent heating and molding of stored hay. Covered storage structures are best for hay storage. If you don't have covered storage space, breaking the contact between the bale and the ground is important, since most moisture enters the hay from soil contact. You can prevent moisture absorption by using materials, such as old tires and/or crushed rock, to elevate the hay off the ground.

You can also wrap your hay in plastic, which will provide some protection from the rain. Hay should be as dry as possible before covering in plastic and should be fed out in the year it was made.

After you have done a good job harvesting hay, remember to feed it efficiently to minimize losses. There are many methods of feeding hay, but the best ensure that there is minimal waste. Livestock tend to eat high quality hay quickly, which also reduces waste.

More information on producing quality forages is available by contacting the Estill County office of the UK Cooperative Extension Service at 723-4557.

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Wishing Well®

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

DR TWZ VIIS HXDCDQF ICIQ BLWZFL
TWZX FEM BEQV DM QIEXKT
IPSBT, D'H MET BLEB'M E RZIKDML
PDMBEVI.

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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.

SAG RDJG KTNTSGOONLGT S Z
RZT NC, SAG OGCC RECSGJNDKC
GWNCSGTUG CGGRC SD ANR.
- ZJSAKJ CUADBGTAZKJGJ

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Puzzle Answers

January 27, 2021

Puzzles4Kids

Answer
EXHALE HARPS
X N A H
HAZY CHAT A
A H HAIR
U A H P
S N L

FEAR KNIGHT

answer
D A L E
E A B
R W A
B E Y N U D G E
Y E U E
G R A B E L L
O I R
B O W L E G
E O

Even Exchange

- answers
- Butter, Batter
 - Stung, Stunt
 - Patty, Putty
 - Mashed, Masked
 - Alloy, Allow
 - Raffle, Ruffie
 - Brave, Bravo
 - Willow, Willow
 - Frock, Flock
 - Castor, Captor

King Crossword

Answers
Solution time: 26 mins.
M A P L E A P X E N A
A D A A R I A A D O G
T O P S T O R Y N A V E
E A T S M A M A S
D I R G E P L E D
I N C A P O P M U S I C
S T U S A R G E T O O
C O P A P L E A C A T S
M I S S L A N A I
O C E A N S U R F
D I A Z H O P A L O N G
D A R E A L O U R E O
S O L D M E T S D E B

Letter Box

Solution
E O V G I L B T R
T L R E O B I V G
B I G T V R O L E
O E T I B V G R L
G R I L T O V E B
L V B R E G T O I
I G E V L T R B O
R T O B G E L I V
V B L O R I E G T

Weekly SUDOKU

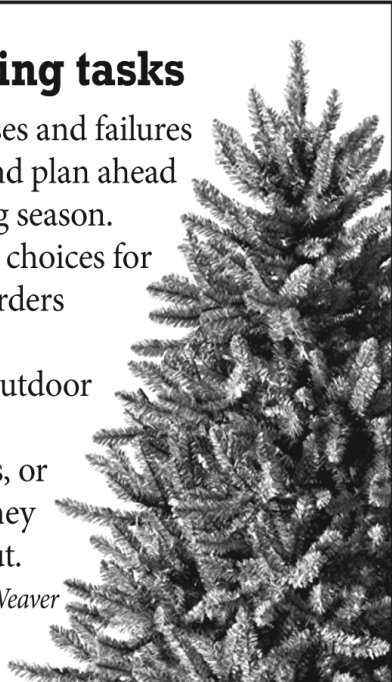
Answer
9 1 6 7 2 4 5 3 8
5 3 4 9 8 1 6 7 2
8 7 2 3 5 6 9 1 4
3 5 9 1 7 8 4 2 6
7 6 8 2 4 5 1 9 3
2 4 1 6 9 3 8 5 7
6 8 3 5 1 2 7 4 9
1 2 7 4 6 9 3 8 5
4 9 5 8 3 7 2 6 1



Winter gardening tasks

- Review your successes and failures of the previous year, and plan ahead for the coming growing season.
- Study your online and catalog choices for your garden purchases, and get those orders in so you can get ready for spring.
- Check for frost heaves around your outdoor plants and apply mulch as needed.
- If you have been storing bulbs, corms, or tubers, check them to make sure that they are neither rotting nor totally drying out.
- Recycle your Christmas tree. - Brenda Weaver

Source: thespruce.com



Simple Feeder
One of the best feeders I have found is Mother Earth. Toss on the ground a seed mix of white proso millet, safflower seed, sunflower chips and peanuts, and you will be delighted when woodpeckers, cardinals, wrens, titmice and sparrows show up. It always makes me smile.

E-mail: birdingbits@cfl.rr.com
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Extension is taking orders for Berry plants, onions & more



The Estill County Extension Service will once again take orders for strawberry, blackberry, blueberry, raspberry, asparagus, and Candy onion plants. We order with a large group of counties so the plant cost is lower than individuals ordering on their own. Orders will arrive in early April. If you are interested or have questions, contact our office at 723-4557. Orders must be made and pre-paid by March 19th.

Need A Subscription?
Call (606) 723-5012

Puzzle Answers

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

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

answer
If you keep driving even though empty, I'd say that's a fuelish mistake.
CryptoQuip
answer
The more unintelligent a man is, the less mysterious existence seems to him. - Arthur Schopenhauer

answer
CryptoQuote
The more unintelligent a man is, the less mysterious existence seems to him. - Arthur Schopenhauer

Bible Word Search on Page 7

Stickeler's Answer

- Stickelers Answer
- 1) Angel Falls in Canaima National Park, Venezuela, is 3,212 feet high.
 - 2) Lake Baikal, in Siberia, Russia, is 5,387 feet deep.
 - 3) Nile; Mediterranean
 - 4) Located in California's Redwood National Park, the tree known as Hyperion is 379.3 feet tall.

Stickeler's Puzzle on Page 7

Bible Trivia Answers
ANSWERS (1) New; (2) Naomi; (3) Obed; (4) Shlith; (5) Messiah; (6) Xerxes
Test Your Bible Knowledge with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.