## Soil testing can help keep unnecessary nutrients out of Kentucky streams



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

How much fertilizer do you really need to use on your lawn and garden? If you're just making a guess, you could be using too much. But how can you know for sure? A simple and soil's needs may change inexpensive soil test can tell you all you need to know to make your lawn and garden to determine the amount and

look great and to protect the kind of nutrients you add to ite sample from several sites environment from runoff of excess nutrients.

Soil fertility testing is a test from the University of program designed to provide homeowners, landscape contractors, turfgrass managers, greenhouse managers as well as others with a soil management tool to determine fertilizer requirements of their lawn, garden, trees and shrubs. The University of Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service offers soil testing services to every Kentucky citizen. Soil testing is the most important thing you can do before applying fertilizer. Fall and spring are the best times to take samples and you should sample your lawn, landscape beds and vegetable gardens every 1 to 2 years, since your over time.

You can use the test results

Kentucky lab will provide you with information about the soil pH, plant available phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, zinc and cation exchange capacity of your soil. The results will include a recommendation about what amendments, if any, you may need to improve plant vigor and yield. Other special tests are available, however this routine test will address most home lawn, landscape and gardening needs.

I can help answer your questions about taking the sample and turning it in. Generally, to obtain a useful sample, you'll want to map out the area where you plan to grow plants or where plants already exist. It's a good way to keep a record of your land use and results over time. Divide the area so that each soil sample represents one plant type or condition. Collect at least 10 samples for each area, mix them together and then take one composite sample that represents that area for soil testing. For example, if you have a landscape bed that contains shrubs in one area and roses in another, collect two composite samples: one composite sample from several sites under the shrubs and another compos-

your lawn and garden for under the roses. best growth. A routine soil

For lawns, sample to a depth of about four inches. For gardens, ornamentals, mixed fruit trees and wildlife plots, sample to a depth of about six inches. Ideally, you should sample well in advance of any planting or spring green up to allow time for analysis, interpretation, and then fertilizer and lime applications.

Use clean tools and never use a tool that you've previously used for fertilizer or lime. Shovels, trowels, spades, hand probes and augers are all good sampling tools. The Extension office will loan soil probes as well. Clear the ground surface of any mulch or thatch. Take samples from several areas and mix together in a plastic bucket to avoid metal contamination. If the soil is wet or damp, let it dry overnight. Collect about a pint and place it in the UK soil sample bag, available from any Extension office. Identify your sample on the bag and on the submission form. The Estill County Extension office will submit your samples to the lab for analysis. For more information, contact our office at 723-4557.

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the conditions needed for seed dispersal. Early appearance of flowers means early pollination, ensuring more time for fruits that are large and fleshy to mature. If a tree's seeds are dispersed by birds, its fruit must be ready to eat well before birds migrate; if mammal-dispersed, the fruit must be edible before mammals hibernate. - Brenda Weaver

Sources: worldagroforestry.org, yahoo.con

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Local Angus Breeder Recognized for Sustained Efforts to

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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: Q equals T

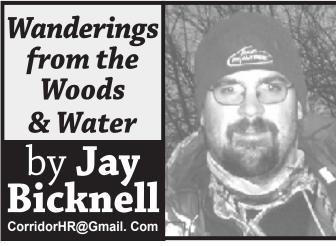
UGWFVO WGBY YEGW, DFOYQ C JGVKY EP OCB BQCQFEV CQQMVUCVQB JM FV TGDTMW-QE -TGDTMW QWCPPFK?

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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. AXFDWAO TNMCH N TNA XK LXEZ XI TCA HX TNE NH FDC FKQFD. WI FDCKC WH AX FKQFD WA WF FDCZ UNQOD WF XII. - PWUU KXOCKH

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## No Turkeys, Just Frustrated!

win it. Some things come up that derailed our plans!

bed Jake said his stomach ing, he was hurting so badly was in some serious pain. I sets in!!

Due to the unaffordable ing regular season. Hopefully

We had big plans for youth I think he might have put on turkey season. The boys and I a brave face just to get to go were going to sit all day until hunting. Mom (the nurse) did we got one. We were in it to advise him not to go, but he was determined!

Saturday morning, the boys Last Monday night before and I headed to the woods. We had turkeys gobbling all was hurting. Tuesday morn- around us. We were excited and just knew we would have he couldn't get out of bed. He one come in. It wasn't very long at all into hunt when was almost to Louisville when Jake said he was hurting. So my wife called with the news we cut out early and went of Jake taken to the hospital. home. We didn't make it out This is where the frustration anymore over youth season. We plan to make it out dur-

work makes my health in- to try it again. Josh is definitesurance cost extremely high, squared! So while in route to trooper and helped his brother Louisville on busy interstate I had to make multiple phone ily would like to thank our calls to see what was covered, what doctors Jake could see, what hospitals was covered, and so on. So frustrated at didn't get to hunt very much this point I even called the at all. I did come to the real-Governor and left a message ization that our government something has to be done to rewards lazy! I guess whatput a stop to this ridiculous ever it takes to buy votes. health care law! I pay a high premium, then some people ments. I don't mind working who don't pay a dime can go wherever, whenever, how many times ever they please!

So finally we found out that Jake had appendicitis. He was rushed to UK Children's Hospital for emergency surgery. My wife and I sat at UK worried about our son. We might 3:10 "For even when we were gery!

really good during surgery and the Pediatric surgeon did tell Jake he could go hunting on Saturday, just be careful. Jake worked on getting better.

healthcare act for those that Jake will be better and ready ly ready! Josh has been a real through his illness. Our famfamily and church for all their prayers!!

We didn't get a turkey. We They are bought with entitlehard and paying for the stuff I need. However, I detest paying for those that'd rather not work for their stuff. I detest working hard to see the government rob from me to give to those who do nothing! I like the scripture II Thessalonians have to worry about how we with you, this we commanded are going to afford the sur- you: that if any would not work, neither should he eat." Praise the Lord!! Jake did Those that truly can't work and are in need then the Bible commands me to help those in need.

> Until next week, get out and enjoy God's creation!



Warblers

My yard is hopping with little warblers. They are coming to my tray feeder for sunflower heart chips, white proso millet and Bark Butter Bits (www.wbu. com). While warblers usually eat insects, it's nice to see them flitting about on my feeders. They make me smile. E-mail: birdingbits@cfl.rr.com © 2016 King Fea

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Your future starts here!

## **Improve Cow Productivity**

Jason E Crowe, Irvine, Kentucky, recently re-enrolled in the American Angus Association®'s MaternalPlus® program as a commitment to making genetic improvements in lifetime cow herd productivity. Breeders participating in MaternalPlus are keenly focused to better evaluate herd reproductive performance, the number one profit driver in the cow-calf industry.

MaternalPlus is a voluntary, inventory-based reporting system that collects additional reproductive trait data to provide Angus breeders and their customers the information they need to make effective selection decisions. To date, more than 70 breeders have completed MaternalPlus enrollment.

The program allows producers to capture cow herd and reproductive performance data; gain faster access to preweaning EPDs as a selection tool; characterize females through heifer pregnancy EPDs tied directly to herd genetics; expand new trait development for Angus reproductive and longevity measures; and streamline their ability to track heifer and cow reproductive records through AAA Login.

In addition, MaternalPlus lays the groundwork for selection tools related to cow longevity in the herd. Gathering these records will allow the Association to cultivate research related to cow herd productivity and make improvements similar to what the Angus breed has witnessed in other economically relevant traits.

For more information on MaternalPlus, visit the Association website or access AAA Login.

The American Angus Association serves nearly 30,000 members across the United States and Canada. It provides programs and services to farmers, ranchers and others who rely on the power of Angus to produce quality genetics for the beef industry and quality beef for consumers. For more information about Angus cattle and the American Angus Association's programs and services, visit www.angus.org.

## Stickeler's Puzzle

Below is a jumbled quote from Shakespeare ("Julius Caesar"). See if you can unscramble the words to come up with the correct quote.

> "Death times many before; cowards but taste once never the die of their valiant deaths."

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**Stickeler's Answer on Page 11** 

April 6, 2016									
Puzzles4Kids Answer	FEAR® KNGT answer								
When do monkeys fall from the sky? During Ape – ril showers.	D R E S S I X S I C C C I A S S E A R C H S E X 0 0 0 C 0 B W E B								
Solution	E A L Y N X								
I L P T S E K C O   S T O C K P I L E   K C E L I O P S T	Even Exchange answers								
PKSECIOTL EITPOLCKS	1. Oldest, Oddest 6. Place, Peace   2. Paris, Parts 7. Blanch, Branch								
C O L K T S E I P	3. Austin, Dustin 8. Blank, Blink								
0 S K I P T L E C L P C S E K T O I	4. Camper, Casper 9. Pride, Prime								
T E I O L C S P K	5. Phony, Peony 10. Shore, Short								
LANGUAGES OF	— Weekly SUDOKU —								
THE WORLD	Answer								
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(RU/S/SI/A/N) (HSINAPS)	— King Crossword —								
	Answers								
CryptoQuip answer	Solution time: 21 mins.								
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bunch of gas station attendants be in pumper-to	BUS FACTOR								
-pumper traffic?	A D U L T A I D A   N O N E I S L A N D E R								
CryptoQuote	T E D I M P L Y E V E I S O T O P E S B A I N								
answer Nothing makes a man or									
body of men so mad as the truth. If there is no	LUNG ISABELLA								
truth in it they laugh it off. — Will Rogers	O     R     A     L     A     P     T     R     E     E     L       T     O     T     E     L     A     Y     Y     E     T     I								
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