

# Determining hay needs after an unseasonably hot, dry fall



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

After an unseasonably warm and dry fall, we are facing the consequences of a lack of meaningful precipitation, including dormant pastures and limited forage availability. Many beef operations have already started feeding hay. A challenging spring for making hay and limited late summer rain could be leading us to a hay shortage this year.

Hay will be cheaper when stocks are higher, shortly after being made, in comparison to February when stocks have declined.

According to UK beef extension specialist Jeff Lehmkuhler, beef producers should inventory

hay stores now. This is as simple as counting the number of bales for each type (round, large square, small square, etc...) you have. Hopefully, you have a rough idea of how much each weighs. Weight of round bales will depend on size, forage density, forage type and cutting. Our colleagues at Texas A&M created a nice publication on bale weights. You can find it at <https://hayandforage.com/print-article-1767-permanent.html>. From their work, a bale that is 4 feet by 5 feet may weigh 880 pounds while a 5-by-6-foot bale could weigh 1,584 pounds. How dense or tight bales are when made will impact the weight. Bales that are 5-by-5 with a density of 9.5 pounds per cubic foot may weigh 935 pounds, while the same size bales with a density of 12.3 pounds per cubic foot will be near 1,200 pounds.

The point here is that when you can, buy on a weight basis rather than the bale. Also, if you are not certain what your bales weigh, when inventorying, estimate on the low end rather than assuming the bales are extremely heavy.

Determining how much hay you will need is your next step. Hay needs are a combination of storage and feeding losses and animal intake. Hay losses during storage can range widely depending on your storage method. Storage in a barn could be 5-10% while hay stored outside on the ground uncovered may have losses of 25-40%. A significant amount of loss from outside storage is due to the bale wicking moisture from the ground and having significant rot on the bottom of the bale. If you set bales on a gravel pad, it will allow precipitation to drain away.

Feeding losses can be significant as well. When using hay rings, use rings with sheeted bottoms to reduce waste. Hay saver type feeders can reduce feeding losses 5-10% as well. If unrolling, consider using a temporary electric wire over the top to reduce losses from cattle bedding down and/or fouling hay with feces and urine.

You may estimate animal intake by assuming 3% of body weight for hay intake. A 1,000-pound bred heifer would poten-

tially consume 30 pounds of hay each day. Mature cows weighing 1,400 pounds would consume about 42 pounds of hay per day. Be sure to account for feeding losses when estimating daily hay allocation. Estimate how many days you will need to feed hay this year. Remember you'll need to feed hay longer because of the lack of fall pasture growth.

Plan now to inventory your hay and compare to your predicted needs. If you are short on inventory, buy some hay now rather than waiting. If hay is in short supply, you can feed grain as a replacement for hay. Also, do not forget to provide a quality loose mineral according to UK recommendations. Contact me at the Estill County Cooperative Extension Service for help developing a winter feeding program. Our office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Our telephone number is 723-4557.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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: I equals L

SR BR BJXOCJ JZ QXCBSQ

JKX TZQQZFSZR ZR BII SJF

OXJBI CQZMVTJF, JKX ESQO

FXJ VC B QVFJ EVRM.

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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.

JT BLH MLE'Y SQY LHY LT

YPQ CLG BLH'DQ CQQE IKJAQM

JE, BLH VLE'Y HEMQIAYKEM PLV

WHNP CJSSQI YPQ VLIZM JA.

— KESQZJEK RLZJQ

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# Puzzle Answers

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## Puzzles4Kids

Answer

Why should a skeleton drink a lot of milk?

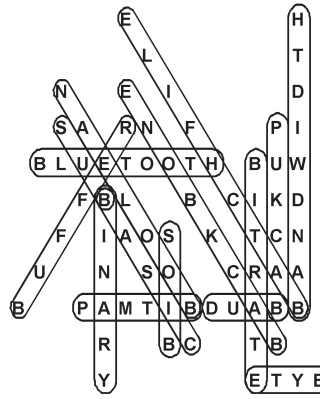
Because it is good for the bones.

## Letter Box

Solution

L	A	H	G	E	O	K	I	N
G	O	I	L	K	N	E	A	H
E	K	N	A	I	H	G	O	L
O	N	L	I	H	G	A	E	K
H	I	K	E	A	L	O	N	G
A	E	G	N	O	K	L	H	I
K	H	A	O	L	I	N	G	E
N	L	E	H	G	A	I	K	O
I	G	O	K	N	E	H	L	A

## COMPUTER TERMS BEGINNING WITH A "B"



## CryptoQuip answer

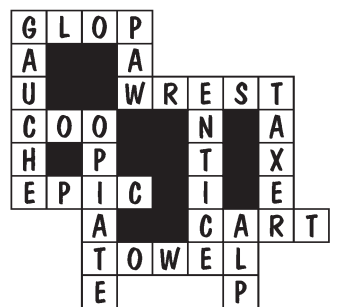
In an attempt to repair the corrosion on all its metal products, the firm set up a rust fund.

## CryptoQuote answer

If you don't get out of the box you've been raised in, you won't understand how much bigger the world is. — Angelina Jolie

## FEAR KN&T

answer



## Even Exchange answers

1. Plate, Place
2. Sister, Sitter
3. Donkey, Monkey
4. Radio, Ratio
5. Think, Thick
6. Gaggle, Giggles
7. Alter, Altar
8. Tamer, Timer
9. Locket, Locker
10. Picky, Pinky

## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

## Bible Trivia Answers

Now available by Wilson Casey! 2017 Bible Trivia box calendar loaded with daily teasers.

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) 6 (Magdalen); 3) John Mark; 4) Jesus; 5) the younger and Jesus; 6) Jerusalem; 7) Bethany; 8) Rome; 9) Jerusalem; 10) Bethany; 11) Bethany; 12) Bethany; 13) Bethany; 14) Bethany; 15) Bethany; 16) Bethany; 17) Bethany; 18) Bethany; 19) Bethany; 20) Bethany.

## The Garden Bug Milk thistle

In the spring or fall, sprinkle milk thistle seeds directly over the soil. They should only take about two weeks to germinate. Since the milk thistle plant grows in clumps, it is recommendable to space the plant 12 to 15 inches apart. It should not be necessary to water milk thistle unless there are very extreme conditions of drought, as it is a very drought tolerant plant and prefers dry conditions. — B. Weaver

Source: [www.herbazest.com](http://www.herbazest.com)

## Birding BITS BY Cindy Brook

**In the Moment**  
What's happening in your bird garden right now? As I write this, a mama cardinal is feeding her female baby on my tray feeder. They look so peaceful together. Watching birds is a great way to stay in the moment. That way, you won't miss a thing!

E-mail: [birdingbits@cfl.rr.com](mailto:birdingbits@cfl.rr.com)  
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## SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Defeat  
ROCQUEN

Impugne  
RAGECH

Detach  
VEERS

Repose  
LAXER

"I like her. She's a real \_\_\_\_\_."

TODAY'S WORD

## Stickeler's Puzzle

by Terry Stickels

What is the longest common word in the English language that consists entirely of letters from the second half of the alphabet?

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## Stickeler's Answer on Page 11

## Breast Cancer Awareness

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## King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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